



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 21 November 2011

NSW GOVERNMENT KEEPING BEACH SAFETY IN SIGHT

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson today announced funding for the construction of shark observation towers along the NSW coastline as further protection for the State's beach-goers.

"These observation towers will be an extension of the NSW Government's Bather Protection program and are another example of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government delivering on its pre-election commitments," Katrina Hodgkinson said.

"Observation towers are not only useful for spotting sharks but sighting people in distress and offering a clear line of vision when there is a big swell.

"The NSW Government will commit \$30,000 per year for the building of up to ten new observation towers per year on beaches or beach headlands for effective shark spotting.

"It is anticipated that up to ten \$3,000 grants may be provided each year through the program.

"It's time for those Surf Life Saving Clubs and local councils interested in constructing observation towers to apply for a grant."

The funding will be managed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) through a grant application process.

Ms Hodgkinson said the observation towers are just one of the ways the NSW Government is reducing the number of shark-related incidents and fatalities across the State.

"The NSW Government will provide about \$1.4 million this summer for a range of shark safety protection measures including the extremely successful shark meshing program.

"We will also be continuing the aerial surveillance trails and the 'SharkSmart' public awareness program that is designed to inform and educate water sports enthusiasts about the ways to reduce the risk of a shark bite incident."

Information on the Expression of Interest process and the application forms are now available from the NSW DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries.

Applications will close Friday, 9 December 2011.

More information on SharkSmart is available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries.