



Niall Blair
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 25 October 2015

NSW UNVEILS \$16 MILLION WORLD-FIRST SHARK STRATEGY

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair today announced an increase in aerial shark surveillance as well as trials of new technologies as part of the NSW Government's five year \$16 million shark strategy.

Mr Blair today unveiled the strategy at Sydney's Coogee Beach and said the NSW Government would take an integrated approach to protecting beachgoers not seen anywhere else in the world.

"After considering the advice from experts attending a recent summit in Sydney and consulting with communities including the North Coast, we will take a multi-faceted approach to the issue of detecting and deterring sharks," Mr Blair said.

"What's more, we are proud to be the first jurisdiction anywhere in the world to adopt an integrated approach toward keeping our beaches safe."

There will be \$7.7 million set aside for trials of new technologies and aerial and coastal surveillance, including up to \$3.5 million for aerial helicopter surveillance to provide early warning to bathers and assist shark tagging operations.

The NSW Government will also invest in 20, 4G listening stations. Ten stations will be positioned between Tweed Heads and Forster, with the rest to be positioned at known shark attack locations.

The data will eventually be made available to provide details of tagged shark locations via the SharkSmart app in real time.

These measures will be complemented by six barrier net trials and five 'clever buoy' in-water sonar technology trials. The North Coast has been identified as a priority trial site for two barrier nets.

Another \$7 million will be set aside for additional research into how to keep our beaches safe from sharks in their natural environment, and the expansion of the shark tagging program currently underway on the state's North Coast.

A further \$1.3 million will be set aside to educate the community to be shark smart and build on the popular SharkSmart mobile app.

An independent report into shark technologies also recommended the adoption of smart drum lines, which will be considered in consultation with local communities.

MEDIA: Siobhan McCarthy 0407 791 802

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Dear Mr Hickey
Attention Councillors

RE: Provision of Lifeguards - Shelly Beach

The Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch (Branch) would like to request that the provision of Lifeguard services at Shelly Beach, Ballina be reviewed.

Currently Shelly Beach is patrolled by a single Lifeguard during the Christmas School holidays and no patrols are provided during the September and April School Holidays or at Easter. A copy of the 2013/14 roster is included:

Beach	Start Date	Finish Date	Details
Lighthouse Beach	23/09/2013	04/10/2013	9am-5pm 1 Lifeguard Mon - Fri Volunteers on weekends and public holidays
	23/12/2013	24/01/2014	
	14/04/2014	25/04/2014	
Shelly Beach	21/12/2013	27/01/2014	9am-5pm 1 Lifeguard 7 days a week
Lennox Head Beach	23/09/2013	26/04/2014	2 Lifeguards Mon-Fri Volunteers on weekends and public holidays
Sharpes Beach	21/09/2013	07/10/2013	9am -5pm 2 Lifeguards 7 days a week
	21/12/2013	27/01/2014	
	12/04/2014	27/04/2014	

The Branch requests that consideration be given to the provision of a Lifeguard at Shelly Beach during all school holidays and Easter so providing the same service as at Lighthouse Beach, Sharpes Beach and Lennox Head Beach.

Even with the completion of the new Lifesaving Clubhouse at Lighthouse Beach, Shelly Beach continues to be a very popular beach. Often conditions will differ at each of the

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beaches so making one beach safer and more popular than the other beach. There are often times when Lighthouse Beach has few people while Shelly Beach is heavily used and has no Lifeguards.

The Branch strongly supports the provision of two Lifeguards at a patrol location for the safety of the Lifeguards and the public. This, however, has significantly increased the cost of providing the Lifeguard Service. Shelly Beach is located close to Lighthouse Beach where two Lifeguards are on patrol. Should the provision of a Lifeguard at Shelly Beach during all school holidays and Easter be supported the Branch would be happy to discuss with Ballina Council the option to help fund a Branch Jet Ski for the use of the Lifeguards and volunteers surf life savers housed at the Ballina Surf Club.

The provision of a Jet Ski would enable quick response times and support to the Shelly Beach Lifeguard. This rescue Jet Ski could be activated for rescues on the Ballina Bar and help support the Ballina Jet Rescue Boat and Marine Rescue. The provision of three Lifeguards on these two beaches would also enable flexibility in servicing the two beaches so that when Shelly Beach is busy and Lighthouse Beach is quiet Lifeguards can be moved to meet the needs of the public.

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Cheyne Willebrands

From: Brent Manieri <bmanieri@australianlifeguards.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 November 2015 4:06 PM
To: John Truman; Cheyne Willebrands
Cc: Scott McCartney
Subject: RE: OC261115SR_25.DOC

Importance: High

Good Afternoon John and Cheyne,

Thank you for forwarding on the report into Shark Mitigation Strategies that is to be tabled at the next Council meeting. Please find below feedback on the report that can be included in your response and tabled at the meeting.

1. Strategy Update

It is the position of both the ALS and SLSNSW that we support the work that the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has already undertaken and the ongoing efforts being undertaken in response to reducing shark interactions.

We commend the work that has been done locally by the Ballina Shark Advisory Group. The ALS and SLSNSW would like to respectfully put forward that this advisory group should widen to include the neighbouring councils so that a holistic approach can be obtained to response plans and a greater voice can be put forward to potentially gain funding. A holistic approach would also help the ALS, FNC Branch and other entities that have to work across all these council maintain consistency.

The ALS support the recommendation that Sharpes Beach be strongly considered for an observation tower. This facility would further complement the drowning prevention strategies that are currently in place for this location.

2. Shark Alarm Warning System

The ALS and SLSNSW would advise caution in implementing this alarm warning system and further discussion should be occur prior to committing funding to this project.

The costs outlined provide an indication of the investment to implement the system but at present don't detail any ongoing costs associated with responses, both financial and physical, to the activations of this alarm.

It should be noted that the system put in place by Richmond Valley Council is appropriate due to the very limited personnel and assets currently at their disposal for any response. Ballina Shire have a good array of personnel and assets capable of responding through the current response arrangements.

3. Jet Ski Patrol

The Rescue Water Craft (RWC) currently located at Lennox Head SLSC is an ALS owned asset that is utilised for lifeguard patrols during the agreed contracted service period. To assist the FNC Branch in their patrolling duties the ALS have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the FNC Branch so that this RWC may be used on weekends by approved FNC Support Operations members. The patrolling duties are clearly defined in their Lifesaving Service Agreement.

The ALS were unaware originally at the approach to Council for these RWC patrols as Mr. Kennedy has not consulted with the ALS or FNC Branch about the implementation of these patrols at any time which would need to be manned by both parties.

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The current proposal put forward by Mr. Kennedy would be a significant cost to Council without State Government support. This is based on the fact that for the outlined service period it is envisaged that the turnover of the RWC asset would need to be done at least twice, on top of the other costs associated with implementing this service .

4. FNC SLS Request

Whilst appreciative of the unsolicited letter sent to Council by the FNC Branch in relation to the staffing of Shelly Beach the ALS are happy to support the recommendation that a review of services provided should be conducted at the end of the current season (15/16).

As has been stated in the report the ALS provide a summary of recommendations to Council at the conclusion of each season as per the contract reporting requirements. These recommendations are put forward to Assist in Council's Risk Management Plan.

Whilst Shelly Beach is a highlighted recommendation in the last report the ALS believe a review at the end of the season is appropriate and a decision can be duly made for the following season.

The ALS and SLSNSW are available at any time to assist Council in relation to providing information and feedback on this issue and drowning prevention if so desired.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the above feedback.

Kind Regards

Brent Manieri

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