



Our ref: CORP F2025/000256  
Receipt No: 21963170

CORPORATE SERVICES  
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11 Waymouth Street  
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GPO Box 1671  
Adelaide SA 5001  
DX 667  
Tel 8429 0422  
www.pir.sa.gov.au

| October 2025

Removed from Disclosure Log

Dear Removed from Disclosure Log

### Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 15 August 2025, seeking access to the following:

*“Any documentation including incoming/outgoing correspondence, meeting documents, minutes and briefings related to the PIRSA decision to issue a Section 79 Notice under the Fisheries Management Act 2007 prohibiting the use of rock lobster pots until 24 July 2026 in the waters near the area known as the Granites. Including any engagement with key stakeholders including the District Council of Streaky Bay, Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fisherman’s Association, Mid-West Board Riders Association, Surf Life Saving South Australia, RecFish SA, Seafood Industry South Australia and Marine Fishers Association Inc.”*

Timeframe: 3/01/2024 to 14/08/2025

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located twenty-six documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

#### **Determination 1**

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
2	Email thread between Regional Manager, West Fisheries Compliance, Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA, A/Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA and Fisheries Manager, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 8/1/2025 and 10/1/2025 re further update re the Granites	4

**OFFICIAL**

4	Email thread between Regional Manager West Fisheries Compliance, Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA, A/Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA and Chief Executive PIRSA dated 8/1/2025 and 10/1/2025 re further update re the Granites	4
6	Minute from A/Director Fisheries Operations, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA to Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 7/5/2025 re Proposed Section 79 closure around the Granites (via Streaky Bay) – Consultation with Seafood Industry South Australia and RecFish SA	3
6a	Attachment to Documents 6, 7, 10 and 11 – Map highlighting the proposed closure area of the Granites	1
6b	Attachment to Document 6 – Coastal Risk Assessment – District Council of Streaky Bay – January 2025	46
8b	Attachment to Document 8a – Letter from District Council of Streaky Bay to Executive Officer, RecFish SA dated 13/7/2025 re Council response to concerns re Granites area lobster pot closure	3
8c	Attachment to Document 8 - Email thread between A/General Manager Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA, Seafood Industry South Australia and Marine Fisheries Association dated 8/5/2025 and 4/6/2025 re proposed Section 79 closure – The Granites (Streaky Bay)	3
8f	Attachment to Document 8 - Email thread between A/General Manager Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA and third parties dated 8/5/2025 and 12/5/2025 re proposed Section 79 closure – The Granites (Streaky Bay)	2
9a	Attachment to Document 9 – Letter from RecFish SA to Streaky Bay Council re shark interaction mitigation – proposed Section 79 closure - The Granites	1
10	Email from Director Operations, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA to Seafood Industry South Australia dated 24/7/2025 re Streaky Bay Section 79 Rock Lobster Pot Closure	3
12a	Attachment to Document 12 – Satellite map of the Granites – Streaky Bay	1
13	Email thread between Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA and Director Operations, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 7/5/2025 and 8/5/2025 re workflow approval for proposed Section 79 closure of Granites	2

**Determination 2**

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email from Fisheries Manager, Marine Scalefish Fishery, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA and A/Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 6/1/2025 re enquiry	1

OFFICIAL

	from MSF licence holder – Shark Attack – Streaky Bay - Potential section 79 notice	
3	Email thread between Regional Manager West Fisheries Compliance, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA, A/Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA, Research Scientist SARDI PIRSA, A/Director Operations, Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA dated 8/1/2025 to 22/1/2025 re further update re the Granites	6
5	Email thread between A/Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA, Senior Fisheries Officer First Mate PIRSA and General Manager Operation Support PIRSA dated 19/1/2025 and 20/1/2025 re ministerial response to OCE re Section 79 at the Granites	2
6c	Attachment to Documents 6, 8 and 11 – Letter from Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA to Seafood Industry South Australia dated 7/5/2025 re Section 79 notice under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>	2
6d	Attachment to Documents 6, 8 and 11 – Letter to RecFish SA dated 7/5/2025 re Section 79 notice under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>	2
7	Email from Executive Support Officer to Executive Director & Director Operations, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 19/6/2025 re meeting agenda re Proposed Section 79 closure of fishing activity (the Granites)	1
7a	Attachment to Document 7 – Meeting agenda – 19/6/2025 - Proposed Section 79 closure to fishing activity (the Granites)	1
8	Meeting Invitation from A/General Manager Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA to PIRSA officers dated 5/6/2025 re proposed Section 79 Granites closure	1
8a	Attachment to Document 8 - Email thread between RecFish SA, District Council of Streaky Bay and Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 10/7/2025 and 14/7/2025 re Council response - Proposed Trial Closure of the Granites Area	3
8d	Attachment to Document 8 - Email thread between A/General Manager Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA and third parties dated 8/5/2025 re proposed Section 79 closure – The Granites (Streaky Bay)	2
8e	Attachment to Document 8 - Email thread between A/General Manager Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA and RecFish SA dated 8/5/2025 and 5/6/2025 re proposed Section 79 closure – The Granites (Streaky Bay)	3
9	Email thread between RecFish SA, Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA and A/General Manager Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 10/7/2025 and 11/7/2025 re proposed Section 79 closure – The Granites	2
11	Email from A/General Manager Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 17/6/2025 re summary of responses to proposed Section 79 notice - The Granites	2

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

***“6 - Documents affecting personal affairs***

*(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”*

The information removed consists of the following:

- Document 1:
  - Names of members of the public
  - Mobile phone number of staff member
- Document 3:
  - Mobile telephone number of Departmental officer
- Document 5:
  - Name of member of the public
  - Mobile phone number of staff member
- Document 6:
  - Names of third parties
- Documents 6c and 6d:
  - Email addresses of third parties
- Document 7:
  - Name of member of the public
  - Name of individual from an organisation
  - Email address
- Documents 7 and 8:
  - Name of a member of the public
- Document 8a:
  - Names of members of the public
  - Email addresses of third parties
  - Mobile phone number of third party
- Document 8d:
  - Personal affairs of an individual
- Document 9:
  - Names of individuals
- Document 11:
  - Personal affairs of an individual

- Document 8e
  - Names of members of public
  - Email addresses of third parties
  - Mobile phone number of staff member

With respect to Document 8d and Document 11, pursuant to Section 26 of the Freedom of Information Act, consultation was undertaken with the individual concerned and consent was not provided to release the information removed.

It was advised that the information documented in the email consisted of that person's private thoughts about a matter and is regarded as constituting that individual's personal affairs.

The term 'personal affairs' has been held to involve 'matters of private concern to an individual' and the 'composite collection of activities personal to the individual concerned'.

It is considered that members of the public can correspond with a public sector agency without fear that their identities are released.

As a mobile telephone number allows a person, including an officer of an agency, to be contacted outside of business hours and is information that is not ordinarily available to the public, the information is taken to concern the personal affairs of an individual.

Consent has not been provided to disclose the name of the individuals concerned and, therefore, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

### **Determination 3**

I have determined that access to the following document is **refused**:

<b>Doc No.</b>	<b>Description of document</b>	<b>No. of Pages</b>
12	Email from member of the public to Executive Assistant to Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture PIRSA dated 6/2/2025 and 13/2/2025 re implementation of a potential Section 79 closure - The Granites	2

Access to the above document is refused pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The document contains detail considered as being the personal affairs of an individual.

Pursuant to Section 26 of the Freedom of Information Act, consultation was undertaken with the individual concerned and consent was not provided to release the document.

OFFICIAL

It was advised that the information documented in the email consisted of that person's private thoughts about a matter and is regarded as constituting that individual's personal affairs.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individual concerned.

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation [Making a Freedom of Information Application | State Records of South Australia \(archives.sa.gov.au\)](#), by completing the "FOI Application Form for Internal Review of a Determination" and returning the completed form to:

Freedom of Information Principal Officer  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
GPO Box 1671  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

or via email [PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au)

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at [http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf](http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf)

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Senior Freedom of Information Advisor on 8429 0422 or email [PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Michelle Griffiths  
**Accredited Freedom of Information Officer**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS**

**From:** [Lopez, Lambertus \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Markey, Yolande \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Jones, Annabel \(PIRSA\)](#); [Lear, Jordan \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Enquiry from MSF licence holder - Shark Attack - Streaky Bay  
**Date:** Monday, 6 January 2025 8:12:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

Happy New Year Yolande.

It is something we can consider but I wonder whether it will have much effect on the movement of sharks in that area.

The suggestion seems pretty straight forward – do you think we need to discuss further with Clause 6(1) ?

I am happy to meet to hear what he has to say if that helps however fishing bans will need further consultation with SARDI and relevant stakeholders as you know.

Is there much fishing in that area?

Regards

Lambertus

**From:** Markey, Yolande (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2025 8:02 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Jones, Annabel (PIRSA) ; Lear, Jordan (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Enquiry from MSF licence holder - Shark Attack - Streaky Bay

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Lambertus

Happy new year!

I have had a text message enquiry from MSF fisher Clause 6(1) seeking to discuss a potential section 79 notice to prevent the use of Rock Lobster pots and fishing in the vicinity of Granites surf break near Streaky Bay where the shark fatality occurred.

Clause 6(1) has indicated that the local government association supports such a notice and that Clause 6(1) has also raised this suggestion with Mehdi.

Do you want to speak to Clause 6(1) directly or do you have any updates or information that I could provide to him?

Thanks Yolande

**Yolande Markey** | Fisheries Manager – Marine Scalefish Fishery  
 Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**  
 Government of South Australia | 1 Hindmarsh Street Port Lincoln SA  
 PO Box 5 Port Lincoln SA 5606  
**P:** 08 8688 3400 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** [Yolande.markey@sa.gov.au](mailto:Yolande.markey@sa.gov.au)  
[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



*The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.*

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**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

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**From:** Shanks, Steve (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 January 2025 2:31 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA); Carr, Andrew (PIRSA); Read, Matt (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA); Jones, Annabel (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: Further Update re the Granites

**OFFICIAL**

Hi All

I'm not sure we could quantify the benefit – it would be purely speculative. So if we did any sort of closure it would be for social or community reasons and it may create a nasty precedent going forward, whereby others want to close areas.

Regards

Steve

---

**From:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 2:21 PM  
**To:** Carr, Andrew (PIRSA) ; Read, Matt (PIRSA) ; Shanks, Steve (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA) ; Jones, Annabel (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: Further Update re the Granites

**OFFICIAL**

Hi All, do you think there is any merit to the anecdotal comment re: fishing activities? Is there any need to close the area to fishing or restrict fishing activities?

Lambertus

---

**From:** Carr, Andrew (PIRSA) <[Andrew.Carr@sa.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Carr@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 9:55 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA) <[Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <[Matt.Read@sa.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Read@sa.gov.au)>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Further Update re the Granites

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Lambertus,

I appreciate it's a bit after the fact but here is a further update.

Yesterday afternoon I received a call from a Streaky Bay local who has a strong knowledge (former commercial RL fisher, now MSC fisher) of fishing practices around Streaky Bay including the Granites. He advised the following:

- About 1 km offshore from the Granites is a very deep drop off
- He described the drop off area as a shark 'super highway' as they followed the migratory path of whales each year.

- He and other surfers were very concerned by the effect of the rec RL pots, in particular the baits contained within them (he said up to a kilogram of fresh salmon each day), in the general vicinity of the Granites

He went on to say that the Granites was considered an 'iconic' surf spot (along with another 9 across Australia) and that and other surfers had come up with a proposal to disallow rec RL potting within the general vicinity of the Granites. He mentioned a sec 79 notice (which he was familiar with due to his NZRL commercial fishing days) as a means. He said the proposal had already been floated with Mehdi (he did not specific how or who by).

He also said he'd approached a local WZAF fisher (who was also a surfer) and had discussed issues such as the impact of abalone gut being deposited back into the water after shucking, potentially placing some sorts of restrictions on commercial abalone fishing in the general vicinity etc.

Regards, Andrew

---

**From:** Carr, Andrew (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 3:06 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA) <[Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Granites

Hi Lambertus,

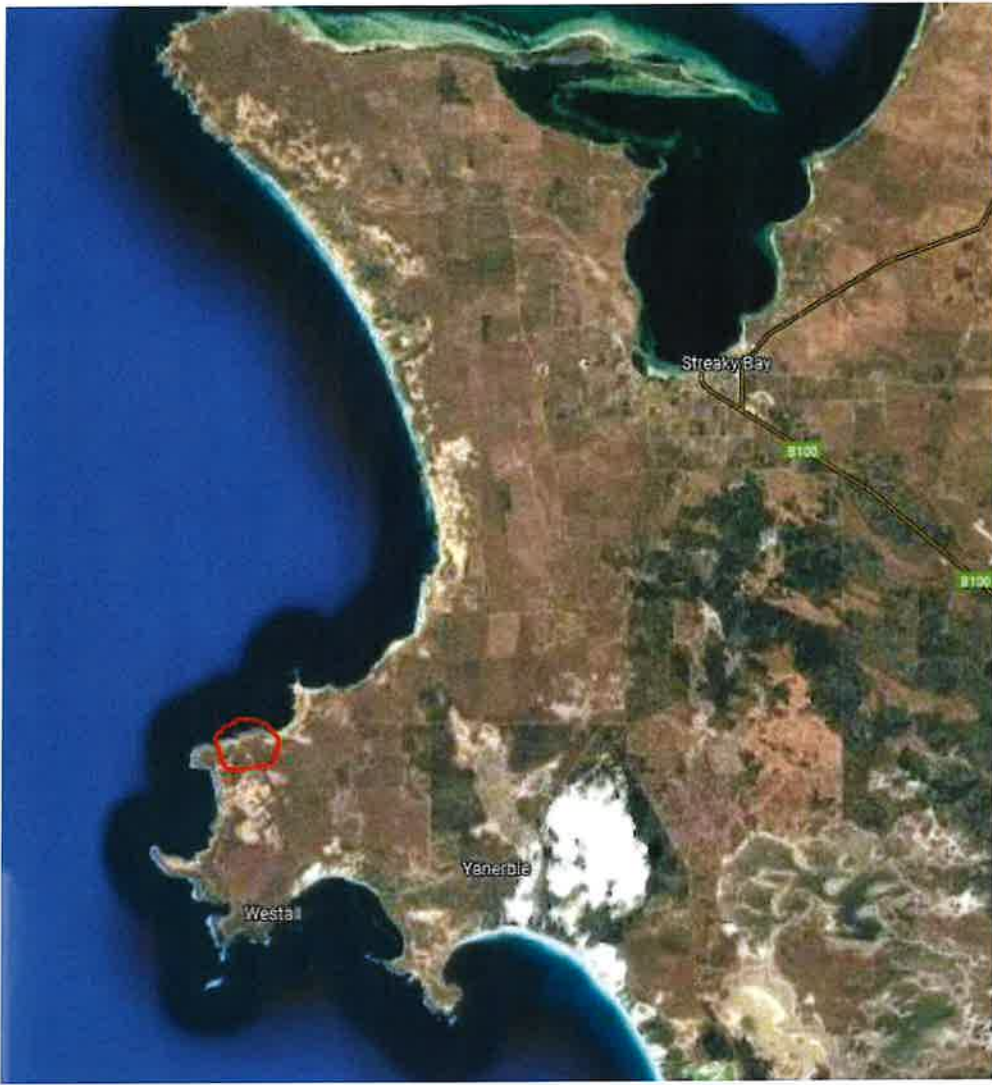
Gary asked me about fishing activity in the general area of Granites (circled below in red), including if there was any activity which may contribute to attraction of sharks.

