

Quinns Beach Shark Barrier

INFORMATION SHEET 2015

Community comments can be made via the online survey between **16 November and 14 December 2015**.
To complete the online survey please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/QuinnsSharkBarrier

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS A SHARK BARRIER?

A shark barrier is a physical barrier surrounding a swimming enclosure to reduce the risk of a shark encounter. The barrier aims to prevent sharks from entering an enclosed area and covers the full water column (anchored to the seabed and connected to floats at the surface).

2. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SHARK BARRIER AND SHARK NET?

A shark net is a form of shark barrier that can either be used to deter sharks or ensnare and ultimately kill sharks, depending on their design. The barrier proposed for Quinns Beach is not a shark net and will consist of a PVC mesh to deter sharks similar to the barrier recently trialled and installed at Coogee Beach.

3. WHERE IS THE PROPOSED SHARK BARRIER LOCATION?

Based on preliminary investigations, the southern section of Quinns Beach in the vicinity of the Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club is the preferred locations for a shark barrier due to favourable beach conditions, nearby supporting infrastructure and safety.

4. HOW MUCH DOES A SHARK BARRIER COST AND ARE THERE ONGOING COSTS?

Based on preliminary investigations, initial costs for a 300m long shark barrier could be in the order of \$300,000 inclusive of planning, design, approvals and installation. Ongoing costs associated with inspections, cleaning and maintenance are expected to be in the order of \$20,000 per year. Note that these costs are subject to change following decisions on offshore extent, barrier type/size and other design details.

5. HAS THE POTENTIAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES BEEN CONSIDERED?

At this stage the need for additional facilities has not been considered in the shark barrier feasibility study. The preferred location for the shark barrier is in close proximity to existing supporting infrastructure such as car parking, toilets, barbeques and disabled beach access. Consideration of the need for additional facilities in the future will be addressed in the City's Foreshore Master Plan.

6. WILL THE SHARK BARRIER IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT?

Preliminary investigations to date suggest that the barrier will not adversely impact the environment in terms

of sand movement and coastal erosion and based on recent trials at Coogee Beach, no entrapment of fish or marine mammals is expected. Regular inspections will be conducted throughout the life of the structure to ensure there are no impacts on the environment or entrapment of fish or marine mammals.

7. ARE SHARK NUMBERS AND THE RISK OF SHARK ATTACKS INCREASING?

Increased media attention, surveillance and more people using the water have contributed to the impression that shark numbers have increased.

Historical evidence suggests that the number of shark incidents in Australia have increased in recent years; however, there have been no fatal shark attacks at Quinns Beach or elsewhere within the City of Wanneroo.

8. ARE THERE ANY OTHER SHARK BARRIERS IN WA?

Yes, the City of Cockburn has recently re-installed a shark barrier at Coogee Beach similar to the barrier type proposed for Quinns Beach, following success of a trial from December 2013 to April 2014. State Government funding was not made available for this project.

The State Government funded a trial of a swimming enclosure using shark nets at Old Dunsborough Beach between January and April 2014. A second shark net swimming enclosure has since been funded and will be deployed at the Busselton foreshore in 2015/16.

The City of Joondalup and the City of Albany recently received Stage Government funding for shark barriers at Sorrento and Middleton Beach respectively and are currently undertaking similar feasibility studies.

9. WOULD THE SHARK BARRIER BE INSTALLED PERMANENTLY OR SEASONALLY?

The proposed shark barrier will be installed on a permanent basis and will be designed to withstand the winter storm period. Seasonal removal of the barrier will not be required and maintenance can be undertaken with the barrier in place.

10. IS THE INSTALLATION OF A SHARK BARRIER UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

No, the area where the shark barrier may be installed would require Government approvals such as Department of Transport, Department of Lands, Western Australian Planning Commission, Department of Park and Wildlife and Department of Environment Regulation.