

SHARKS — DRUM LINE PROGRAM

699. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Will the Minister please list all of the sources of scientific research that the Department of Fisheries is aware of to demonstrate that the deployment of drum lines off the coast of Western Australia will reduce attacks on humans by great white sharks?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the bull shark is the main species of shark considered a threat to swimmers and surfers off the coast of Queensland where drum lines are currently used?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that great white sharks are highly mobile, capable of travelling 100 kilometres in 24 hours, whereas research shows that bull sharks are generally found in warm shallow coastal and estuarine waters and are territorial, rather than migratory?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that because of the highly migratory, as opposed to territorial, behaviour of great white sharks, most shark scientists doubt that the deployment of drum lines off the coast of Western Australia will be effective in reducing fatal attacks on humans by great white sharks?

**Hon Ken Baston replied:**

- (1) The Government's decision to implement the new Shark Hazard Mitigation Strategy was made on the basis of the seven shark fatalities in Western Australia over the past three years and the successful use of drum lines in Queensland and Natal over a number of decades.
- (2)–(3) Yes
- (4) The Government's decision is based, in part, on the successful use of drum lines in Queensland and Natal.