



NSW SHARK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The NSW Government has developed a new NSW Shark Management Strategy which complements the existing Shark Meshing Bather Protection Program. The key objective of the new Shark Management Strategy is to increase protection for bathers from shark interactions while minimising harm to sharks or other animals.

This is a scientifically driven, integrated strategy involving several innovative approaches to provide the most effective shark attack mitigation measures at NSW beaches. The NSW Shark Management Strategy will be an investment of more than **\$16 million** to introduce innovative trials and fund continual projects **over the next five years**.

\$7.7 million for surveillance, detection and deterrents

- Ongoing aerial surveillance. This is a significant increase in current funding to provide for more patrols along the NSW coastline.
- Two new technology barrier nets to be initially trialled at north coast beaches, with a view to an additional four trials on other NSW beaches. Locations will be determined in consultation with providers and communities to determine suitable sites.
- 20 VR4G shark listening stations, to provide real-time tracking data of tagged sharks. Ten listening stations will be deployed between Tweed Heads and Forster, with four earmarked for beaches off Evans Head, Ballina, Lennox Head and Byron Bay.
- Partnership with Surf Life Saving NSW and professional lifeguard associations to refine procedures for shark observation and incident response.
- In-water surveillance trials of sonar technology. Locations will be determined in consultation with providers to determine suitable trial sites, with the aim of installing them in the vicinity of surf lifesaving clubhouses where possible.
- Trials of unmanned aerial devices. These trials will commence in December at various locations along the NSW coast.
- Monitoring of emerging electric fences and other promising technology will continue, to determine their effectiveness and suitability.

\$7 million funding for science and research

- Additional expert staff to roll out the NSW Shark Management Strategy.
- Annual competitive grants, which will be advertised and funded to foster further commercial innovation in technologies for detection and deterrents.
- Expansion of the DPI shark tagging programs to tag more sharks and improve detection and reporting capabilities. This will include more tagging operations off the NSW coast, by expert shark researchers, over the next five years.
- Funding for PhD projects on sharks relevant to bather protection, including their detection or deterrence.

\$1.3 million for education and community awareness

- More community awareness events to better educate the public about sharks and how to minimise their risk of a shark incident.
- Enhancement and maintenance of the popular SharkSmart Mobile App, to include real-time tracking of tagged sharks on a mobile phone/tablet.

Focused North Coast Response

- In response to an increase in the number of shark incidences on the NSW north coast, the NSW Government's Shark Management Strategy includes a targeted north coast response.
- The north coast is a priority trial site for the deployment of two barrier nets and four north coast beaches will receive VR4G shark listening stations.
- The highly successful North Coast Local Waters Shark Tagging Project will continue off the NSW north coast, as will targeted aerial surveillance.