

Shark Safety

Protecting a Western Australian Way of Life



Western Australia's pristine beaches are one of the State's best assets and our love of the ocean and water activities is a defining feature of the WA lifestyle.

The Liberal-led State Government has significantly increased the suite of measures available to maximise protection for beachgoers against sharks and other hazards to ensure they are informed about risks before they enter the water.

Fast Facts

- There have been 23 shark-related deaths in Western Australia in the past 100 years, with 14 fatalities since 2000.
- Surf Life Saving WA (SLSWA) conducted 1,047 life-saving rescues on WA beaches and spotted 428 sharks from its land and aerial patrols in 2015-16.
- WA's electronic Shark Monitoring Network monitors more than 860 tagged sharks, including 220 white sharks.

Initiatives

The State Government has invested more than \$33 million in a broad range of beach safety and shark hazard mitigation strategies since 2008. These include:

- \$2.4 million a year towards SLSWA's helicopter and beach patrol programs to ensure patrols cover metropolitan beaches for 221 days a year and daily flights over South West beaches from November to February and a further \$2.6 million to extend aerial patrols in the South West outside peak season.
- \$1.2 million for SLSWA to purchase, and maintain jet skis and improve swimmer evacuation when a shark is sighted.
- Increased community awareness programs including the world-leading SharkSmart website, which provides real-time notification of shark detections and sightings
- Funding beach enclosures in Busselton, Dunsborough, Albany, Sorrento and Quinns beaches.
- An expanded shark tagging and monitoring network
- A dedicated shark response unit within the Department of Fisheries and a serious threat policy that provides the capacity to catch and, if necessary, kill sharks posing a threat to water users.
- Additional resources to respond to attacks, including the relocation of a vessel to the Margaret River area.
- Prohibiting shark cage tourism operations and the use of burley made of mammal or bird products.
- Funding for a range of applied research projects into non-lethal detection and deterrent technologies.



Our Commitment

The Liberal Government has

- allocated \$88,000 to enable SLSWA to conduct a three-month trial of drone surveillance at a number of metropolitan and regional beaches and
- provided \$500,000 to trial the innovative Clever Buoy sonar shark detection system at City Beach.

A re-elected Liberal Government will:

- Continue to support existing beach safety measures, investigate ways to enhance and expand these measures and research new approaches as they become available.
- Allocate \$2 million over four years to continue to fund additional beach enclosures at locations in metropolitan and regional areas. This should allow for the installation of around eight additional enclosures.

In the first instance enclosures will be built at Falcon Beach near Mandurah and at Town Beach in Geraldton. We also propose enclosures at Rottneest and Rockingham.



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