

**Submission  
No 51**

# **MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES WATERS**

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To The Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development

My name is Warren Hubbard, I live in East Ballina NSW I am also a parent to two teenage boys that like to surf. I am concerned about the current shark situation on the North Coast of NSW. I feel the need to share with you the idea of Shark Spotters South Africa as it may be one of the many solutions to help fix this issue.

Due to the infancies of most of the high tech shark deterrents on offer, I think it is going to be some time before anything is ready for the North Coast. So therefore something should be put in place that works already. Currently there is a program running its twelfth year in South Africa, the name Shark Spotters SA. At this moment in time, we are where they were twelve years ago, they turned a negative into a positive. A whole range of different people from environmentalists to surfers to business owners worked together to find solutions. They all agreed that the less shark, human interactions there is, the better.

The surf life savings clubs / lifeguards are doing a great job on the patrolled beaches. But that does not help the board riders who mainly surf below headlands on unpatrolled sections of the coast. This is where the Shark Spotting program comes into play. The cliffs and headlands provide a natural shark spotting tower. Flat Rock is the only break that does not have a natural tower and needs a man made one. With the fast tracking tower grants the government is now offering it is quite possible to have one made for Flat Rock. The only other beaches that would need a tower already have surf lifesavers patrolling the beach.

I have been in contact with Shark Spotters South Africa for some time now, they are more than willing to help. No Shark Cull are bringing two representatives from Shark Spotters SA to the north Coast, in early January to have a look at our coastline to see if a system similar to theres could be put in place. Before they come in early January i would like to have something in place.

Personally i've come up with a small scale spotting system, which involves one flag and its pole, a spotter, binoculars, signage, first aid kit, mobile phone and air horn. Simple, Inexpensive and Informative. I have people willing to try out the system on weekends and holiday periods. As i work with signs, I have designed what is needed at each location. Personally I have one set ready to be installed which could be set up in a couple of days by myself.

The local community are wanting to see something and this is a great option because it will still be needed when high tech shark deterrents are ready to be used.

Yours Sincerely

Warren Hubbard



## Ballina Shark Spotters

### How it works

1. Sign in car park for when people arrive. The sign is locked closed.



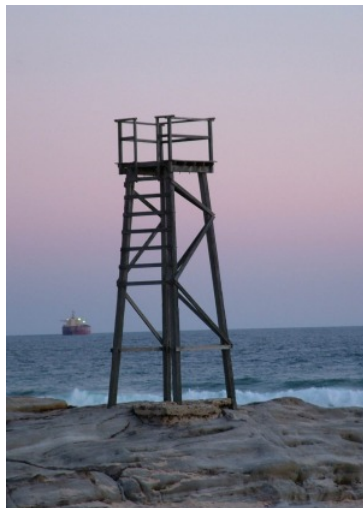
2. If a shark is seen the shark spotters or Authorities unlock the sign and close the beach.



3. Shark spotters or Authorities raise the flag, let the air horn off which gets surfers and swimmers attention, people in and out of the water can see the flag.



Due to the lack of elevated positions at this particular beach Flat Rock, we need a tower similar to this one below. So myself and team can spot on weekends and school holidays



**Simple, inexpensive & informative**

**Water Safe Hub Ballina NSW Australia  
watersafehub@gmail.com  
Inspiration from  
sharkspotters.org.za**