

Question on Notice

No. 473

Asked on 12 May 2026

MRS SANDY BOLTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (HON A PERRETT)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the KPMG Shark Control Program Evaluation Report recommending the delivery of a trial decision-making framework to systematically evaluate the progress of trials for alternative shark control technologies and strategies within the first year of the new Shark Control Program, announced in May 2025—

Will the Minister advise (a) when this framework will be released, (b) what specific criteria will be used to determine whether alternative shark mitigation measures can be proven effective and (c) whether whale deterrent technologies on existing nets will be deployed to Noosa before the start of this year's whale migration season?

ANSWER:

I thank the member for the question.

The KPMG Shark Control Program Evaluation Report provided advice and recommendations to the Queensland Government. Any recommendation or measure that prioritises human safety first, above all other factors, has been adopted in the Shark Management Plan 2025 to 2029 in line with the Crisafulli Government's priority to put human safety above all other factors.

The Crisafulli Government's Shark Management Plan 2025 to 2029 (the Plan) and increased investment of an additional \$88.2 million into the Program represents historic change, with the single biggest improvement and strengthening of the Program since it started in 1962. Approximately 60 per cent of the additional funding announced for the Program is for research, trials of new technology, education, and the SharkSmart drone program.

The Plan included a commitment to review the research strategy framework in the 2025-26 financial year. This work has progressed and is preparing to be made publicly available, we remain on track to deliver as per our commitment.

Further, the Shark Mitigation Alternatives Framework, currently in development, is in consultation with the Shark Control Program Scientific Working Group. This framework includes the development of the systematic identification, trial and assessment of new technologies and management practices. This initiative is expected to be delivered in the near future.

Acoustic whale alarms have been deployed on all shark nets used in the Shark Control Program ahead of the whale migration period which assists in the unlikely event non-target species are captured, noting there has not been a whale fatality since 2018. A trial of modified acoustic alarms is in development and will be trialled for a five-week period on selected shark nets, including at Noosa, during the southern whale migration from September to October 2026.