To my knowledge the only consistent fishing activity which occurs in the area is:

- Rec rock lobster fishing, with pots scattered from Tractor Beach in the north, around to Yanerbie in the south.
- Commercial (and recreational abalone diving), although I'm pretty sure this doesn't take place in the area adjacent to the Granites.
- Potentially some commercial marine scale fishing (I can't say for sure though and it likely wouldn't be close inshore).

I have heard reference being made to seals inhabiting waters in the general proximity of the Granites (around the next point), plus the water adjacent the Granites being 'deep' and a 'sharks paradise' (I've only heard these last two comments as hearsay).

Hope this helps, regard Andrew



**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

**From:** Read, Matt (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 January 2025 3:18 PM  
**To:** Drew, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI); Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: Further Update re the Granites  
**Signed By:** Matt.Read@sa.gov.au

Thanks Mick

That's a great summary and very consistent with our thoughts.  
 Really appreciate you offering your expertise and understanding to assist with the situation, its very much appreciated

Cheers

**Matt READ** | A/ Director Operations  
 Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**  
 Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue, WEST BEACH 5024  
**P:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** [matt.read@sa.gov.au](mailto:matt.read@sa.gov.au)  
[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



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**From:** Drew, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Drew@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025 3:12 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA) <Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Further Update re the Granites

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Lambertus,

Granites is situated in an interesting area, as mentioned below there are a few significant sea lion colonies such as Pt Labatt, Olive and Nicolas Baudin Islands in close proximity to this surf break and several well know haul outs for fur seals in the area. Furthermore, through spring/summer Snapper aggregate to spawn in the shallow bays of the West

Coast – which includes the bays of Streaky, Perlubie, and Haslam. Both of these readily available prey sources would be the likely ecological reasoning for white sharks in this general area.

White sharks have an ontogenetic shift in prey, where they transition from fish and small elasmobranchs when they are juveniles (<3m) to larger marine mammals when they start the process of maturing (>3.5m). Both recent shark attacks have been from large sharks which would likely be in the area looking for larger prey items like seals.

The bathymetry of Granites and Indicators (a surf spot further up the point) is also ideal white shark habitat. In general, it is relatively deep water (~20m) directly behind both surf breaks which allows white sharks to easily track and ambush prey from underneath. Some of our previous tagging work in Spencer Gulf showed that white sharks spent a majority of time in water depths >20m. It is an unfortunate characteristic that most of the better surf breaks on the West Coast of SA are in very close proximity to deep water.

The issue of fishing around surf breaks may influence a shark that is already in the area to come and interact with the bait/berley – but the shark would already be in the area. As mentioned above, there is considerable amounts of natural prey available in the area, which is why the sharks are there and the presence of a small amount of bait and berley wouldn't be attracting them from a long distance. I know that the Abalone divers have always disliked granites for its dirty water and the frequency of sharks around the place. I don't think prohibiting fishing in close proximity to surf breaks on the West Coast would greatly change the likelihood of surfers interacting with sharks. However, if it had enough support I couldn't imagine that local fishers would be overly outraged by not being able to fish in close proximity to Granites as it isn't a prolific location for many commercially or recreationally targeted species (potentially aside for Abalone).

Let me know if you need any more information or anything more formal.

Thanks very much,

Mick.

**Michael Drew PhD** | Research Scientist (Community Based Fisheries)  
South Australian Research and Development Institute - SARDI | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

Government of South Australia | Street Address  
GPO Box 397 Adelaide SA 5001

**P:** +61 8 8429 0979 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** [michael.drew@sa.gov.au](mailto:michael.drew@sa.gov.au)

[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



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**From:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA) <[Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 2:46 PM  
**To:** Drew, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <[Michael.Drew@sa.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Drew@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Beckmann, Crystal (PIRSA-SARDI) <[Crystal.Beckmann@sa.gov.au](mailto:Crystal.Beckmann@sa.gov.au)>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <[Matt.Read@sa.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Read@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Further Update re the Granites

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Michael, I was wondering if you could give me your view re: risks of fishing activities at the granites attracting sharks – when you can.

I have discussed the fishing issues noted below from locals on the west coast with the chaps here in F&A and understand that it is likely that restricting or prohibiting some or all fishing activities at the Granites will not reduce the risk of sharks visiting this area. Would that be your view too?

I understand that, in addition to the matters outlined below, sea lions or seals inhabit the area and are likely to remain a significant attraction for sharks.

I also understand that all the Australian iconic surf spots are also key fishing spots and no fishing restrictions are in place in any of those areas. So not only could any restriction on fishing be futile to achieve its intended purpose it would also set a new unnecessary precedent.

If you could let me know your thoughts that would be great.

Many thanks

Lambertus

**Lambertus López** | AI Executive Director  
Fisheries and Aquaculture | Primary Industries and Regions  
Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Ave, West Beach, 5024, South Australia  
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001  
**P:** +61 8 8429 0527 | **M:** Clause 6(1)  
[www.pir.sa.gov.au](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au)

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**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <[Matt.Read@sa.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Read@sa.gov.au)>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)>  
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He went on to say that the Granites was considered an 'iconic' surf spot (along with another 9 across Australia) and that and other surfers had come up with a proposal to disallow rec RL potting within the general vicinity of the Granites. He mentioned a sec 79 notice (which he was familiar with due to his NZRL commercial fishing days) as a means. He said the proposal had already been floated with Mehdi (he did not specify how or who by).

He also said he'd approached a local WZAF fisher (who was also a surfer) and had discussed issues such as the impact of abalone gut being deposited back into the water after shucking, potentially placing some sorts of restrictions on commercial abalone fishing in the general vicinity etc.

Regards, Andrew

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**Cc:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Granites

Hi Lambertus,

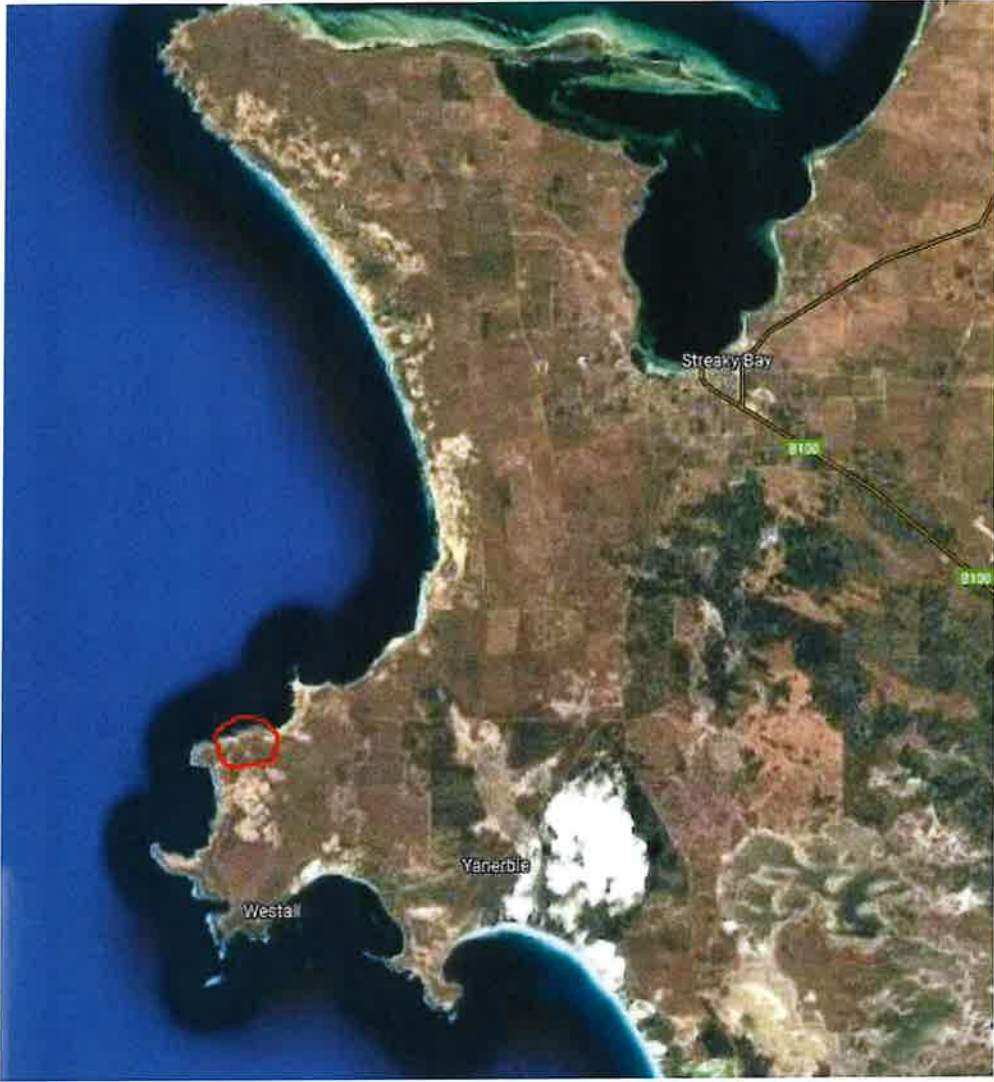
Gary asked me about fishing activity in the general area of Granites (circled below in red), including if there was any activity which may contribute to attraction of sharks.

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I have heard reference being made to seals inhabiting waters in the general proximity of the Granites (around the next point), plus the water adjacent the Granites being 'deep' and a 'sharks paradise' (I've only heard these last two comments as hearsay).

Hope this helps, regard Andrew



**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**From:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 January 2025 3:41 PM  
**To:** Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: Further Update re the Granites

Thanks Mehdi, I have run it by the F&A team and have also sought comment from Mick Drew. As you know Mick is at sea at the moment but will get back to me in due course.

I have raised the fishing issues noted below with the team here in F&A and understand that it is likely that restricting or prohibiting some or all fishing activities at the Granites will not reduce the risk of sharks visiting this area.

I note that, in addition to the matters outlined below, sea lions or seals also inhabit the local waters and are likely to remain a significant attraction for sharks.

I also understand that this location like all the Australian iconic surf spots are also key fishing spots. In addition here are many excellent surf spots along the west coast and no fishing restrictions are in place in any of those areas. This raises the issue of determining how large an area to close to fishing. So not only could any restriction on fishing in the area of the granites be of little use to achieve its intended purpose it would also set a new and possibly unnecessary (and unpopular) precedent.

I spoke to Andrew Carr a minute ago and he advised that the Streaky Bay local has approached him again today and has rolled back his push for closures somewhat.

As I noted above I will chase up Mick's view and confirm if he is in agreeance with the comments above or has anything else to add.

Regards

Lambertus

---

**From:** Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 2:15 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: Further Update re the Granites

**OFFICIAL**

This is what I heard too. Now I want to know how valid these claims are, and what can be done. Can you advise if we need to close the area to fishing activities? And if yes, what consultation process we need to put in place. Thanks Mehdi

---

**From:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA) <[Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 12:07 PM  
**To:** Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <[Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Further Update re the Granites

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Mehdi, FYI - some further comment from the West coast team below.

It appears that there has been some concern expressed by locals regarding rec rock lobster fishing and commercial abalone shucking.

Regards

Lambertus

---

**From:** Carr, Andrew (PIRSA) <[Andrew.Carr@sa.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Carr@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 9:55 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA) <[Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <[Matt.Read@sa.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Read@sa.gov.au)>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Further Update re the Granites

## OFFICIAL

Hi Lambertus,

I appreciate it's a bit after the fact but here is a further update.

Yesterday afternoon I received a call from a Streaky Bay local who has a strong knowledge (former commercial RL fisher, now MSC fisher) of fishing practices around Streaky Bay including the Granites. He advised the following:

- About 1 km offshore from the Granites is a very deep drop off
- He described the drop off area as a shark 'super highway' as they followed the migratory path of whales each year.
- He and other surfers were very concerned by the effect of the rec RL pots, in particular the baits contained within them (he said up to a kilogram of fresh salmon each day), in the general vicinity of the Granites

He went on to say that the Granites was considered an 'iconic' surf spot (along with another 9 across Australia) and that and other surfers had come up with a proposal to disallow rec RL potting within the general vicinity of the Granites. He mentioned a sec 79 notice (which he was familiar with due to his NZRL commercial fishing days) as a means. He said the proposal had already been floated with Mehdi (he did not specify how or who by).

He also said he'd approached a local WZAF fisher (who was also a surfer) and had discussed issues such as the impact of abalone gut being deposited back into the water after shucking, potentially placing some sorts of restrictions on commercial abalone fishing in the general vicinity etc.

