

Newspaper Report Years 10 to 12: WA government unveils shark 'kill zones'

WA government unveils shark 'kill zones'

By Michael Hopkin

Designated shark-killing zones will be established off Perth and the state's South West, as part of an aggressive new state government policy aimed at reducing the risk of shark attacks.

Under the plan, baited lines will be deployed 1km off the coast, around the clock from September to April, in a bid to catch sharks that stray near to popular beaches and surf breaks.

The state government will also enlist commercial fishermen to kill any shark larger than 3m spotted in these new so-called "marine monitored areas".



Sharks that swim into baited areas near popular beaches will be hunted by professional fishermen in aggressive new policy. *Photo: Ian Waldie*

Two zones will be established: one stretching the length of the Perth coast from Quinns Rocks to Warnbro; and a second zone around Cape Naturaliste in the South West, which will stretch from Forrest Beach, north of Busselton, to Prevelly.

WA Fisheries Minister Troy Buswell, who announced the new measures on his final day before handing the portfolio to Ken Baston, said it was not yet clear how much the new policy will cost.

Headline to catch reader's interest (sentence case)

By-Line

Lead paragraph: *what, where, who, when, why*

30 words

Bias: 'aggressive ... policy'

Past action verbs: aimed, established, deployed

Next most important details

Use of future tense (will, will be)

Captioned picture

Further details about where

Use of colons and semicolons in sentence structure to be direct

<p>The move comes in response to a spate of fatal attacks that have earned WA a reputation as the world's deadliest coastline for sharks. Six people have been killed and several more attacked in WA waters since September 2011.</p>	
<p>The most recent death was on November 23, when surfer Chris Boyd was attacked off Gracetown in the South West.</p>	<p>Short sentence shows economical use of words</p>
<p>Premier Colin Barnett said the public wanted stronger action against the shark threat, while also conceding that "some people will be critical and have a different view".</p>	<p>Introduction and summary of perspective and speaker</p>
<p>"However, the safety of human life, and the safety of beachgoers and people using the marine environment, must come first," Mr Barnett said.</p>	<p>Link to public opinion and controversial nature of policy</p> <p>Use of direct speech for quotes</p>
<p>Earlier in the day, dozens of conservationists rallied outside Parliament against the killing of sharks, which had been flagged by Mr Buswell on Monday when he said the government was preparing to launch a "proactive" and "aggressive" new policy.</p>	
<p>Conservation Council WA director Piers Verstegen said there was no evidence that culling sharks would improve safety, and that the government has misread the public mood.</p>	<p>Most paragraphs one sentence in length</p>
<p>"I don't think it's supported by the community. I don't see elements in the community saying we should be killing sharks," Mr Verstegen said.</p>	
<p>Mr Buswell denied that the new policy amounts to a cull. "It is not a widespread, fear-driven hunt for predators. It's a localised hazard-mitigation strategy," he said.</p>	
<p>He added that he had spoken to federal environment minister Greg Hunt about the possibility of using the baited lines, known as drumlines, in WA waters. They have previously been used off Queensland and South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province.</p>	<p>Jargon defined (drumlines)</p>
<p>Mr Buswell also said he did not anticipate that the new policy would require Commonwealth approval, despite the fact that great white sharks are a protected species under federal</p>	<p>Use of present tense (are)</p>

conservation laws, because the zones will be in state waters.

Opposition fisheries spokesman Dave Kelly said he hoped the new measures were successful, while urging the government to make public any scientific research on which the strategy is based.

Mr Kelly also raised questions over whether the drumlines would attract more sharks to the area.

Mr Buswell said the exact position of the drumlines would be worked out with the help of Surf Life Saving WA, and that the government still needed to negotiate shark-fishing contracts with commercial fishing operators.

He said the public would be told the locations of the drumlines, and would also be told how many sharks they had caught.

Mr Buswell conceded that scientific knowledge about shark behaviour and population sizes is scant, and that there were no guarantees of success.

"These things are always open to argument. But we've certainly had advice that the drumlines should be effective in catching sharks. And it's my view that if we're catching sharks that are, or are about to be, in close proximity to beaches then by extension we're making those beaches safer," he said.

Mr Buswell said the cost of the new policy would be revealed after negotiation with commercial contractors, and that the funds would be found from existing government budgets.

Reference to consequences

Involvement of other stakeholders

Link to public information

Contractions only in direct speech (eg. it's, we're)

From:
<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/wa-government-unveils-shark-kill-zones-20131210-2z3m0.html>. Retrieved 11 November, 2013.