

**CABINET - SUBJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION, 18 OCTOBER 2001 9:30 AM**

Not Relevant

**6**     **Cabinet Notes**

**601**     **GREAT WHITE SHARKS**

60

## CABINET NOTE

TO: THE PREMIER FOR CABINET

RE: GREAT WHITE SHARKS

The Western Australian Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries recently announced the issuing of an exemption pursuant to the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 to take Great White sharks in all Western Australian waters for the purpose of public safety. There have been calls for similar action to be taken in South Australia.

There have been two confirmed shark attacks in South Australian waters in the past 12 months resulting in loss of life. As a result of these incidents reports have been received by SAPOL and PIRSA Fisheries that some members of the community have taken action by hunting down and killing White sharks. In view of the large number of people living, visiting and recreating along the coast, further shark attacks are possible.

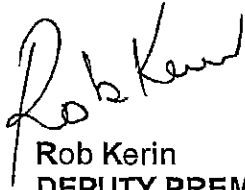
The Great White shark is protected under the Fisheries Act 1982 in South Australia. PIRSA Fisheries has a responsibility to ensure that any measures taken in response to any attack or sighting acknowledge this protected status. Currently there is no plan in place to respond to reported sightings of White sharks in South Australian waters, however reports are received on an irregular basis through such mediums as FISHWATCH.

A meeting of PIRSA Fisheries, SA Police (SAPOL) and Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) officers has advised that the development of a process for exemption from protected status under the Fisheries Act 1982, when the circumstances demand, is an appropriate mechanism to authorise action to remove a white shark in South Australian waters.

I intend introducing such an exemption and authorisation process. A further meeting on 9 November 2001 between all agencies and experts will ensure that a White Shark Emergency Response (WSER) Plan is developed between all relevant agency and interest groups.

Participants to develop the WSER plan in addition to other strategies aimed at reducing the risk of shark attack will include PIRSA Fisheries, Local Government Association, Surf Lifesaving; SAPOL, DEH, Tourism, Transport SA (Marine Safety) and CSIRO (Barry Bruce - White shark researcher).

This approach would require a media release to clearly state that any sightings or harassment by White sharks must be reported through FISHWATCH and that any response can only be taken by an authorised Government agency officer thus openly discouraging any emotional or irresponsible response from members of the community.



**Rob Kerin**  
**DEPUTY PREMIER**  
**MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES**  
**MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 12/10/01.