

SHARK DRUM LINE PROGRAM

139. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Why did the government implement its new guidelines for taking sharks posing a serious threat to public safety last year without making the new policy publicly available first?
- (2) Why did the government omit to refer the guidelines to the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment?
- (3) Is it the government's intention to try to kill more protected sharks fitted with acoustic tags in the future when the sharks have not been seen by anyone, let alone threatened anyone, and whose presence is known about only because they have been detected on an acoustic receiver?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) First of all, the guidelines for taking sharks posing a serious threat came about by the environment act that virtually downgraded it. It was a policy that was taken from setting drum lines one kilometre offshore on a regular basis, morning and night, down to actually a serious threat. Obviously if a shark is hanging around in an area that is a popular swimming spot and is staying around there for a number of days, I do not think any government could sit back and not do something about that other than just have that shark there.
- (3) The simple answer to that is no.