Regards, Andrew

---

**From:** Carr, Andrew (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 3:06 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA) <[Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Granites

Hi Lambertus,

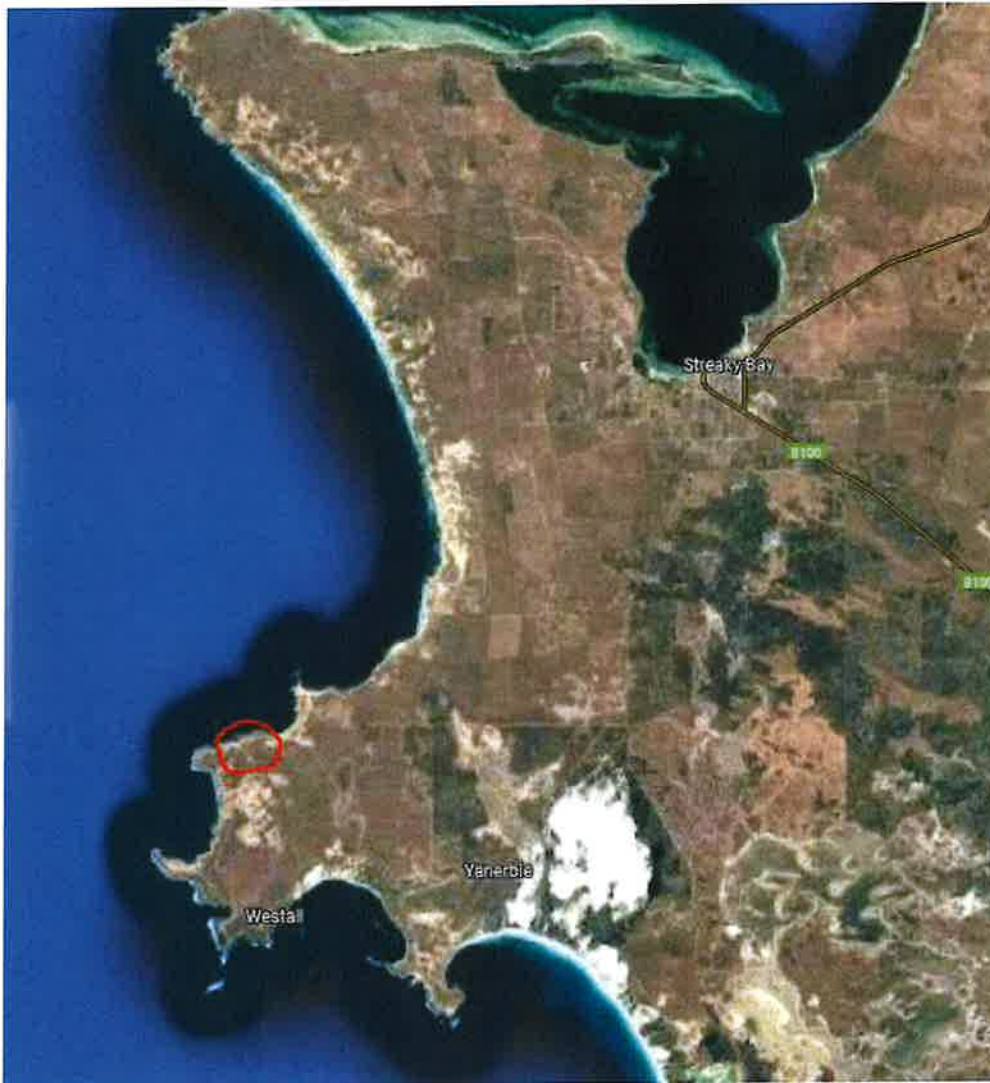
Gary asked me about fishing activity in the general area of Granites (circled below in red), including if there was any activity which may contribute to attraction of sharks.

To my knowledge the only consistent fishing activity which occurs in the area is:

- Rec rock lobster fishing, with pots scattered from Tractor Beach in the north, around to Yanerbie in the south.
- Commercial (and recreational abalone diving), although I'm pretty sure this doesn't take place in the area adjacent to the Granites.
- Potentially some commercial marine scale fishing (I can't say for sure though and it likely wouldn't be close inshore).

I have heard reference being made to seals inhabiting waters in the general proximity of the Granites (around the next point), plus the water adjacent the Granites being 'deep' and a 'sharks paradise' (I've only heard these last two comments as hearsay).

Hope this helps, regard Andrew





**From:** [Lopez, Lambertus \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Shark response ministerial - Clause 6(1)  
**Date:** Monday, 20 January 2025 11:45:00 AM

---

Ripper – no changes then  
 Thanks Gents.  
 Lambertus

---

**From:** Read, Matt (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2025 7:48 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: Shark response ministerial - Clause 6(1)

I think that paragraph is great  
 Thanks for adding that in  
 Matt

---

**From:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2025 7:09 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA) <[Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <[Matt.Read@sa.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Read@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Shark response ministerial - Clause 6(1)

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Hi Lambertus,  
 I think your paragraph is en-pointe.  
 Been good working with the pair of you also. Hectic at times, but character building – and the world keeps turning!  
 Cheers  
 Gary

---

**From:** Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA) <[Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lambertus.Lopez@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 19, 2025 5:57 PM  
**To:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <[Matt.Read@sa.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Read@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Shark response ministerial - Clause 6(1)

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Hi Matt – FYI I just approved the Clause 6(1) ministerial response through to OCE (am still A/ED til tomorrow and want to clear the books!)

Please note that I added a para to the letter to address the specific fishing concern raised in addition to the general response. Namely –

I acknowledge your significant environmental, surfing and local connections to the West Coast of South Australia and appreciate the matters that you have raised. As you have outlined there are many factors that are likely to naturally contribute to attracting White Sharks to the area of the Granites at Point Westall. In addition to the existence of sea lions in the area I am advised that there is also a deep water channel that also attracts sharks. I am not convinced that prohibiting rock lobster fishing in the area around the Granites alone will make any significant difference to the presence of sharks that inhabit and traverse all the west coast waters.

If you think this isn't correct or unwise let me know tomorrow morning and we can sort it out. I

didn't think we could avoid saying the suggestion wouldn't make any significant difference. Also he hadn't raised the deep water – only the protected beach areas.

Also just wanted to say that I really appreciated your support and that of Gary while I was Acting ED – it was outstanding. I would have been pretty stuck without you guys.

Thanks again

Lambertus

[Lambertus López](#) | A/ Executive Director

Fisheries and Aquaculture | Primary Industries and Regions

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Minute to  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE**

Ref: A6869538

For	<b>Noting and Signature</b>
Critical Date	Nil
Subject	<b>Proposed Section 79 closure around the Granites (via Streaky Bay) - Consultation with Seafood Industry South Australia and RecFish SA</b>

**Synopsis**

The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development has agreed to consider a Section 79 closure (under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*) around the Granites surf location (via Streaky Bay) out of both respect for the families of the recent shark attack victims, and also to address local community safety concerns.

Consultation is proposed with Seafood Industry South Australia (SISA - representing commercial fisheries sectors) and RecFish SA prior to making a final determination on the application of a Section 79 Notice.

**Recommendations**

That you:

1. Note the attached brief.

**NOTED**

2. Sign the attached draft correspondence to both SISA and RecFish SA seeking feedback on the Section 79 proposal.

**SIGNED**

  
 Prof Gavin Begg  
**Executive Director**  
**Fisheries and Aquaculture**  
 07/05/2025

## Background

- Detailed background is provided in previous correspondence regarding this matter (see A6576538).
- Following shark related fatalities at the Granites (near Streaky Bay) in October 2023 and January 2025, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) held discussions with members of the Mid West Coast Surfriders Association (MWCSA) who raised concerns around shark mitigation and the possibility of implementing a closure to fishing activities adjacent to the Granites surf location.
- Similar discussions were also had with Eyre Peninsula local councils in late January 2025.
- Informing these discussions was the Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) *Coastal Risk Assessment (District Council of Streaky Bay) January 2025*, which is attached at **Appendix B**.
- The MWCSA and the District Council of Streaky Bay Council met with PIRSA staff on 14 April 2025, to discuss the logistics and location of the proposed S79 closure at the Granites surf location. The intent of the proposed Section 79 Notice (a temporary prohibition of certain fishing activities) was to prohibit all fishing activities and the use of bait and berley in the immediate area adjacent to the Granites surf location.
- It was agreed that diving activities would be permitted within the proposed Section 79 closure area, however commercial abalone divers would not shuck abalone within the closure area.

## Discussion

- Following discussions with concerned community stakeholders, through which community support was evidenced, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development has expressed a willingness to consider a 12 month trial of such a Section 79 Notice, to prohibit specific fishing activities to address community concerns.
- Trialling such a closure is out of respect for the families of the recent shark attack victims and local community members. There is no scientific evidence that PIRSA has identified that indicates an improvement to safety from such a measure.
- The Section 79 Notice would prohibit *all* commercial and recreational fishing activity, with the exception of the taking of Rock Lobster and Abalone by hand (diving).
- Any abalone taken would need to be shucked outside the closure area.
- This closure would be specific to a relatively small spatial area around the Granites surf location - the proposed boundary of such a closure is attached at **Appendix A**.
- If the proposal is to proceed the Section 79 notice will initially be used for a period of 12 months during which time a review would be undertaken.
- Consultation is proposed with Seafood Industry South Australia (SISA – representing commercial fisheries sectors) and RecFish SA prior to making a determination on the application of a Section 79 Notice.

- Draft correspondence to SISA is attached at **Appendix C** for your consideration and signature.
- Draft correspondence to RecFish SA is attached at **Appendix D** for your consideration and signature.

**Management of key risks**

- Reputational risks relating to affirmative action on community safety concerns are satisfied.

**Consultation and engagement**

- Correspondence to SISA and Rec Fish SA seeking feedback to the proposal is attached.

**Attachments**

- A. Appendix A - Map - Proposed Section 79 closure – the Granites (boundaries and coordinates)
- B. Appendix B - Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) *Coastal Risk Assessment (District Council of Streaky Bay) January 2025*
- C. Appendix C - Letter to SISA re proposed s79 closure - Granites - May 2025
- D. Appendix D - Letter to RecFish SA re proposed s79 closure - Granites - May 2025



Matt Read  
A/Director Fisheries Operations  
Fisheries and Aquaculture

06 / 05 / 2025

<b>AUTHOR</b>	Gary Darter
<b>POSITION</b>	A/General Manager Operations Support
<b>DIVISION</b>	Fisheries and Aquaculture

The  
Dreadnoughts

32° 52' 03" S  
134° 03' 55" E

32° 52' 03" S  
134° 05' 50" E

The Granites

Mount Westall

Bight Lookout

32° 54' 04" S  
134° 03' 55" E

32° 54' 04" S  
134° 04' 34" E



Point Westall

**Closure**  
**The Granites - Eyre Peninsula**



Coordinates based on  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020) in  
degrees minutes seconds format.

There may be a difference of approximately 1.8m  
between GDA2020 and WGS84/GDA94  
coordinates.

-  Proposed Closure
-  Mean High Watermark Coastline

**DRAFT**

Doc 6a



**Government of South Australia**  
Department of Primary Industries  
and Regions

PIRSA SPATIAL J00028



# COASTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

District Council of Streaky Bay

January 2025





Produced by Lifesaving Department, Surf Life Saving South Australia.



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## Enclosures:

1. [SLSSA Coastal Site Assessment – Streaky Bay, 15 Jan 25](#)
2. [SLSSA Coastal Site Assessment – Granites, 15 Jan 25](#)
3. [SLSSA Coastal Site Assessment - Razors – 16 Jan 25](#)
4. [SLSSA Coastal Site Assessment - Hally's Beach, 16 Jan 25](#)
5. [SLSSA Coastal Site Assessment - Back Beach, 16 Jan 25](#)
6. [SLSSA Coastal Site Assessment – Pinnacles, 16 Jan 25](#)
7. [SLSSA Coastal Site Assessment - .6, 16 Jan 25](#)
8. [SLSSA Coastal Site Assessment - Surfers Beach, 16 Jan 25](#)
9. [SLSSA Coastal Site Assessment - Perlubie, 18 Jan 25](#)



# Surf Life Saving South Australia

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## Our Vision:

**“Zero preventable deaths in South Australia’s waters”**

Surf Life Saving South Australia, with the support of Surf Life Saving Australia, commends your initiative and proactive action in safeguarding the welfare of the community and visitors to our beaches and aquatic environments. We look forward to working with the District Council of Steaky Bay to improve coastal safety and reduce preventable drownings in South Australia.



# Executive summary

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## Summary

This Coastal Risk Assessment (CRA), conducted by Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) in collaboration with the District Council of Streaky Bay, provides a comprehensive evaluation of safety risks and opportunities for improvement across key coastal locations in the Streaky Bay region. The report highlights critical gaps in safety measures, emergency response infrastructure, and public awareness, particularly in high-risk areas such as *Granites*, a site with recent shark-related fatalities.

## Key Findings

### 1. Shark-Related Incidents and Public Safety:

- Recent shark-related fatalities at *Granites* underscore the need for enhanced public safety measures, including improved shark monitoring and reporting systems.
- Community members raised concerns about fishing practices (e.g., cray pots) and their potential role in shark conditioning, prompting calls for exclusion zones near surf breaks.

### 2. Emergency Response and Communication Gaps:

- Limited telecommunications coverage and communication black spots hinder timely emergency responses, particularly in remote and high-visitation areas.
- Despite the area including a significant section of coastline, the region lacks dedicated aquatic rescue assets, resulting in potential delays during emergencies.

### 3. Public Awareness and Education:

- Poor public awareness of aquatic risks and lack of understanding of shark sighting reporting mechanisms.
- Concerns regarding potential bias in shark behaviour research have diminished public trust, highlighting the need for transparent communication.

### 4. Stakeholder Insights:

- Local stakeholders supported exploring advanced technologies, such as Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs), acoustic receivers for shark monitoring, and drones for rapid emergency response.
- Low-tech solutions, such as flagpoles with emergency evacuation signals, were identified as cost-effective safety enhancements.

## Key recommendations

This report presents a series of recommendations aimed at enhancing coastal safety in Streaky Bay region, with a particular focus on reducing the risk of fatalities. These recommendations are initially presented alongside their respective findings to provide context and rationale for each proposed action. To facilitate the implementation process, the recommendations are later consolidated into two categories:

- Immediate and High-Priority Mitigation Initiatives, and
- Medium and Long-Term Strategic Solutions,

This structure allows for prioritisation of urgent actions while identifying longer-term solutions that may require further research, strategic planning, or additional investment from the State Government. Each recommendation includes the designated mitigation owner and potential funding sources to clarify responsibilities and resource requirements.

As the leading authority on coastal water safety in South Australia, SLSSA is committed to reducing all preventable deaths in South Australian waters through evidence-based approaches. In alignment with this mission, SLSSA has identified five key focus areas to enhance safety and mitigate the risk of fatalities, particularly in regional coastal areas such as Streaky Bay.

### 1. Enhance Shark Monitoring and Public Reporting:

- Develop a robust shark monitoring program, including acoustic receivers and a tagging initiative, integrated with accessible public reporting platforms (e.g., apps or alert systems).
- Increase public awareness of shark sighting reporting mechanisms through targeted education campaigns and user-friendly tools such as QR-coded materials.

### 2. Address Emergency Response Gaps:

- Provide the Streaky Bay Council and community with enhanced surveillance and safety support through SLSSA's drone capability.
- Equip the Streaky Bay Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) with a dedicated rescue vessel, such as a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB).
- Conduct a feasibility study on deploying Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs) at high-risk locations.

