

Question on Notice

No. 639

Asked on Tuesday 10 June 2025

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (HON A PERRETT)

QUESTION:

With reference to the additional \$88.228m over four years that the government has announced it will spend on the Shark Control Management Plan—

Will the Minister advise what amount of this funding is allocated for (a) QSCP contracts for the maintenance and monitoring of shark nets and drumlines including the killing of sharks, (b) shark net and drumline equipment, (c) research including (i) stock assessments for tiger sharks, bull sharks, hammerhead sharks, grey nurse sharks, (ii) tagging and tracking of target sharks, (iii) improved whale deterrent technologies and (d) non-lethal shark management such as (i) drones, (ii) shark barriers, (iii) personal protection device subsidies and (iv) SharkSmart Education?

ANSWER:

As the Member is aware the Crisafulli Government's Shark Management Plan 2025 to 2029 (the Plan) is strengthened by an \$88.2 million investment over four years. It reflects our commitment to prioritising human safety first. The Plan combines proven safety measures like shark nets and drumlines at more Queensland beaches while prioritising innovative technologies like drone surveillance and whale deterrent measures.

The Plan was informed following the government's consideration of the recommendations from the KPMG Shark Control Program Evaluation Report which included feedback from scientific experts, Surf Life Saving Queensland and local government.

The KPMG report has confirmed traditional gear like nets and drumlines are most effective. In addition to this, we are investing record funding in innovative new technologies, like drones and research and development. We have also made permanent the previous Government's trial of drones as well as doubling the locations to 20 beaches.

The following is a high-level breakdown of the \$88 million in funding, noting that actual costs will be subject to procurement processes: The funding is aligned to the guiding principles outlined in the Plan.

- \$26 million for all year operation of daily servicing of shark nets and drum lines
- \$7 million for optimising use of gear and locations including seven new locations
- \$22 million for catch alert drumlines in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- \$19 million for doubling of the SharkSmart drone program
- \$6 million for research including assessments, tagging and tracking and whale deterrent technologies
- \$4.5 million for education
- \$3.5 million for improved IT and data reporting