

SHARK DRUM LINE PROGRAM

2. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Fisheries:

Does the minister concur with his colleague Hon Phil Edman that there is no guarantee that the shark cull will decrease the chance of an attack on a beachgoer?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the member for the question. I think that drum lines are a tool of the toolbox. They can help save somebody's life, because one hopes that the shark one kilometre offshore will take the bait, rather than the person. That is basically what it is about. People think it opens a Pandora's box—not necessarily, but it is there hoping that sharks will prefer the bait to the person.