### 3. Improve Public Safety Infrastructure:

- Install flagpole evacuation systems with standardised "evacuate the water" flags in high-visitation areas to provide a reliable, low-tech communication method during emergencies.
- Expand water safety signage and distribute safety brochures to address gaps in public information.

### 4. Foster Community Trust and Engagement:

- Enhancing community awareness of water safety through targeted school-based initiatives and broader community education programs.



- Promote transparency in shark behaviour research by publicly sharing methodologies, funding sources, and peer-review processes to address perceptions of bias.
- Engage stakeholders in consultations to explore exclusion zones and special-purpose surfing zones, balancing conservation, recreation, and safety.

#### 5. Telecommunications Review:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of mobile network coverage in the region, exploring partnerships with providers and alternative technologies to address black spots.

The 28 recommendations outlined in this report are informed by site inspections, community feedback, and best-practice guidelines. Tailored to the unique needs of the local environment, these strategies are supported by evidence to ensure practical and effective outcomes. The proposed measures aim to address critical safety risks, enhance community resilience, and improve overall safety management to safeguard residents, visitors, and beachgoers.

## Conclusion

This CRA highlights critical opportunities to improve safety and emergency response capabilities across the Streaky Bay region's coastal areas. The findings emphasise the importance of addressing infrastructure gaps, enhancing community engagement, and ensuring the resilience of emergency response systems to safeguard both residents and visitors.

This report reflects a collaborative approach, incorporating insights from community stakeholders, local councils, and SLSSA. By acting on these findings, stakeholders can foster a safer coastal environment, improve public confidence in safety measures, and align local practices with national standards for coastal risk management.

The implementation of these measures represents a vital step toward strengthening regional safety outcomes and ensuring sustainable, safe use of coastal resources for generations to come.



# Authority

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This Coastal Risk Assessment (CRA) of the coastal environment, facilities, and services in Streaky Bay has been conducted by Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) to identify and address issues impacting coastal and water safety. The findings and recommendations will be provided to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, as well as the District Council of Streaky Bay, to guide decision-making and improve safety outcomes. This initiative has been funded through the State Government's *Thriving Regions Fund*, reflecting a commitment to enhancing safety and sustainability in regional areas.

# Aim

---

The aim of this CRA is to:

- **Enhance Awareness:** Foster greater awareness of hazard identification and the importance of proactive risk reduction among stakeholders.
- **Identify Safety Issues:** Highlight existing and potential health and safety concerns within the local coastal environment.
- **Support Risk Management:** Assist in the development and implementation of local risk mitigation measures and identify longer term strategic solutions.

This audit examines the dynamic surf environment, patterns of beach usage, availability and readiness of emergency services, community awareness, and historical incident data. It seeks to provide actionable recommendations to the District Council of Streaky Bay regarding issues impacting beach and water safety.

# Scope

---

The scope of these Coastal Risk Assessment (CRA) includes the following objectives:

- **Provide an objective evaluation** of aquatic safety management within the defined area.
- **Assess compliance** with statutory or applicable standard requirements and identify areas of non-compliance.
- **Highlight achievements** in water safety management where standards have been met or exceeded.
- **Identify areas for improvement** in management or control systems and outline opportunities for corrective actions.

This assessment aims to support the District Council of Streaky Bay in enhancing the safety and sustainability for all users of coastal sites in the area.

# Methodology

For this CRA, the following evidence-based techniques were employed to ensure a thorough and objective evaluation:

- **Review of Records:** Analysis of historical and operational records maintained by SLSSA to establish context and identify patterns.
- **Site Inspections:** On-site evaluations of the coastal environment and adjacent areas to assess physical conditions and identify potential hazards at key locations.
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** Structured interviews with key personnel, emergency service staff, local residents, and vendors, to gather qualitative insights and stakeholder perspectives.
- **Analysis of Visitation Trends:** Examination of local visitation patterns using tourism brochures, promotional materials, and statistical data to understand user demographics and associated risks.

## Preventative Approach

SLSSA adopts a proactive, evidence-driven philosophy aimed at identifying and addressing potential hazards before they escalate into public safety risks. This preventative strategy underpins its commitment to preparedness, enabling timely and effective responses to emergent situations while mitigating risks to the community.

## Risk Management Overview

Risk management involves a structured approach to identifying, evaluating, treating, and monitoring risks through systematic application of management policies, procedures, and practices.

## The Risk Management Process

1. **Risk Identification:** Recognising potential hazards or risks with the potential to impact safety.
2. **Risk Evaluation:** Assessing the likelihood and consequences of identified risks to prioritise actions.
3. **Risk Treatment:** Developing and implementing measures to mitigate or eliminate risks effectively.
4. **Implementation:** Applying risk control measures operationally to ensure safety.
5. **Review and Modification:** Continuously monitoring and refining strategies to adapt to changing conditions or new information.

## Definitions

- **Hazard:** A source of potential harm or a situation with the capacity to cause loss.
- **Risk:** The likelihood of an event occurring that impacts objectives, measured in terms of its consequences and probability.



## Identification and assessment methodology

During the CRA, SLSSA team members employed a customised Coastal Site Assessment Tool alongside a Geographic Information System (GIS) Beach Signage Audit Tool to thoroughly evaluate the following locations. Each Coastal Site Assessment includes the following key considerations:

- Information from the Australian Beach Safety and Management Program, a joint initiative by Surf Life Saving Australia and the Coastal Studies Unit at the University of Sydney, specific to each site.
- The Surf Risk Rating (SRR), based on observed conditions at the time of the inspection. This tool from Surf Life Saving Australia is used to assess risks within the surf environment.
- An evaluation of the foreshore profile, onsite facilities, and proximity to emergency services.
- An assessment of beach and/or surf activities, considering both recreational and commercial users.

The GIS Beach Signage Audit Tool was employed recognising that signage plays a crucial role in the risk and safety management of recreational and aquatic spaces globally. As international travel continues to increase, the importance of clear and consistent coastal safety signage becomes even more critical to ensuring the welfare of visitors to our beaches. Proper signage provides individuals with the necessary information to make informed decisions regarding their safety and the safety of those in their care.

For signage to effectively assist visitors in assessing potential risks, the hazard warning symbols and associated messages must be clear, accurate, and consistent.

However, during this review, it became evident that the current version of our GIS Beach Signage Audit Tool requires 4G/5G connectivity to accurately plot data and generate automated reports. While data was captured at all sites, the automated reporting feature did not function as expected. As a result, the signage recommendations will be presented separately in a subsequent report.

This comprehensive methodology ensures that the findings and recommendations are based on accurate data, are practical, and can be effectively implemented, further supporting SLSSA's commitment to enhancing coastal safety and protecting the community.

## References and Compliance Standards

The key references and compliance standards used in this CRA were:

- Australian Beach Safety and Management Database Program.
- *Beaches of the South Australian Coast and Kangaroo Island, A guide to their nature, characteristics, surf and safety.*
- National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual, 3<sup>RD</sup> Edition.
- Australian Coastal Public Safety Guidelines, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition.
- ISO 20712-3:2024, *Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags.*



# Findings

## General area information

Between 13–19 January 2025, representatives from Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA), in collaboration with the District Council of Streaky Bay, conducted stakeholder meetings and multiple site inspections across the Streaky Bay area. These assessments incorporated local knowledge shared during the process, providing a comprehensive evaluation of coastal safety risks and opportunities for improvement.

The focus of this report is on key tourist coastal locations near Streaky Bay, including popular beaches, surf beaches, and surf breaks that are increasingly recognised as iconic surfing destinations. Of particular concern is **Granites**, a reef break located approximately 20 km from Streaky Bay. This site has gained attention for its recent history of hostile shark interactions, including two fatal attacks within the past 15 months. The combination of high tourist visitation, remote location, and environmental hazards significantly elevates the risks in this area, highlighting the need for targeted safety interventions.

The geographical orientation and positioning of the Streaky Bay area contribute to frequent exposure to high-energy wave activity, particularly along ocean-facing beaches. These conditions result in hazardous situations, such as surging waves impacting popular surf beaches and reef breaks, increasing the likelihood of individuals being caught in rip currents.

This report evaluates these environmental conditions in detail, alongside historical data on shark interactions and drowning incidents. Based on these findings, recommendations are provided to improve safety measures and reduce risks associated with environmental hazards and aquatic threats, ensuring the safety of residents and visitors alike.

## Administration

The District Council of Streaky Bay holds responsibility for the management and oversight of the local area. While the Council maintains direct jurisdiction over Streaky Bay itself, its authority over most beaches and surf areas is more limited. This is primarily since many of these locations are situated on Crown Land.

## Policy Framework for Coastal Water Management in South Australia

Coastal water management in South Australia operates within a collaborative framework involving federal, state, and local governments. Each level of government plays a distinct role in regulating, conserving, and managing coastal areas to ensure sustainable use and public safety.

### Federal Framework

The Australian Government establishes national standards for coastal and marine management through key legislation, including:

- **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) 1999:** Guides the protection of marine biodiversity and ecosystems of national significance.



- **Fisheries Management Act 1991:** Oversees the sustainable management of fisheries and marine resources.

### State Framework

The South Australian Government has primary responsibility for managing coastal areas through legislation such as:

- **Coast Protection Act 1972:** Regulates coastal development and implements measures to mitigate erosion.
- **Marine Parks Act 2007:** Provides for the conservation of marine biodiversity through the creation of marine park zones.
- **Harbors and Navigation Act 1993:** Ensures vessel safety and regulates navigation activities in coastal waters.
- **Fisheries Management Act 2007:** Governs the sustainable management and use of fisheries resources.

### Local Government Role

Local councils are responsible for managing beaches, coastal reserves, and public infrastructure within their jurisdictions. Their role includes implementing safety measures, maintaining amenities, and ensuring public access. Councils work collaboratively with state agencies to address broader regulatory and conservation goals.

However, in the case of Streaky Bay, many of the beaches and surf sites are located on Crown land, which limits the direct authority of the District Council and places greater reliance on state government oversight and management.

### Demographics

Streaky Bay is situated on the west coast of the Eyre Peninsula and has a residential population of approximately 2,278, based on recent estimates from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The town provides a range of amenities, including motels, hotels, general stores, food outlets, a community library, and a school. It also offers diverse accommodation and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

As the business hub and service centre of the district, Streaky Bay supports essential services such as a hospital, aged care facilities, and industrial infrastructure. The district covers 6,232 square kilometres and includes over 360 kilometres of coastline along the Great Australian Bight.

Streaky Bay serves as a gateway for visitors exploring both the coastline and inland areas, with popular activities including surfing, fishing, and other coastal recreation. This combination of natural beauty and comprehensive services makes it a key destination and operational centre for the region.



## Visitation Data

Tourism is a significant contributor to Streaky Bay's local economy, supporting community activity throughout the year. Visitors to the region can be broadly categorised into the following groups:

- **Grey Nomads:** Retirees traveling in caravans or motorhomes, drawn to scenic and relaxed destinations.
- **Surf Destination Seekers:** Enthusiasts attracted to the region's surf beaches, large ocean swells, and favourable coastal conditions.
- **International Backpackers:** Young, budget-conscious travellers exploring Australia, seeking affordable experiences and natural attractions.
- **Adventure Tourists:** Visitors engaging in outdoor activities such as fishing, hiking, or off-road driving.
- **Around-the-Country Family Vacations:** Families on extended trips exploring multiple regions as part of broader journeys.

Peak visitation primarily occurs between January and April, with a secondary increase during September and October (refer to Table 1). During these periods, the town's population can double, emphasising the critical economic role of tourism in the region. However, this significant influx also increases exposure to aquatic risks and places heightened demand on emergency services and safety infrastructure.

These challenges underscore the importance of implementing enhanced safety measures, proactive resource planning, and effective risk mitigation strategies to safeguard visitors and maintain community resilience during high-demand periods.

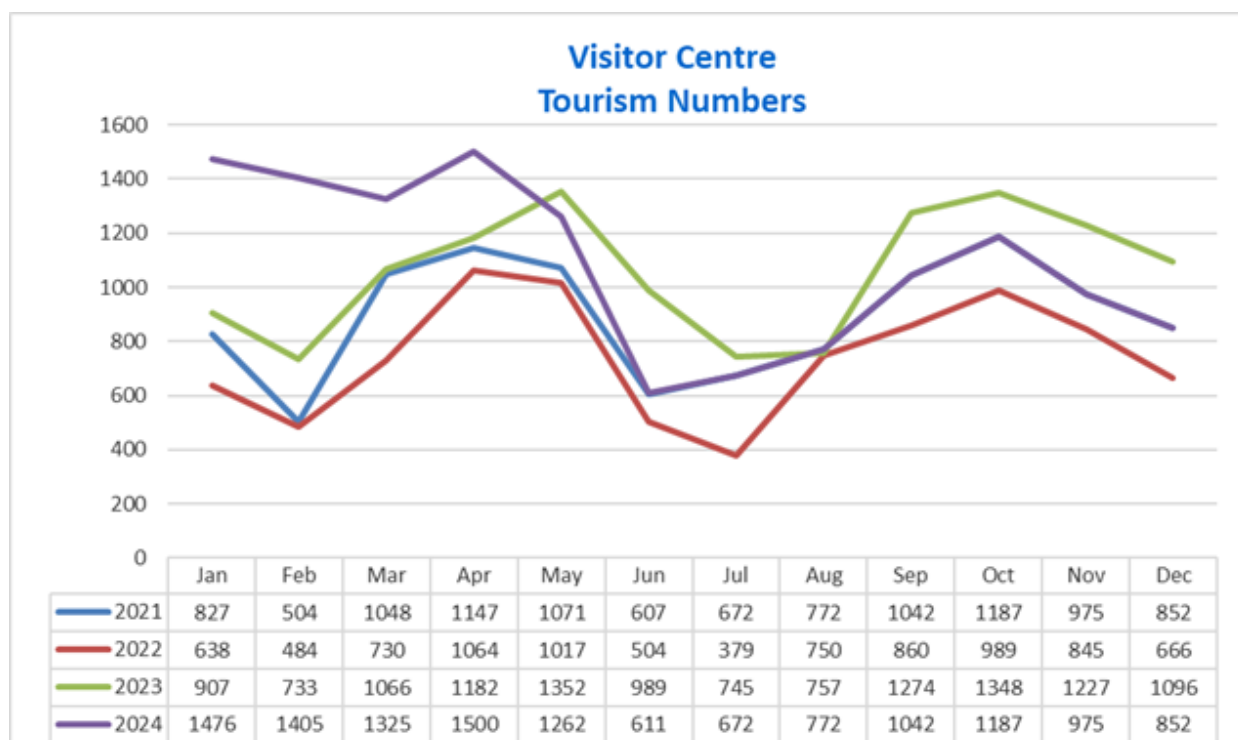


Table 1 – Streaky Bay Tourist Numbers (2021-2024)

## Focused Site Assessments

This report is based on comprehensive assessments conducted across several sites within the area. SLSSA team members employed a customised Coastal Site Assessment Tool and a GIS Beach Signage Audit Tool to thoroughly evaluate the following locations:

- [Streaky Bay Township – Enclosure 1](#),
- [Granites – Enclosure 2](#),
- [Razors – Enclosure 3](#),
- [Hally’s Beach – Enclosure 4](#),
- [Back Beach – Enclosure 5](#),
- [Pinnacles – Enclosure 6](#),
- [.6 – Enclosure 7](#),
- [Surfers Beach – Enclosure 8](#), and
- [Perlubie – Enclosure 9](#).

