

**Submission
No 26**

MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES WATERS

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Can you believe 17,000 animals have been caught in these nets just in NSW alone?

I don't understand how you could even be considering ruining our oceans even more by putting up more shark nets, I sometimes wonder if this government is even human.

Sharks are part of our ocean, we are in there environment when we are in the water and everyone knows that.

Yes we have a FEW shark attacks, but the main reason is because of over fishing!!! Why don't you guys try and tackle that problem?

I went shark diving with the great whites in South Africa, and they are the most gorgeous animals that were just peacefully swimming around the ocean. Sharks have been around for thousands of years, and of course in this generation we are probably going to get rid of them all.

Before overreacting, consider the risk. In the last 215 years in Australia, only 18 shark-related fatalities have occurred. That's an average of one death every 12 years. In the US, where you are 5 times more likely to be bitten, your odds of drowning are 1 in 3.5 million. Your odds of dying from a shark bite are less than 1 in 264 million. And, in 2008, in Australia, one person died from a shark bite, 315 died from drowning and 694 died in car accidents.

And the world cannot afford to lose sharks. The frightening reality is, like them or not, we need sharks on this planet. As apex predators, they keep our oceans' healthy. Sharks are a critical component in an ecosystem that controls our planet's temperature and weather, provides 1/3 of the world with food, and generates more oxygen than all the rain forests combined. Recent studies indicate that regional elimination of sharks caused disastrous effects including the collapse of fisheries and the death of coral reefs. Kill the sharks and Australia's healthy, beautiful coast will join the countless other ocean dead zones.

PLEASE I am begging you to make the right decision for the sharks and our oceans, we are already polluting the waters enough, we need to act now!!

Thank you, and hopefully you make the right decision for my children, and there children.

Miss Claire Lindsay