



Senator Linda Reynolds CSC  
Chair  
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Reynolds

On 22 May 2017 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates Hearing.

During the Hearing Senator Wish-Wilson said in relation to Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's granting of a permit for a continuation of the Queensland government's Shark Control Program within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:

*"Could you very briefly outline what the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority role was in approving the Queensland government's Shark Control Program? What evidence was collected by you?"*

In response I said

*"... I think it was about April sometime."*

I wish to correct this answer. The permit was granted in late March 2017. The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

During the hearing Senator Wish-Wilson said in relation to the granting of this permit:

*"There is no scientific proof—certainly in the literature that I have been able to find; and the committee will be coming to Queensland and looking at this issue—that lethal measures like drumlines or nets protect human life. Is that true? Do you agree with that?"*

In response I said

*"... Now, there have not been shark attacks along the Queensland coast."*

I wish to correct this answer. There has not been a shark attack at a Great Barrier Reef Marine Park beach since the gear was installed. The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

During the Hearing Senator Wish-Wilson said in relation to the granting of this permit:

*"On notice, yes. Could you also confirm that in 2016 alone, 531 sharks, including endangered species such as the great white and the grey nurse, were killed, according to the data from the Queensland government; and, since the program began, over 50,000 dolphins, dugongs, marine turtles, rays and whales have also been killed by these lethal technologies."*

In response I said

*"...over a 10-year period in which there were, from memory, 25 turtles caught on drum lines, 24 were released successfully, alive."*

I wish to correct this answer. Over the 10 year period between 2005 and 2014, 27 turtles were caught on drumlines and 26 released alive. The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

I apologise for the error in my answer and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Elliot  
General Manager  
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use

16 June 2017