The first eight sites were selected based on stakeholder and community consultation conducted on Day One (14 January 2025) of the review process. *Perlubie* was added to the assessment following an incident at that site on 17 January 2025.

Three additional sites, suggested during the stakeholder meeting—*Tyringa*, *The Island*, and *Squirrels*—were not assessed. However, these locations were described as similar to *Razors* ([Enclosure 3](#)), and as such, recommended treatments for these sites can be aligned with those proposed for *Razors*.

## Incident history

This report also draws upon historical data on aquatic incidents in the Streaky Bay region. The Streaky Bay area has a documented history of hostile shark interactions, with the first recorded incident occurring in 1974, tragically resulting in a fatality. Early incidents predominantly involved divers, setting them apart from more recent events, which have primarily affected surfers.

Since 1974, three additional shark attacks have been documented, with the two most recent fatalities occurring at Granites—a site known for its challenging wave conditions and rugged coastline. Both incidents took place near the second gutter, highlighting a possible pattern in the location of these events.

In a coastal context, a "gutter" refers to a depression or channel on the seabed, often found between sandbars, reefs, or near the shoreline. These formations are significant because they coincide with areas where waves break more intensely, creating strong currents and turbulent water. Such conditions not only present natural hazards for swimmers and surfers but may also contribute to an increased likelihood of marine animal encounters, including shark interactions.

Given the recurring nature of these incidents, specific locations within Streaky Bay, particularly Granites, are recognized as high-risk areas. Despite these dangers, adequate safety warnings are currently lacking, leaving visitors without crucial information to help mitigate potential hazards.

### **Recommendation SB-01: Warning Signs**

It is recommended that clear, visible warnings be installed at Granites and similar high-risk areas in Streaky Bay to inform visitors of potential hazards and enhance safety.

A separate report on water safety compliance signage will be submitted to the Council for consideration.

As shown at [enclosure 2](#), Granites is a coastal location characterised by challenging wave conditions and unique site-specific hazards. Despite these risks, there is currently a lack of educational or awareness signage to inform visitors. The absence of such information may limit users' understanding of potential dangers, reducing their ability to make safe decisions when accessing the area.

### **Recommendation SB-02: Site Specific Awareness Signs**

It is recommended that an educational sign be installed at Granites to highlight site-specific hazards and promote safer user behaviour through increased awareness.

## **Emergency Services Coverage**

The effectiveness of emergency services is vital for ensuring public safety, particularly in coastal areas where environmental conditions and hazards can change rapidly. Streaky Bay is supported by a range of emergency services, including South Australian Police (SAPOL), Country Fire Service (CFS), South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS), South Australian State Emergency Service (SASES), and Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR). However, the capacity of these services is often limited by the availability and proximity of personnel, and delays in response times can occur, especially during peak visitation periods when demand is higher.

Throughout the review, SAPOL was observed to be actively involved in responding to incidents, which prevented their participation in the scheduled meetings and ultimately resulted in their absence from interviews for this review. In the event of an incident, SAPOL typically calls in assets from surrounding regional areas to support their response.

The CFS operates local units at Streaky Bay, where a joint CFS/SES station is located. Streaky Bay is equipped with two CFS trucks (Streaky Bay 24 – 4WD, 2000L General Purpose Appliance, and Streaky Bay 34P – 4WD, 3000L Light Pumper), with CFS volunteers contributing approximately 300 volunteer hours per year. A nearby station at Scele Bay also supports CFS operations with an additional truck (Scele Bay 34 – 4WD, 3000L General Purpose Appliance).

The SASES operates out of the same joint station and provides essential support during emergencies, including marine rescue services through the VMR. Notably, the SASES team is also equipped with cliff rescue equipment to respond to incidents involving the area's coastal cliff topography. The VMR maintains a permanent radio monitoring base at Venus Bay, and the local commander is equipped with a Rapid Response Vehicle and communications trailer. However, the local VMR lacks its own dedicated vessel, limiting its ability to respond to emergencies despite being responsible for an estimated 200 km of coastline. The nearest dedicated VMR vessel is located in Ceduna, approximately 90 minutes away. The SES is well-supported by approximately 15 active volunteers, who frequently work alongside CFS volunteers during emergency situations.

### **Recommendation SB-03: Enhancing Marine Rescue Capabilities - VMR**

It is recommended that consideration be given to providing a dedicated rescue vessel, such as a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), to the local Volunteer Marine Rescue squadron to potentially enhance emergency response capabilities along the 200 km coastline, particularly during peak tourist seasons.

Streaky Bay's local hospital is staffed with a nurse on duty 24/7, with a doctor on call, and is equipped with an ambulance and a 4WD response vehicle. The hospital follows protocols for escalating calls to surrounding regional sites when local resources are unavailable. An airstrip, located approximately 10 km outside of town, can support the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), although it does not have refuelling capabilities.

All emergency service workers in the Streaky Bay area are deeply committed to their roles. The challenges of operating in a remote area with limited resources place additional pressure on emergency services personnel, who already work in demanding conditions. The perception of inadequate support from central authorities can affect the operational resilience of these workers, potentially influencing the effectiveness of emergency responses. Given the limited redundancy of emergency service workers and volunteers, delays in response times are a concern, particularly during high-demand periods such as peak tourism seasons. It is important to recognise the constraints of local services, including the lack of fast-response aquatic vessels and the potential delays in receiving external assistance, to ensure the ongoing safety of both residents and visitors.

The nearest aeromedical or aerial SAPOL asset is located in Adelaide, approximately 475 km away from Streaky Bay. Considering the significant transit time required for aircraft to travel from Adelaide to Streaky Bay, this area faces substantial delays in accessing aerial support during emergencies. Given the geographical isolation and the potential for increased demand for emergency responses, the introduction of a community-managed drone within the SLSSA framework could provide a critical solution to reduce response times and enhance operational capacity.

A drone, particularly in coastal and remote areas like Streaky Bay, offers several key advantages, including rapid deployment, real-time aerial surveillance, and improved visibility over difficult-to-access terrain such as coastal cliffs and surf breaks. The drone could also be equipped with a camera unit and speakers to assist in search and rescue operations, aiding in the location of individuals in distress, even in low-visibility conditions or during night-time operations. Under the SLSSA framework, a community-managed drone could be operated by local volunteers, who are already familiar with the area's terrain and common risk factors. This would ensure a swift response to incidents while alleviating pressure on traditional emergency services, especially during high-traffic periods or when resources are limited. Additionally, drones are a cost-effective alternative to manned aircraft, reducing reliance on external assets that may take longer to arrive.

By establishing this resource locally, Streaky Bay could significantly improve its emergency response capabilities and enhance safety for both residents and tourists. This approach also aligns with the growing trend of integrating unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) into community safety frameworks, providing an innovative solution to the challenges posed by the area's remoteness. The addition of a drone would help bridge the gap in emergency response times and improve overall community resilience in the face of coastal and aquatic hazards.

To enhance emergency response capabilities, SLSSA has already engaged in discussions with the State Government regarding the provision of drones to regional locations, alongside arranging training for local volunteers selected from the community. By operating under the SLSSA framework, administrative, procedural, and governance processes would be streamlined, facilitating quicker and more efficient drone deployment. This approach would expedite the introduction of the technology, ensuring a rapid and cost-effective response to emergencies. Additionally, it would reduce reliance on external resources and enhance safety for both residents and visitors, leveraging the expertise and support of SLSSA's established systems.

**Recommendation SB-04: Regional Drone Capability**

It is recommended that Streaky Bay implement a community-managed drone, supplied and maintained by SLSSA, to enhance emergency response capabilities. The drone, equipped with a camera and speakers, would support real-time surveillance and search and rescue operations, particularly in difficult-to-access areas such as coastal cliffs and surf breaks.

## Communication Coverage

Effective communication is essential for public safety, particularly in coastal areas where environmental conditions and hazards can change rapidly. Communication black spots refer to areas where mobile reception and other communication systems, such as radio signals, are weak or non-existent. These gaps can hinder emergency response efforts and prevent visitors from contacting emergency services or accessing crucial safety information.

During the site inspection conducted between 15-19 January 2025, SLSSA identified multiple communication black spots within the Streaky Bay area. In locations outside the township, mobile phone coverage was generally intermittent or unreliable. Communication black spots were observed along key access points, as well as at *Surfers Beach*, *.6*, *Pinnacles*, *Back Beach*, and *Razors*, with intermittent coverage reported at *Granites*, *Perlubie*, and *Hally's Beach*.

The presence of these communication black spots presents significant challenges for both visitor safety and emergency management. Visitors unable to contact emergency services in a timely manner face an increased risk in the event of an incident. Furthermore, the lack of reliable communication infrastructure complicates coordination efforts for emergency responders, potentially delaying critical intervention.

To address coverage gaps and extend signal reach, discussions with telecommunications providers may be necessary, or the installation of additional mobile towers or repeater stations may be considered. Improved mobile coverage would provide residents and visitors with reliable access to emergency services and safety information, enhancing overall public safety.

**Recommendation SB-05: Enhanced Mobile Coverage Infrastructure**

It is recommended that consideration be given to enhancing mobile phone coverage at key coastal areas, including *Surfers Beach*, *Pinnacles*, *Back Beach*, *Razors*, *Granites*, *Perlubie*, and *Hally's Beach*, through engagement with telecommunications providers or the potential installation of additional infrastructure.

Noting the challenges of mobile phone coverage, it is noteworthy that locals have adopted low-tech solutions to advise other surfers of shark sightings as shown in Image 1 & 2 (shown on next page).

These straightforward signs play a critical role in enhancing safety by enabling community members to share real-time sighting information, which helps locals, surfers, and visitors stay informed about potential risks in the area. By providing a platform for sharing observations of hazards—such as the presence of marine animals or other environmental dangers—these signs allow individuals to make informed, risk-based decisions in areas where mobile telephone coverage is poor.



Image 1 – Local Sign (14 Jan 25)



Image 2 -Local Shark Sign (14 Jan 25)

#### **Recommendation SB-06: Expansion of Low-Tech Signage Solutions**

It is recommended to expand the community-driven shark sighting signs by placing community notice boards at key locations such as Granites, Back Beach, and the Northern beach access to Long Beach. The signs should include safety information, hazard alerts, and emergency contacts. A suggested design for community notice boards is included in [Appendix A](#).

To improve public safety in areas with communication black spots that may hinder emergency response times, there is also a need for trauma kits to be strategically installed. These kits would provide immediate access to lifesaving first aid, particularly in locations where quick response is critical. The kits should be placed above the high tide mark, near the water's edge, and integrated with existing infrastructure to ensure rapid accessibility during emergencies.

#### **Recommendation SB-07: Trauma Kits**

It is recommended to install trauma kits at key locations in the Streaky Bay region, including Granites, Hally's Beach, Back Beach, Surfers Beach, Perlubie, and Yanerbie Shacks. A separate report on the exact locations of these kits will be submitted to the Council for consideration.

**Recommendation SB-08: Trauma Kit Awareness Training**

It is recommended, in support of [Recommendation SB-08](#), that community awareness training be conducted to educate the public on the proper use of trauma kits, ensuring their effective deployment during emergencies.

## Gaps in Water Signage and Informational Resources

The current signage in the region predominantly addresses regulatory, ecological and environmental topics, effectively raising awareness about local conservation efforts and green initiatives for tourists. While these efforts are commendable, there is a noticeable gap in the communication of essential water safety information.

Key water safety messages—such as warnings about rip currents at surf beaches, unstable cliff edges, and the presence of marine hazards like razor fish and white sharks—are underrepresented. These messages are critical for preventing accidents and preparing visitors for the environmental conditions they may encounter in the region.

A signage compliance audit was conducted using the SLSSA GIS Beach Signage Audit Tool. While data collection was successfully completed at all sites, the tool's automated reporting feature could not be utilised due to the lack of reliable 4G/5G connectivity. As a result, the detailed findings and recommendations from the audit will be provided in a separate report (*refer to [Recommendation SB-01](#)*).

Another option for addressing these gaps include exploring ways to enhance water safety communication through improved supplementary informational resources. For example, dedicated water safety brochures could be distributed at key tourist hubs, surf locations, and accommodations to provide clear and accessible safety guidelines. Additionally, incorporating water safety messaging into existing locally produced tourist materials — such as *Streaky Bay Tourism Brochure* and *The Eyre Magazine* — may help extend the reach of these messages to a broader audience. SLSSA can assist with the wording and key messages to ensure the information is clear, accurate, and tailored to the needs of visitors.

**Recommendation SB-09: Improving Water Safety Public Information**

It is recommended that the Council enhance water safety communication by developing and distributing dedicated water safety brochures at key tourist hubs, surf locations, and accommodations.

Improving both on-site signage and informational resources would not only enhance visitor safety but also complement the region's ongoing efforts to promote its ecological and natural attractions. This dual approach could help safeguard tourists while maintaining the area's reputation as a sustainable and welcoming destination.

Additionally, educating the local community on water safety - particularly by addressing key hazards such as rip currents, unstable cliff edges, and marine dangers - will not only raise awareness but also improve local preparedness and resilience. When residents are equipped with the knowledge of these risks, they are more likely to respond effectively in emergency situations, whether by assisting others or taking appropriate precautions to prevent accidents.

A well-informed community can play a crucial role in providing first-response support until professional help arrives, fostering a stronger, more connected network of local safety advocates. Moreover, by promoting a culture of water safety at the community level, the region can cultivate a sense of shared responsibility among both residents and visitors. This collective effort enhances the overall safety of the area, reducing the strain on emergency services while ensuring a safer environment for all. Educating the local school population also creates a long-term impact, as it leads to the development of a more resilient community that can adapt to and mitigate the risks posed by its coastal environment.

