

SHARK MITIGATION POLICY

1246. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Before the Minister issued his media statement on 7 May 2014 about the success of the shark mitigation policy, was the Minister aware that the Surf Life Saving of Western Australia policy on beach closures was changed in January 2014? For example, did the Minister know that, previously, a beach closure was triggered if a two-metre or bigger shark came within one kilometre of the shoreline, and that since January 2014, a two-metre to three-metre shark would be able to come within 500 metres of the shoreline before a beach closure would be triggered?
- (2) Does the Minister agree that when one considers this change in policy, it is not an equal comparison to compare the beach closure figures for previous years with the beach closure figures since January 2014?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (1) The criteria used to close beaches are determined by Surf Life Saving of Western Australia.
 - (2) The comment with respect to beach closures was based on recorded statistics without assessment of the many variables which may impact on beach closures.
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