



**Niall Blair**

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NSW TAGGED AS A WORLD LEADER IN SHARK PROGRAM**

**\*\* Editor's note: New vision of SMART drumlines, new animation and drone vision showing shark movements [here](#)**

The NSW Government's shark tagging program is the largest in the world with 277 White Sharks, 37 Tiger Sharks and 61 Bull Sharks being actively tracked by scientists.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said shark tracking is giving scientists and beachgoers more insight than ever before into shark movements.

"We have been tagging sharks through our successful SMART drumline program for a couple of years now," Mr Blair said.

"These tagged sharks are tracked on NSW's network of 21 listening stations located up and down the coast from Merimbula north to Tweed Heads.

"In two years, there have been more than 26,000 shark detections on these listening stations which have then been communicated to water users via the SharkSmart app."

The NSW North Coast community, with the latest community survey results released today, is right behind these new technologies being trialled for shark mitigation.

The results showed there is significant support for SMART drumlines and drones, however there has been a decline in support for the shark net trials undertaken at five North Coast beaches over the past two summers.

The community has also been consulted through community drop-in stands, meetings, business visits and online and phone surveys.

Parliamentary Secretary for Northern NSW, Ben Franklin said that gauging public opinion has been an important part of the shark net trials on the North Coast.

"We know this has been a very divisive issue for locals and I have been working closely with the community to ensure we deliver the best outcome," Mr Franklin said.

"I want to reassure the community that I am working closely with the Minister to make sure we are trialling the best technologies.

"Of course we will continue to listen and have more to say ahead of summer."

The NSW Government's Shark Management Strategy is an innovative program, trialling a number of shark mitigation technologies aimed at increasing protection for beachgoers while minimising harm to sharks or other marine life.

The strategy includes trials of SMART drumlines, drones and helicopters for aerial surveillance, community education, and research into personal and area-based shark deterrents.

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