

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 4**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 6 February 2007**

**MR HORAN** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the maintenance programs for nets in the Shark Control Programs at Queensland beaches—

- (1) How many shark nets is the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries responsible for maintaining and where are these shark nets located?
- (2) What is the department's minimum recommended requirements for maintaining shark nets in a 12 month period?
- (3) Will he outline the maintenance program for the shark nets the department is responsible for in the last 12 months?

**ANSWER:**

- (1) There are thirty five (35) nets used statewide in the program and they are located at the following areas:
  - Cairns has five (5) with nets located at Ellis Beach, Palm Cove, Clifton Beach, Trinity Beach, and Yorkeys Knob;
  - Mackay also has five (5) with nets located at Bucasia Beach (2), Eimeo Beach and Harbour Beach (2);
  - Rainbow Beach near Gympie has three (3) nets;
  - The Sunshine Coast has eleven (11) with nets located at Noosa (2), Coolum Beach, Maroochydore (2), Mooloolaba (2), Alexandra Headland, Wurtulla, and Caloundra (2); and
  - The Gold Coast also has eleven (11) with nets positioned at Main Beach, Southport, Surfers Paradise, Kurrawa, Mermaid Beach, Miami, Burleigh Heads, Tallebudgera Beach, Kirra Beach, Coolangatta Beach and Greenmount Beach.
- (2) Subject to the prevailing weather conditions on the day, contractors are required to maintain equipment by servicing nets at sea 182 times a year.

Each service includes:

- Inspection of the net;
- if the net is damaged - repairing or replacing it immediately;
- inspection of the net for debris and marine growth and, if necessary, remove the net for cleaning;
- releasing (or humanely destroying if necessary) any marine life caught (other than sharks); and
- recording catch details.

- (3) The Shark Control Program is delivered through contracts. Contract conditions require the holder to have in place a comprehensive work and maintenance program. The program must include the following:
- The equipment is to be serviced at least 14 days in every 28 day period. One service day in each period must include a Saturday or Sunday and every public holiday.
  - No more than 3 consecutive days can elapse without servicing all nets unless weather conditions make it too dangerous.
  - All spare nets must be maintained in good fishing order at all times, as in-service nets are replaced at least once every 21 days or sooner if they become lost, dirty or damaged.

All work and maintenance programs must be approved by supervising officers of the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. Any changes to programs must be approved by the supervising officer.