




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Shark Control Program, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; Cardno Report

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (9.56 am): The Palaszczuk government is a government that believes in science. We support the science behind shark control in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and we are responding accordingly.

Members will be aware of the AAT and subsequent Federal Court decision on the GBRMPA permit that put unworkable restrictions on operating the Shark Control Program in the Great Barrier Reef. This is a federal permit under federal legislation in the federally controlled Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The federal government and those LNP members opposite have been very quick to jump on board and back that decision, which demands a catch-and-release program for dangerous sharks instead of a catch-and-remove program that has enjoyed bipartisan support here for 57 years.

We commissioned the Cardno report to examine what new options we might have for shark control in Queensland as I announced in this year's budget. This report, which has been released, makes it clear that a catch-and-release program will not work in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. It makes it absolutely clear that, if you release dangerous sharks from drum lines in the marine park, you will inevitably release them close to areas where people are enjoying swimming or water activities. I table a page of that report and encourage those opposite to read that report.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 20 September 2019, titled 'Queensland Shark Control Program' [1860](#).

As a government that believes in science, we accept the findings that catch and release will not work in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This has not stopped some others, including the federal government and their colleagues opposite, from insisting we do just that, despite the science and despite the fact that to do so would put our staff and contractors at serious risk—and they continued to sprout misinformed comments even after receiving a briefing from my office and my department. I have today written to the member for Gympie inviting him to support this government in putting Queenslanders before sharks. I table a photo to show how dangerous sharks are lurking off our coast but are captured and removed under our program.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting shark control [1861](#).

Today I will be meeting with the GBRMPA CEO after question time. Queensland remains resolute: we support catch and remove, not catch and release. The federal government has responsibility for what happens in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and the federal government must legislate to allow our Shark Control Program to return.