**Recommendation SB-10: Improving Water Education**

It is recommended that the SLSSA, in partnership with local councils, implement water safety education programs in local schools, focusing on key hazards such as rip currents, unstable cliff edges, and marine dangers.

## Community Consultation and Stakeholder Feedback

A key component of the review was community consultation, which included both informal discussions and formal meetings. Informal consultations were held throughout the visits, allowing for open and candid interactions with local stakeholders. In addition to these informal discussions, formal consultation meetings and workshops were conducted to gather more structured feedback. A list of individuals who participated in these formal consultations can be found in [Appendix B](#).

During these consultations, a wide range of community concerns and suggestions were raised, reflecting the diverse perspectives of local stakeholders. Key issues included the need for better awareness and reporting of shark sightings, the impact of recreational fishing practices, and a variety of suggestions for potential solutions and improvements. This valuable feedback has been organised into key insights and themes, which will be examined in the following paragraphs. The following paragraphs will provide a comprehensive understanding of the community's views and priorities and assess the merit of any proposed suggestions.

### Community Concern - *Impact of Recreational Activities on Shark Behaviour*

During both formal forums and informal consultations, many residents of the Eyre Peninsula have expressed concerns about the potential impacts of recreational activities such as cray fishing, cage diving, and shark sighting tours. These activities are believed to influence shark behaviour, increasing apprehensions about public safety and raising questions about their long-term ecological effects on the region.

The recent fatalities at *Granites* have heightened these concerns, with several residents, including the father of the most recent victim, suggesting that cray pots positioned near reef breaks may attract sharks. This phenomenon, commonly referred to as "shark conditioning," has become a focal point of local discussions.

## **Shark Conditioning: Definition and Concerns**

Shark conditioning refers to the process by which a behavioural response to a specific stimulus becomes more frequent and predictable. This can occur through either positive reinforcement (reward) or negative reinforcement (punishment). Research suggests that sharks are particularly susceptible to conditioning, which can present challenges when unintentional conditioning occurs through human activities.

A 2018 study which was cited by some community members by Guttridge et al., *The Role of Learning in Shark Behaviour*, highlights concern about conditioning associated with ecotourism activities. As cage diving and shark-related tourism have grown in popularity, sharks are increasingly exposed to human interactions that may inadvertently condition their behaviour. One common activity is “chumming,” where bits of dead fish are placed in the water to attract sharks. This practice can condition sharks to associate boats and humans with food, potentially altering their natural hunting behaviours and predator instincts. The study also raises concerns about increased risks of negative interactions between sharks and humans, particularly in areas where sharks may approach people or vessels in search of food.

### **Regulation of Chumming Practices**

In South Australia, the use of chumming or burley by shark cage operators in Port Lincoln is strictly regulated by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW). Operators are required to follow guidelines designed to minimise the risk of conditioning sharks. Feeding sharks is avoided wherever possible; however, occasional instances occur where sharks succeed in catching the bait. Despite this, operators make consistent efforts to reduce bait consumption by sharks, aligning their practices with regulatory requirements.

### **Findings from a Long-Term Study on Cage Diving and Shark Behaviour**

A peer-reviewed study conducted between 2018 and 2022 examined claims that cage-diving activities condition white sharks, *Carcharodon carcharias*, to interact with boats, potentially increasing the risk of shark bites. A team of marine scientists from Australia, Canada and the United States used acoustic telemetry to track the fine-scale movements of 73 white sharks over four years at Neptune Islands.

The study revealed that white sharks spent progressively less time near cage-diving boats during their residency at the site. This behaviour was consistent across individuals, years, sexes, and sizes. Sharks resumed their initial levels of interaction with cage-diving boats only upon returning to Neptune Islands after leaving the site. These findings suggest that habituation (i.e., the diminishing response to the stimulus used to attract sharks) is temporary and does not result in long-term learned behaviour.

The study also found that current management strategies, such as regulating the number of operating days, limiting the use of food-based attractants, and reducing the amount of bait consumed, effectively limit the associative behaviour between white sharks and boats while supporting sustainable ecotourism. It is important to also note that while some community members expressed concerns about a potential connection between shark cage diving and sharks being attracted to boats, the last three shark attacks in the Streaky Bay area involved surfers, not boat users.

**Recommendation SB-11: Sustain Regulatory Compliance**

It is recommended that the State Government continue enforcing strict guidelines for chumming practices, ensuring operators minimise bait consumption by sharks and adhere to approved standards.

**Recommendation SB-12: Strengthen Public Awareness Campaigns**

It is recommended that the State Government consider developing and distributing clear information about the regulations governing shark cage dive operations, along with evidence indicating no impact on shark residency patterns.

**Recommendation SB-13: Monitor and Evaluate Conditioning Risks**

It is recommended that the State Government conduct ongoing research and monitoring of shark behaviour in high-risk areas to assess the potential long-term impacts of human activities, in response to ongoing concerns from local communities.

The need for community education on shark behaviour is critical due to ongoing misconceptions surrounding shark cage diving operations and the impact of wildlife tourism on white shark behaviour. Despite stringent regulations in place for shark cage diving, the public often lacks accurate information, leading to confusion and concern. Recent studies suggest that the impact of wildlife tourism on shark behaviour is minimal, yet these findings are not widely understood. Additionally, the increasing importance of alternative communication methods, such as low-tech signage and local community networks ([Recommendation SB-06](#)), further underscores the need to ensure that the public is well-informed. These efforts would help address misconceptions and enhance public understanding of the regulations and behaviours associated with shark interactions, ultimately improving safety and promoting a more informed community.

**Recommendation SB-14: Community Education**

It is recommended that SLSSA develop and deliver community education initiatives to address misconceptions about shark behaviour.

**Community Concern – Impact of Fishing Practices and Proposed Exclusion Zones**

Concerns raised by community members suggest that certain fishing practices, such as the use of cray pots and tuna as bait, may contribute to shark conditioning by encouraging sharks to remain in specific areas. These concerns have led to calls for the establishment of fishing exclusion zones near high-use surf breaks to reduce the risk of shark encounters.

In response, the council is already considering the implementation of a Section 79 exclusion zone under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* near *Granites*, a location where two shark-related fatalities have occurred in the past 15 months. While this proposal requires further consultation with stakeholders, many in the community view it as a potential solution and an opportunity to explore broader protections for surf zones across South Australia.

### **Recommendation SB-15: Investigate the Role of Fishing Practices in Shark Behaviour**

It is recommended the State Government explore the commissioning of research into whether fishing practices, such as cray pots and tuna baiting, contribute to shark conditioning and an increased presence near surf breaks and recreational areas. This research may be conducted either in parallel with [Recommendation SB-13](#) or independently.

#### **Existing Marine Park Zones in South Australia**

South Australia's marine parks feature several zones designed to balance marine conservation with recreational and commercial activities:

- **General Managed Use Zones:** Allow for a wide range of activities, including fishing.
- **Habitat Protection Zones:** Safeguard marine habitats while permitting certain activities.
- **Sanctuary Zones:** Areas of high conservation value where fishing is prohibited but low-impact recreational activities, such as diving, swimming, and surfing, are allowed.
- **Restricted Access Zones:** Activities are permitted on a case-by-case basis.

Sanctuary zones, established in October 2014, cover approximately 6% of South Australian waters and are primarily designed to achieve conservation objectives. While these zones allow for certain low-impact recreational activities, their primary focus is on preserving marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

#### **Special Purpose Zones in Western Australia**

During a one of the community forum sessions (18 January 2025), stakeholders expressed interest in our State following Western Australia's implementation of **special purpose zones (surfing)** that prioritise surfing activities alongside marine conservation. These zones recognise the social and recreational significance of activities such as surfing, bodyboarding, surf skiing, kitesurfing, and windsurfing while protecting coastal and marine ecosystems.

The conservation objectives of these zones include safeguarding nearshore and offshore habitats, with restrictions or prohibitions on certain fishing practices. Both commercial and recreational fishing activities are managed within these zones to align with conservation goals and reduce potential human-shark interactions.

#### **Considerations for South Australia**

While no conclusive data confirms that special purpose zones mitigate shark risks, concerns raised by community members—particularly regarding the potential for cray pots to attract sharks—warrant further investigation.

A statewide review of the feasibility of introducing special purpose zones in South Australia, particularly in high-risk areas with significant surfing activity, may provide a balanced approach to:

- Conserving marine ecosystems,
- Reducing the risk of shark encounters, and
- Supporting the economic and social importance of surfing and other water-based recreation.



Such zones could address public safety concerns while promoting sustainable use of marine resources, demonstrating a proactive approach to managing the intersection of conservation, recreation, and safety. Such zones could also support the economic and social importance of surfing in these regions, where the risk of shark encounters is a pressing concern.

**Recommendation SB-16: Explore Special Purpose Zones (Surfing)**

It is recommended that the State Government investigate the applicability of implementing special purpose zones (surfing) in South Australia, similar to those in Western Australia, to prioritise recreational activities like surfing while conserving marine ecosystems.

**Recommendation SB-17: Engage Stakeholders in Policy Development**

It is recommended that the State Government assess the practicality of facilitating inclusive consultation with stakeholders, including local communities, fishing industries, conservation groups, and tourism operators, to ensure that any proposed measures address ecological, recreational, and safety concerns comprehensively.

**Recommendation SB-18: Enhance Community Education and Communication**

It is recommended that, in support of [Recommendations SB-16](#) and [SB-17](#), the State Government look into developing public awareness campaigns to educate the community about marine park zoning objectives, the impact of fishing practices on shark behaviour, and the potential benefits of exclusion or special purpose zones for surfing.

**Community Concern - Concerns Over Perceived Bias in Shark Research**

During both community feedback forums, concerns were raised by local community members regarding the bias in shark behaviour research, particularly in studies funded by cage diving operators. While there is no evidence to suggest that such studies are influenced by funding sources, the perception of bias remains a significant concern among locals. Many expressed apprehension that commercial interests, such as those of the cage diving industry, could impact research outcomes, leading to findings that align with industry objectives rather than providing impartial scientific insights.

Community members emphasised the importance of fostering trust in research processes by promoting transparency and independence in studies of shark behaviour. There was strong support for independent, peer-reviewed research focusing on the impacts of human activities on shark conditioning, health, and migration patterns. Specific areas of interest included the effects of fishing practices, such as shark fishing, on behaviour, breeding, and regional movement.

While some community members perceive the most recent research as biased, it is essential to clarify that the research conducted by Marine Scientists, is entirely independent. The research conducted by the Flinders University Marine and Coastal Research Consortium is in fact funded by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and does not receive any financial support from the shark cage-diving industry. The misconception from local community members may stem from the operational collaboration where researchers occasionally use vessels operated by the cage-diving industry to access Neptune Island for shark tagging. However, this logistical arrangement does not imply financial support or influence from the industry. This practice is comparable to SARDI scientists utilising commercial fishing vessels for sample collection and is a standard approach to optimise resources while conducting fieldwork. The independence of the research remains uncompromised.

The community's concerns about shark-related research underscore the importance of transparent communication regarding the methodologies, funding sources, and peer-review processes behind these studies. While existing research has demonstrated scientific integrity, addressing these concerns is essential to enhance public trust and counter perceptions of bias. Clear communication about the underlying frameworks of research can improve the credibility and acceptance of findings, leading to a more informed understanding of the ecological impacts of human activities on sharks. Such efforts are crucial for ensuring that management strategies are based on accurate and widely accepted information.

To effectively address these concerns, it is essential that research findings are made publicly accessible and communicated in a manner that balances scientific rigor with public understanding. Transparency in the research process will also play a key role in building trust within the community.

#### **Recommendation SB-19: Strengthened Communication Strategies**

It is recommended that the State Government improve the promotion of research to non-academic audiences and develop clear communication materials outlining how research independence is maintained, including the rationale for collaborations, such as the use of cage-diving vessels for fieldwork. This will enhance accessibility, transparency, and community trust in research outcomes.

#### **Community Concern – Inadequate public awareness of shark activity**

Local fishermen, surfers, and other water users have reported an increase in shark sightings near fishing vessels and boats. However, these sightings are not consistently reported to authorities, partly due to unclear reporting mechanisms. Many residents are unaware of how to report shark sightings officially, and those who are familiar with the process express frustration that reports made to *FishWatch* are not shared publicly to alert others in the area.

Abalone divers have also raised concerns that their long-standing reports of shark activity are not made available to the wider community. This lack of communication limits the potential to use these reports as valuable data for understanding shark behaviour in the region.

In South Australia, shark sightings formally reported either directly to PIRSA or via SA Police (SAPOL), the Abalone Divers Association, Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) are recorded in an online [Shark Sighting Log](#). Reporting mechanisms to this Log depend on the perceived level of threat, with the following guidelines in place:

- **Immediate threat to humans:** Report attacks or sightings posing an immediate danger by phoning SA Police on 000.
- **No immediate danger:**
  - **Sharks within 500 metres of shore:** Phone SA Police on 131 444.
  - **Sharks more than 500 metres from shore and greater than 3 metres in length:** Phone the 24-hour *FishWatch* hotline (1800 065 522) or use the online shark sighting report form.

The [Shark Sighting Log](#) contains records dating back to 2006. However, the publicly available information is presented in a basic table format, with inconsistencies in the quality of data. For instance, some entries include imprecise or unclear descriptions, such as "Westwall Loop" or "North of Aldinga Beach," which lack sufficient detail or geographic context. In addition, it is unclear whether the log distinguishes between confirmed shark sightings, general observations, or incidents involving hostile interactions.

The [Australian Shark Incident Database](#) is a national system that tracks and quantifies temporal and spatial patterns of shark-human interactions across Australia. While it is more user-friendly than the South Australian [Shark Sighting Log](#), the data is presented in a tabular format, lacks visual representation of shark movements or interactions, and is not easily accessible or readily understood by the general public.

Marine SA recently redesigned their reporting portal and developed supporting awareness materials, including stickers featuring QR codes that link directly to the updated portal. This initiative made the reporting process more accessible for boat users and raised awareness about marine safety. Adapting this approach could enhance shark sighting reporting mechanisms, improve public awareness, and streamline the reporting process. By providing easily accessible tools, the State Government could improve the reliability of shark sighting data, supporting more informed decision-making on public safety.

**Recommendation SB-20: Enhance Public Awareness of Reporting Mechanisms**

It is recommended that the State Government consider developing and distributing clear, user-friendly guidelines for reporting shark sightings, including accessible tools such as QR-coded promotional materials that link directly to the reporting portal.

