

SHARK ATTACKS — HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY

**1042. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Fisheries:**

I congratulate the minister on his new role.

- (1) Will the minister please list all the sources of scientific research that the Department of Fisheries is aware of to show 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 main species of shark considered a threat to swimmers and surfers off Queensland where drum lines are currently used is the bull shark?
- (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:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. As I was only sworn in yesterday, my briefing has not happened yet, but I would very much appreciate it if the honourable member would put this question on notice and I will answer it during the recess.