

Question on Notice

No. 841

Asked on Thursday 26 June 2025

MR N DAMETTO asked the Minister for Primary Industries (HON A PERRETT)—

QUESTION:

With reference to excessive shark numbers causing safety issues for beachgoers, high depredation rates for commercial and recreational fishers, and noting that shark numbers have previously been controlled through commercial fishing –

Will the Minister direct the department to actively pursue new markets to reactivate shark fishing in Queensland, given the total allowable take for shark has not been reached for many years due to low market demand for flake and other shark products?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government's Shark Management Plan 2025 to 2029 (the Plan) is supported by an \$88 million investment over four years. This represents the most significant strengthening of the Shark Control Program (the Program) since it started in 1962 and reflects our commitment to prioritising beach goers' safety and reducing the risk of shark attacks. The Plan combines proven safety measures like shark nets and drumlines at popular Queensland beaches while prioritising innovative technologies like drone surveillance at more beaches and investing in shark research and targeted education.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will undertake research that will include population assessments for key target shark species and impact of the Program on these species. These assessments will be critical to make future management decisions on commercial and recreational shark fishing.

DPI will continue to work with industry to investigate opportunities to invigorate the fishery and market for shark products in Queensland. The proposed work will be underpinned by engagement with the seafood industry and Trade and Investment Queensland with the aim of restoring supply chains, noting that access to export markets is regulated by the Federal Government.