



**The Hon Niall Blair MLC**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

IM17/14240

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson  
Chair  
Senate Environment and Communication References Committee,  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Whish-Wilson

Thank you for your letter of 22 June 2017 concerning the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries surveys on community views on the trial of shark control measures in northern NSW.

A survey undertaken in October/November 2016 was part of a before and after survey around the deployment of the mesh nets in northern NSW in early December 2016. The community survey consisted of a random and representative telephone survey of residents in the Ballina Shire Local Government Area (LGA) and Evans Head. There was also an online survey which could be completed by anyone wanting to contribute their views. Jetty Research was commissioned by DPI to assist with the development of survey questions and to conduct the phone surveys.

Part of the pre-deployment survey was designed to ask locals in the Ballina and Evans areas at which beaches they would like to see the five nets deployed. Based on the responses to this question nets were deployed at Seven Mile Beach, Lennox Head, Sharpes, Shelly and Lighthouse beaches, Ballina, and Main Beach, Evans Head. The remainder of the survey was used to provide data to inform a specific research objective in the NSW North Coast Shark Meshing Trial Management Plan, to "monitor the level of community acceptance to the presence and operation of the nets during the trial."

I have attached a copy of the survey questions as requested. However, the data collected from the surveys is currently being analysed and will be provided in the Management Plan report. Release of the data prior to full analysis and interpretation is not possible.

If you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Dr Natalie Moltschaniwskyj, Director Fisheries Research, on

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

08 AUG 2017

**The Hon Niall Blair MLC**  
**Minister for Primary Industries**  
**Minister for Regional Water**  
**Minister for Trade and Industry**  
Encl:



A six month trial of Shark Nets will begin on the North Coast in December 2016

NSW Department of Primary Industries is seeking community views to inform the locations of the trial and how to measure the success of the trial. Community views will be summarised into a report which will be made public.

The survey should take 10 minutes to complete.

Please complete and submit your response by **6 November 2016, 5pm**

#### Privacy Statement

We value your input and appreciate that information you provide may be of a private or personal nature. The details of the comments and feedback provided in the survey will be confidential. At no time will information be collected as part of the process be used to identify you. Information will be securely stored by NSW DPI and will not be disclosed to third parties.

If you have technical problems please contact [dpi\\_communications@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dpi_communications@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

How you use beaches on the North Coast of NSW

**1. How long have you been going to beaches on the North Coast of NSW?**

- Less than 12 months
- At least 1 year but less than 5 years
- At least 5 years but less than 10 years
- At least 10 years but less than 30 years
- 30 years or more

**2. How often do you go to beaches on the North Coast of NSW?**

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Every couple of months
- 1 2 times per year
- Less than once a year

**3. What is the one MAIN activity you undertake at beaches on the North Coast?**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Surfing                                  | <input type="radio"/> Nippers/cadets                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Body boarding                            | <input type="radio"/> Snorkelling                    |
| <input type="radio"/> Walking                                  | <input type="radio"/> Diving                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Running                                  | <input type="radio"/> Recreational spearfishing      |
| <input type="radio"/> Exercising on the beach (i.e. Non water) | <input type="radio"/> Recreational line fishing      |
| <input type="radio"/> Kite surfing                             | <input type="radio"/> Commercial fishing             |
| <input type="radio"/> Windsurfing                              | <input type="radio"/> Commercial tourism operator    |
| <input type="radio"/> Stand up paddle boarding kayaking        | <input type="radio"/> Boating                        |
| <input type="radio"/> Surf skiing                              | <input type="radio"/> Jet Skiing                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Swimming                                 | <input type="radio"/> Indigenous cultural activities |
| <input type="radio"/> Body surfing                             | <input type="radio"/> NO activities undertaken       |
| <input type="radio"/> Surf Life Saving Patrol                  |  |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify)                   |  |

**4. Select all other activities you undertake at beaches on the North Coast.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surfing                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nippers/cadets                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body boarding                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Snorkelling                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Diving                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Running                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational spearfishing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercising on the beach (i e Non water) | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational line fishing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kite surfing                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial fishing             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windsurfing                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial tourism operator    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stand up paddle boarding kayaking       | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surf skiing                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Jet skiing                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous cultural activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body surfing                            | <input type="checkbox"/> NO activities undertaken       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surf Life Saving Patrol                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                  |   |

Shark net trial facts

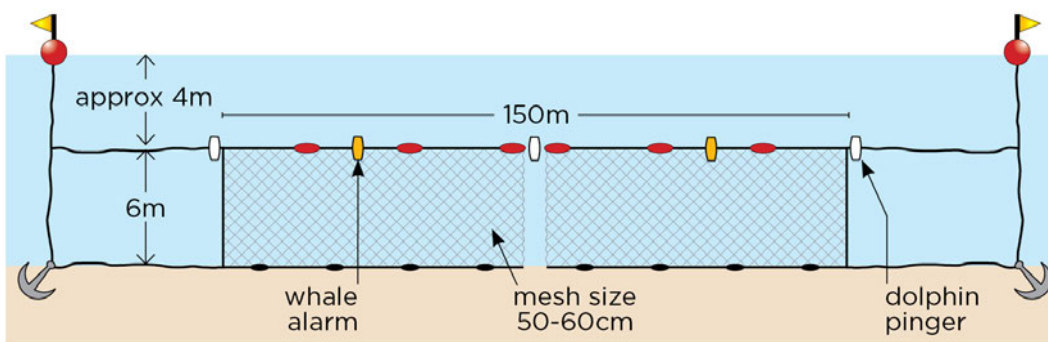
View the Shark net trial facts below before moving on to further questions.