**Recommendation SB-21: Enhancing Public Awareness of Shark Sighting Reporting**

It is recommended that as part of any targeted public awareness campaigns in coastal communities by SLSSA to educate residents and water users ([Recommendations SB-10 & SB-14](#)), that the program highlights the importance of reporting shark sightings and the existing channels (e.g., SA Police, *FishWatch*, Shark Sighting Log).

**Community Concern - Telecommunications and Emergency Response in Streaky Bay**

The Streaky Bay region faces significant challenges related to poor mobile phone coverage, as highlighted earlier in this report. These communication black spots, identified during the site assessments (refer to [Enclosures 1 – 9](#)), have raised concerns among local stakeholders about their impact on emergency response capabilities, particularly in high-traffic coastal areas.

To address these challenges, low-tech emergency solutions have been explored, with the potential for broader implementation. For instance, local surfing community members have suggested installing flagpoles at key surf locations, similar to a successful model in Western Australia. This approach uses visual alerts, such as the red-and-white quartered flag, to signal surfers to evacuate the water during emergencies. The adoption of this flag, already endorsed by Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA), would ensure consistency and align with existing water safety protocols.

Key considerations for implementing flagpoles include:

1. **Site Selection:** Prioritize high-visitation coastal areas and surf breaks with known telecommunications limitations or identified risks.
2. **Community Engagement:** Work with local stakeholders, including the surfing community, to ensure appropriate flagpole placement and usage.
3. **Awareness Campaigns:** Educate the public on the meaning of the red-and-white quartered flag and its role in emergencies.
4. **Maintenance Plans:** Develop a routine maintenance schedule to ensure flags and signage remain functional and visible.

Implementing this system would provide a reliable communication tool during emergencies in areas with limited telecommunications infrastructure, ultimately enhancing safety and improving emergency response coordination. This initiative supports ongoing efforts to address public safety concerns in remote coastal areas.

#### **Recommendation SB-22: Flagpole Alert System**

It is recommended that SLSSA, in collaboration with local councils, develop and install flagpole emergency systems at key coastal sites, particularly in high-use surfing and recreational areas within regions like Streaky Bay that face communication black spots.

A suggested design for community notice boards is included as [Appendix C](#).

Community stakeholders have expressed interest in exploring advanced emergency response technologies to address limitations in the region's emergency communication infrastructure. Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs) and emergency call buttons, successfully trialled or implemented in New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia, are among the potential solutions. ERBs facilitate direct communication with emergency services via mobile technology, even in areas with poor or no reception. However, their implementation would require a significant investment from the State Government. Additional features, such as integrated cameras, offer real-time situational awareness, which improves coordination among responding agencies. These technologies have demonstrated effectiveness in overcoming the limitations of inadequate telecommunications infrastructure, with the Northern Territory also planning trials in remote areas.

In New South Wales, ERBs have been deployed in high-risk "black spot" locations to assist lifesaving operations. They enable centralised Surf Life Saving State Operations Centres to communicate directly with individuals in distress and coordinate emergency resources, including rescue boats, jet skis, or helicopters. These successful applications of ERBs highlight the potential of such technologies to enhance emergency response capabilities in regions like Streaky Bay.

Moreover, since the discontinuation of the 3G network, many local residents have noted a perceived decline in mobile coverage. This has raised concerns regarding the adequacy of the existing telecommunications infrastructure, particularly in remote regions where reliable connectivity is essential for safety and emergency response.

To address these issues, there may be value in conducting a comprehensive review of telecommunications options in Streaky Bay and other remote areas. Such a review would assess whether current infrastructure meets community needs and provide adequate coverage to support safety, emergency services, and everyday communication. Key areas for further consideration, which are beyond the capacity of local councils, include:

1. **Identifying gaps in mobile network coverage**, particularly since the 3G network was discontinued.
2. **Exploring opportunities to improve mobile reception** through partnerships with telecommunications providers.
3. **Investigating alternative technologies**, such as satellite-based communication systems, to enhance connectivity in black spot areas.

By exploring both low-tech and advanced emergency response measures, the region could better address gaps in its emergency response capabilities, drawing on successful practices from other states to improve safety and communication.

**Recommendation SB-23: Comprehensive Review of Telecommunications Infrastructure**

It is recommended that the State Government investigate the feasibility of reviewing existing telecommunications infrastructure in the Streaky Bay region and other similar remote coastal locations.

To enhance emergency response capabilities in areas with limited or no mobile coverage, a comprehensive feasibility study should be conducted. This study would assess the potential for installing Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs) or similar technologies at high-risk coastal sites, such as those frequently visited by water users and tourists. Key actions in the study would include:

- **Identifying Priority Locations:** Conduct an assessment of areas with limited or no mobile coverage that would benefit from ERB installations, focusing on high-risk sites commonly frequented by the public.
- **Evaluating Technology Suitability:** Review ERB technologies previously trialed in New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia to determine their suitability for local conditions, taking into account operational requirements and environmental factors.
- **Defining Essential Features:** Identify essential features for effective emergency response, including integrated cameras, GPS tracking, and direct communication capabilities with emergency services or the Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) State Operations Centre.

As part of this study, further investigation could involve implementing a pilot program at a location such as Granites, which has a tragic history of fatal shark attacks in recent years. This would allow for practical testing of the technologies and their potential to address critical public safety concerns. A dual approach incorporating both research and trial programs would provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of ERBs in enhancing emergency response capabilities in these high-risk areas.

**Recommendation SB-24: Evaluate Feasibility of Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs)**

It is recommended that the State Government consider undertaking a feasibility study to evaluate the deployment of Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs) or emergency call buttons at high-risk locations within regional locations.

**Recommendation SB-25: Evaluate the Feasibility of a proof-of-concept ERB in Streaky Bay.**

It is recommended that Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) assess the possibility of trialling Emergency Response Beacon (ERB) technology in Streaky Bay as a proof of concept in support of [Recommendation SB-23](#).

**Community Concern - Jet Ski Activity and Aquatic Rescue Capabilities**

Some local community members, including some frequent surfers at *Granites*, raised concerns about the potential attraction of sharks by jet ski activity. Specifically, it has been noted that jet skis were on the water prior to the last two shark-related fatalities in the region. While it is important to clarify that in the most recent incident, the jet ski was active hours before the attack, the idea that jet skis could influence shark behaviour remains a point of discussion. This theory, which is linked to the concept of shark conditioning discussed earlier in this reports, highlights the need for further research into the potential relationship between human activity, such as the use of jet skis, and shark behaviour, including migration patterns.

At the same time, it is widely acknowledged that jet skis could play a critical role in aquatic rescue operations. Their ability to navigate challenging surf and tidal conditions—such as those at locations like *Squirrels* and *Razors*, where emergency extraction can only occur from the water—makes them a potentially valuable tool for rapid response in emergencies. Any discussions around water safety should take into account the dual role of jet skis as both a potential concern and an essential rescue asset.

A key limitation in the current aquatic rescue framework relates to the capabilities of the Streaky Bay State Emergency Service (SES) Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) squadron. As already highlighted, unlike other VMR units across the state, the Streaky Bay squadron does not have access to a dedicated rescue vessel. Instead, it relies on "approved vessels" that can be seconded in emergencies. However, these vessels are often unsuitable for the challenging surf and tidal conditions typical of the area. SASES members advised that in a recent incident, this lack of dedicated equipment led to delays, as available vessels could not be launched in time, requiring support from Ceduna and Port Lincoln.

SASES stakeholders have highlighted the potential benefits of equipping the local VMR squadron with a dedicated rescue asset (refer to [Recommendation SB-03](#)), such as a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), designed to operate effectively in local conditions. This asset could significantly improve response times and enhance safety outcomes. Additionally, there was some interest in exploring the development of a rescue hub incorporating both jet skis and RHIBs to bolster local aquatic rescue capabilities.

These findings underscore the importance of addressing gaps in aquatic rescue infrastructure while balancing community concerns about shark behaviour and water safety. Options for enhancing local

response capabilities and mitigating risks warrant further exploration to ensure the safety of residents and visitors in the region.

#### **Recommendation SB-26: Assess Feasibility of Providing Rescue Water Craft**

It is recommended that SLSSA assess the feasibility of deploying a Rescue Water Craft (RWC) to Streaky Bay, alongside the drone proposed in [Recommendation SB-04](#). This evaluation should include an assessment of whether the comprehensive SLSSA training, which is currently extensive and time-intensive, can be conducted remotely from a dedicated SLSC facility.

#### **Community Interest - Potential for Enhanced Search and Rescue Capabilities Using Drones**

As highlighted earlier in this report, the geographical remoteness of Streaky Bay presents significant challenges for emergency response, particularly given the extended transit time for search and rescue aircraft from Adelaide. This delay has prompted discussions among community members regarding the potential benefits of locally managed drone operations to supplement existing emergency services.

Interest in the use of drones in Streaky Bay gained momentum following widespread media coverage of the State Government funding announcement last November, which highlighted the potential for drones to assist coastal safety and emergency response in regional areas (refer to [Recommendation SB-04](#)). Community members expressed strong interest in organising drone training sessions under the SLSSA framework. Such a program could focus on equipping the local community with skills to operate drones effectively in a variety of scenarios, from proactive surveillance during aquatic events to emergency response situations.

Drones equipped with emergency service kits—including features such as loudspeakers for interactive communication and high-definition cameras for real-time situational awareness—could play a critical role in improving search and rescue capabilities. In worst-case scenarios, such as accidents or life-threatening incidents in the coastal environment, drones could assist in locating individuals and providing immediate support until traditional emergency response teams arrive.

Exploration of this option may provide a valuable opportunity to enhance the region's emergency preparedness and response capacity. Refer to [Recommendation SB-04](#).

#### **Community Interest - Real-Time Shark Movement Reporting via Acoustic Receivers**

Stakeholder discussions frequently referenced comparisons to real-time shark movement reporting systems implemented in other states, such as the *SharkSmart* app. These systems, often supported by acoustic receiver networks, were highlighted as effective tools for improving public safety by providing real-time alerts on the movements of tagged sharks.

Participants noted that other states have made substantial investments in shark monitoring technologies, often backed by state government funding. This prompted concerns among some stakeholders, about an apparent inequity in government investment in regional areas. Many felt that this disparity was significant, given that shark-related incidents are perceived to occur more frequently outside metropolitan waters.

There was strong interest in the installation of acoustic receivers at key coastal locations to enhance situational awareness and provide timely warnings to beachgoers. Stakeholders viewed such systems as a means to improve public confidence in water safety. However, SLSSA emphasised that the effectiveness of acoustic receivers depends on a dedicated shark tagging program. Without adequate

tagging, the data collected by receivers would have limited scope, reducing their value for real-time reporting and public safety.

Further considerations were raised about the applicability of mobile apps, such as *SharkSmart*, in regional and remote areas, where poor telecommunications coverage is a recurring challenge. Limited mobile connectivity could impede the delivery of real-time alerts, reducing the practical effectiveness of such apps in areas with weak or inconsistent reception. This highlights the need to address underlying telecommunications issues ([Recommendation SB-22](#)) for these technologies to be viable in the region.

**Recommendation SB-27: Evaluate the Feasibility of Acoustic Receivers**

It is recommended that the State Government assess the suitability of installing acoustic receivers at key locations, including the integration of a robust shark tagging program to maximise their effectiveness.

**Recommendation SB-28: Evaluate using other delivery models to promote Shark Data**

It is recommended that the State Government examine the potential for incorporating shark sighting data – including acoustic receiver data - into existing technologies, such as apps or public alert systems (*Alert SA* and/or *BeachSafe*), to enhance public safety outcomes.

# Recommendations

The recommendations in this report were initially presented alongside the relevant findings to provide context and rationale for each proposed action. To further support their implementation, the recommendations have now been summarised into two categories: Immediate and High-Priority Mitigation Initiatives and Medium and Long-Term Strategic Solutions.

This approach allows for a focused prioritisation of urgent actions while identifying longer-term solutions that require further research, strategic planning, or additional investment by the State Government. For each recommendation, the mitigation owner and potential funding sources have been outlined to clarify responsibilities and resource requirements.

## Immediate and High-Priority Risk Mitigation Strategies

These recommendations address critical risks requiring urgent action to mitigate immediate safety concerns. Timely implementation is essential to resolve pressing issues, demonstrate tangible progress, and respond to community feedback.

<b>SB-01: Warning Signs</b>			
Solution:	It is recommended that clear, visible warnings be installed at Granites and similar high-risk areas in Streaky Bay to inform visitors of potential hazards and enhance safety. A separate report on water safety compliance signage will be submitted to the Council for consideration.		
Owner:	SLSSA	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund
<b>SB-02: Site Specific Awareness Signs</b>			
Solution:	It is recommended that an educational sign be installed at Granites to highlight site-specific hazards and promote safer user behaviour through increased awareness.		
Owner:	SLSSA & Council	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund
<b>SB-04: Regional Drone Capability</b>			
Solution:	It is recommended that Streaky Bay implement a community-managed drone, supplied and maintained by SLSSA, to enhance emergency response capabilities. The drone, equipped with a camera and speakers, would support real-time surveillance and search and rescue operations, particularly in difficult-to-access areas such as coastal cliffs and surf breaks.		
Owner:	SLSSA & Council	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**SB-06: Expansion of Low-Tech Signage Solutions**

Solution:	It is recommended to expand the community-driven shark sighting signs by placing community notice boards at key locations such as Granites, Back Beach, and the Northern beach access to Long Beach. The signs should include safety information, hazard alerts, and emergency contacts.  A suggested design for community notice boards is included in <a href="#">Appendix A</a> .		
Owner:	SLSSA & Council	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**SB-07: Trauma Kits**

Solution:	It is recommended to install trauma kits at key locations in the Streaky Bay region, including Granites, Hally's Beach, Back Beach, Surfers Beach, Perlubie, and Yanerbie Shacks.  A separate report on the exact locations of these kits will be submitted to the Council for consideration.		
Owner:	SLSSA	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**SB-08: Trauma Kit Awareness Training**

Solution:	It is recommended, in support of <a href="#">Recommendation SB-08</a> , that community awareness training be conducted to educate the public on the proper use of trauma kits, ensuring their effective deployment during emergencies.		
Owner:	SLSSA	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**SB-09: Improving Water Safety Public Information**

Solution:	It is recommended that the Council enhance water safety communication by developing and distributing dedicated water safety brochures at key tourist hubs, surf locations, and accommodations.		
Owner:	SLSSA & Council	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**SB-10: Improving Water Education**

Solution:	It is recommended that the SLSSA, in partnership with local councils, implement water safety education programs in local schools, focusing on key hazards such as rip currents, unstable cliff edges, and marine dangers.		
Owner:	SLSSA	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**SB-14: Community Education**

Solution:	It is recommended that SLSSA develop and deliver community education initiatives to address misconceptions about shark behaviour.		
Owner:	SLSSA	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**SB-21: Enhancing Public Awareness of Shark Sighting Reporting**

Solution:	It is recommended that as part of any targeted public awareness campaigns in coastal communities by SLSSA to educate residents and water users ( <a href="#">Recommendations SB-10</a> & <a href="#">SB-14</a> ), that the program highlights the importance of reporting shark sightings and the existing channels (e.g., SA Police, <i>FishWatch</i> , Shark Sighting Log).		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-22: Flagpole Alert System**

Solution:	It is recommended that SLSSA, in collaboration with local councils, develop and install flagpole emergency systems at key coastal sites, particularly in high-use surfing and recreational areas within regions like Streaky Bay that face communication black spots. A suggested design for community notice boards is included as <a href="#">Appendix C</a> .		
Owner:	SLSSA	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**SB-25: Evaluate the Feasibility of a proof-of-concept ERB in Streaky Bay**

Solution:	It is recommended that Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) assess the possibility of trialling Emergency Response Beacon (ERB) technology in Streaky Bay as a proof of concept in support of <a href="#">Recommendation SB-23</a> .		
Owner:	SLSSA	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**SB-26: Assess Feasibility of Providing Rescue Water Craft in Streaky Bay area**

Solution:	It is recommended that SLSSA assess the feasibility of deploying a Rescue Water Craft (RWC) to Streaky Bay, alongside the drone proposed in <a href="#">Recommendation SB-04</a> . This evaluation should include an assessment of whether the comprehensive SLSSA training, which is currently extensive and time-intensive, can be conducted remotely from a dedicated SLSC facility.		
Owner:	SLSSA	Funding:	SLSSA / Thriving Regions Fund

**Medium and Long-Term Strategic Initiatives**

These initiatives are designed to address systemic challenges and deliver sustainable outcomes. They require additional resources, further research, and government support to ensure their successful implementation.

