



Niall Blair
Minister for Primary Industries

Rob Stokes
Minister for Education

MEDIA RELEASE

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SCHOOLS GO LIVE WITH SHARKS

NSW school students will today get a chance to be transported from the classroom to the crystal clear waters of the Pacific Ocean to learn more about some of Australia's most feared ocean predators.

'Shark Week for Schools' is an initiative in partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, NSW Department of Education and Southern Cross School of Distance Education for school students across NSW to take part in virtual excursions with NSW shark scientists.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said shark scientists and drone operators will take part in three live to air sessions from Lighthouse Beach in Ballina for schools to livestream across the state.

"We have schools from across NSW and interstate registered to take part, and incredibly schools and teacher training colleges in Washington State, Montana and even Hawaii have booked in for us to take students on an ocean adventure while teaching them key safety principles when visiting the beach," Mr Blair said.

"We know sharks are a key species in healthy oceanic and estuarine environments and when people enter open water, they're entering the shark's domain.

"Teaching our children about sharks helps gives younger NSW students key information to enable them to myth bust these animals and ensure they're well prepared when they hit our beautiful beaches."

The sessions will include an introduction to sharks, myths and facts for primary school students, and two sessions for secondary students on shark biology and behaviours, which will cover research, technologies and careers in marine science.

Minister for Education, Rob Stokes said 'Shark Week for Schools' is the latest program in 'Connections', a project of the NSW Department of Education Distance and Rural Technologies (DART) unit that supports students in remote locations.

"Virtual excursions allows students from across the State to take part in experiences not previously available to them due to distance or other barriers," Mr Stokes said.

"'Connections' brings students and teachers face-to-face with experts from across the globe. Our excursions are designed to enrich and supplement curriculum across all stages and key learning areas."

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