- Shark nets do not create an enclosed area or provide a barrier between people and sharks
- Shark nets are designed to catch potentially dangerous sharks which are in the area or moving through while feeding on bait fish
- In an attempt to minimise harm to other marine life Shark nets are fitted with 'whale alarms' and 'dolphin pingers' NSW DP will trial other means to minimise harm however due to the nature of the nets other animals may be affected

Shark net being deployed



Dimensions of typical shark net



Safety

5. How concerned are you about the risk of shark bite to YOURSELF, your FAMILY, and the WIDER COMMUNITY on the North Coast of NSW?

Level of concern

Yourself

Family

Wider Community

6. Is your level of concern the same at all beaches?

Yes

No

**7. Which beaches are you more concerned about? Please choose those that apply.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airforce Beach         | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Watego's Beach        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angels Beach           | <input type="checkbox"/> Maggies Beach                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belongil Beach         | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Beach                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beswicks Beach         | <input type="checkbox"/> Mooball Beach                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bogangar Beach         | <input type="checkbox"/> New Brighton Beach           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulder Beach          | <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand Beach            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brays Beach            | <input type="checkbox"/> Norries Cove                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadwater Beach       | <input type="checkbox"/> Patches Beach                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broken Head Beach      | <input type="checkbox"/> Pottsville Beach             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brunswick Heads Beach  | <input type="checkbox"/> Razorback/Little Beach       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabarita Beach         | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Hill                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casuarina Beach        | <input type="checkbox"/> Robins Beach                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinamans              | <input type="checkbox"/> Seven Mile/Lennox Head Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarkes Beach          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharpes Beach                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cosy Corner            | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelly Beach                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crabbes Creek Beach    | <input type="checkbox"/> South Ballina Beach          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cudgera Beach          | <input type="checkbox"/> South Kingscliff Beach       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dreamtime Beach        | <input type="checkbox"/> Tallow Beach                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duranbah Beach         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ten Mile Beach               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evans Head Beach       | <input type="checkbox"/> The Pass                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fingal Head Beach      | <input type="checkbox"/> The Wreck                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kings Beach            | <input type="checkbox"/> Watego's Beach               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kingscliff Beach       | <input type="checkbox"/> Whites Beach                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letitia Beach          | <input type="checkbox"/> Wooyung Beach                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Beach       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |   |

Shark Net trial

**8. How do you think the trial of shark nets at beaches on the North Coast of NSW will affect YOU, your FAMILY and the WIDER COMMUNITY?**

You	<input type="text"/>
Family	<input type="text"/>
Wider Community	<input type="text"/>

Please explain why

**\* 9. The number of nets to be trialled has not been determined. Please identify the THREE beaches where you think Shark Nets should be trialled. The trials are only being considered within the Ballina Shire and Richmond Valley Council Areas. Please be aware that shark nets may not be feasible at some beaches due to local environmental conditions.**

- No beaches
- Airforce Beach
- Angels Beach
- Beswicks Beach
- Boulder Beach
- Broadwater Beach
- Chinamans
- Evans Head Beach
- Lighthouse Beach
- New Zealand Beach
- Patches Beach
- Razorback/Little Beach
- Red Hill
- Robins Beach
- Seven Mile/Lennox Head Beach
- Sharpes Beach
- Shelly Beach
- South Ballina Beach
- Ten Mile Beach
- Other (please specify)



Shark Net trial

10. How would you measure the success of the shark net trial?

11. Do you have any further comments about the trial of shark nets on the North Coast of NSW? This could include suggestions on the design of shark nets, or information that you believe should be collected during the trial.

12. How have you received most of your information about the trial of shark nets?

- Local newspapers
- TV News
- Council
- Internet
- SharkSmart app
- Friends
- Radio
- Facebook Twitter social media
- Newspapers (non local)
- Word of mouth
- NSW DP (Fisheries)
- This survey
- Other (please specify)

About You

We use this information to identify patterns in responses and do not focus on individuals.

**13. What is your age bracket?**

- Less than 18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 years or older
- Would rather not say

**14. What is your gender?**

- Male
- Female
- Would rather not say

**15. Do you have children living with you right now?**

- Yes
- No

**\* 16. What is your postcode?**

**17. Are you responding on behalf of a group, business, or organisation?**

- No
- Yes

Name of group business organisation

**18. How would you prefer to receive information about the shark net trial and other components of the NSW Shark Management Strategy?**

- Email
- Newsletter
- Council
- Internet
- SharkSmart app
- Radio
- Facebook Twitter social media
- Newspapers
- NSW DP (Fisheries)
- Other (please specify)

**19. If you are interested in participating in follow-up surveys please register your contact details. This information will not be used to identify you in the current survey.**