

SHARK DRUM LINE PROGRAM

474. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to a study commissioned by the Department of Fisheries conducted by Metrix and Marketforce in May 2013 on community perceptions of shark attacks.

- (1) Noting that the study found that more than 80 per cent of Western Australians do not support killing sharks as a method of shark hazard mitigation, on what basis does the Premier claim that the “silent majority” support his drum-lining strategy?
- (2) Why has the full report from the study not been made publicly available?
- (3) What was the total cost to taxpayers of the study?
- (4) Is the Premier aware that the study found that most Western Australians—67 per cent in the metropolitan area and 83 per cent in the regions—either increased or did not change their frequency of beach use during the two years prior to the study; and that of the minority who did decrease their beach use, only a tiny number, 13 people out of 768, gave shark attacks as the reason?
- (5) Why has the Premier ignored what the vast majority of respondents in the study said they wanted done in response to shark attacks instead of killing sharks?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1),(4)–(5) The study was completed in May 2013. The enhanced shark hazard mitigation strategies were announced in December 2013 following the seventh shark-related death in WA in three years.
- (2)–(3) The study was completed at a cost of \$53 000. The report, which was produced for internal use by the Department of Fisheries, is guiding various elements of the government’s comprehensive shark hazard mitigation strategy.