**SB-03: Enhancing Marine Rescue Capabilities - VMR**

Solution:	It is recommended that consideration be given to providing a dedicated rescue vessel, such as a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), to the local Volunteer Marine Rescue squadron to potentially enhance emergency response capabilities along the 200 km coastline, particularly during peak tourist seasons.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	SAFECOM

**SB-05: Enhanced Mobile Coverage Infrastructure**

Solution:	It is recommended that consideration be given to enhancing mobile phone coverage at key coastal areas, including Surfers Beach, Pinnacles, Back Beach, Razors, Granites, Perlubie, and Hally’s Beach, through engagement with telecommunications providers or the potential installation of additional infrastructure.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-11: Sustain Regulatory Compliance**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government continue enforcing strict guidelines for chumming practices, ensuring operators minimise bait consumption by sharks and adhere to approved standards.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be con determined firmend

**SB-12: Strengthen Public Awareness Campaigns**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government consider developing and distributing clear information about the regulations governing shark cage dive operations, along with evidence indicating no impact on shark residency patterns.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-13: Monitor and Evaluate Conditioning Risks**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government conduct ongoing research and monitoring of shark behaviour in high-risk areas to assess the potential long-term impacts of human activities, in response to ongoing concerns from local communities.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-15: Investigate the Role of Fishing Practices in Shark Behaviour**

Solution:	It is recommended the State Government explore the commissioning of research into whether fishing practices, such as cray pots and tuna baiting, contribute to shark conditioning and an increased presence near surf breaks and recreational areas. This research may be conducted either in parallel with <a href="#">Recommendation SB-13</a> or independently.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-16: Explore Special Purpose Zones (Surfing)**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government investigate the applicability of implementing special purpose zones (surfing) in South Australia, similar to those in Western Australia, to prioritise recreational activities like surfing while conserving marine ecosystems.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-17: Engage Stakeholders in Policy Development**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government assess the practicality of facilitating inclusive consultation with stakeholders, including local communities, fishing industries, conservation groups, and tourism operators, to ensure that any proposed measures address ecological, recreational, and safety concerns comprehensively.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-18: Enhance Community Education and Communication**

Solution:	It is recommended that, in support of <a href="#">Recommendations SB-16</a> and <a href="#">SB-17</a> , the State Government look into developing public awareness campaigns to educate the community about marine park zoning objectives, the impact of fishing practices on shark behaviour, and the potential benefits of exclusion or special purpose zones for surfing.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-19: Strengthened Communication Strategies**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government improve the promotion of research to non-academic audiences and develop clear communication materials outlining how research independence is maintained, including the rationale for collaborations, such as the use of cage-diving vessels for fieldwork. This will enhance accessibility, transparency, and community trust in research outcomes.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-20: Enhance Public Awareness of Reporting Mechanisms**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government consider developing and distributing clear, user-friendly guidelines for reporting shark sightings, including accessible tools such as QR-coded promotional materials that link directly to the reporting portal.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-23: Comprehensive Review of Telecommunications Infrastructure**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government investigate the feasibility of reviewing existing telecommunications infrastructure in the Streaky Bay region and other similar remote coastal locations.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-24: Evaluate Feasibility of Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs)**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government consider undertaking a feasibility study to evaluate the deployment of Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs) or emergency call buttons at high-risk locations within regional locations.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

**SB-27: Evaluate the Feasibility of Acoustic Receivers**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government assess the suitability of installing acoustic receivers at key locations, including the integration of a robust shark tagging program to maximise their effectiveness.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined

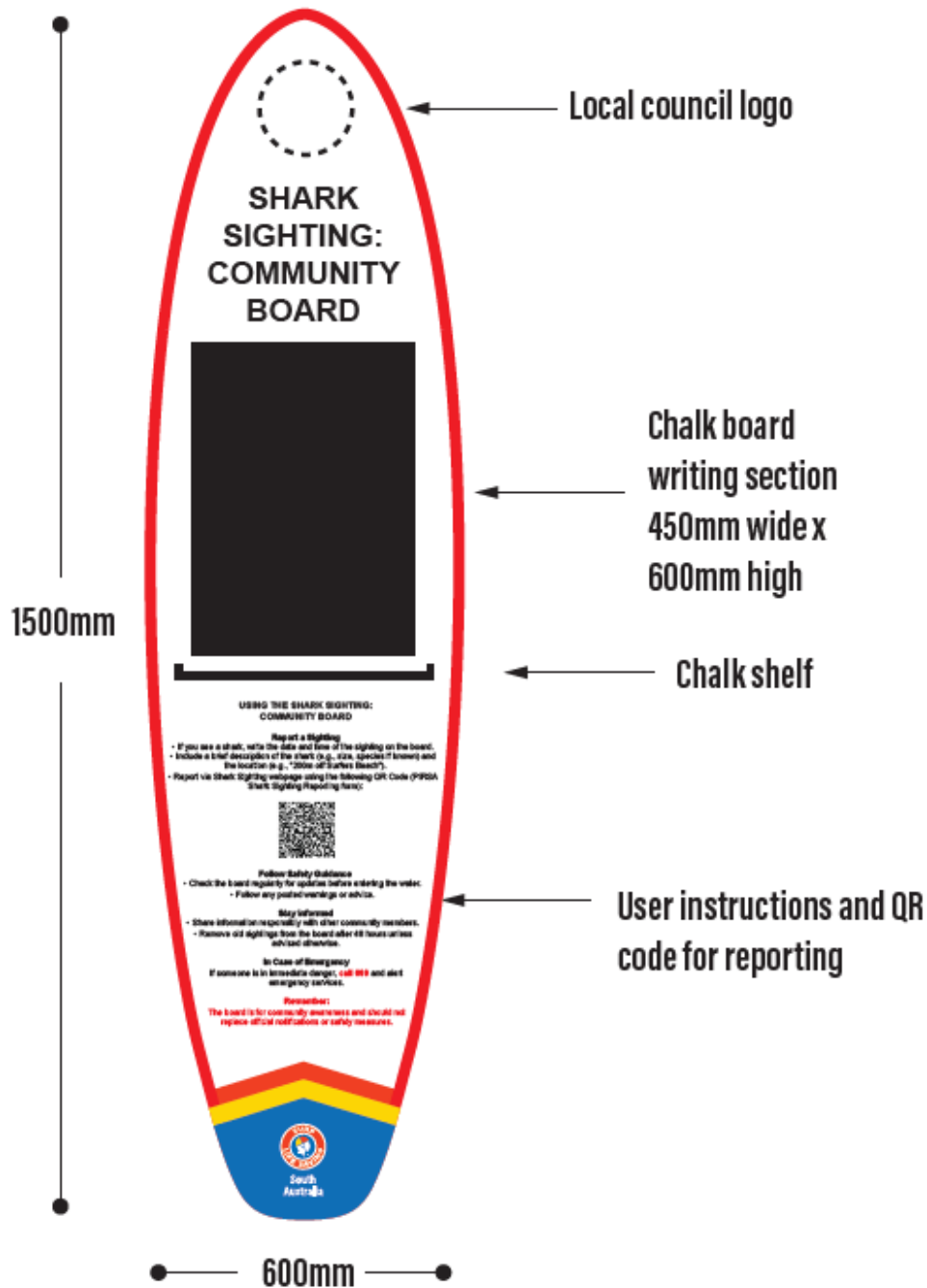
**SB-28: Evaluate using other delivery models to promote Shark Data**

Solution:	It is recommended that the State Government examine the potential for incorporating shark sighting data – including acoustic receiver data - into existing technologies, such as apps or public alert systems ( <i>Alert SA</i> and/or <i>BeachSafe</i> ), to enhance public safety outcomes.		
Owner:	State Government	Funding:	To be determined



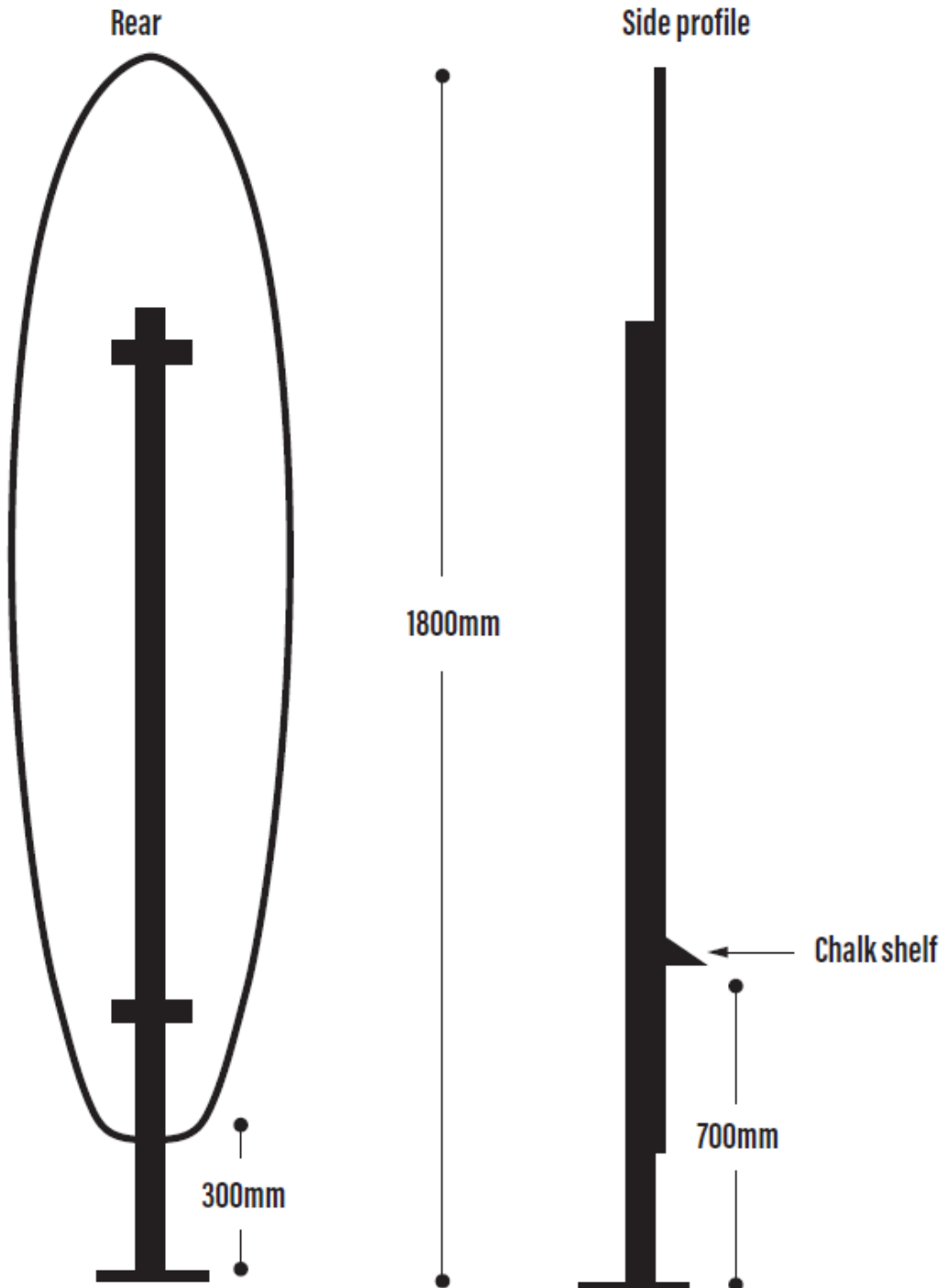
# Appendix A – Proposed Community Notice Board Design

Sign Dimensions and elements - Front



## PROPOSED COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD SIGN

### Sign Dimensions and elements - Side and rear



## PROPOSED COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD SIGN

### User Instructions text

## USING THE SHARK SIGHTING: COMMUNITY BOARD

### Report a Sighting

- If you see a shark, write the date and time of the sighting on the board.
- Include a brief description of the shark (e.g., size, species if known) and the location (e.g., "200m off Surfers Beach").
- Report via Shark Sighting webpage using the following QR Code (PIRSA Shark Sighting Reporting form):



### Follow Safety Guidance

- Check the board regularly for updates before entering the water.
  - Follow any posted warnings or advice.

### Stay Informed

- Share information responsibly with other community members.
- Remove old sightings from the board after 48 hours unless advised otherwise.

### In Case of Emergency

If someone is in immediate danger, **call 000** and alert emergency services.

### Remember:

**The board is for community awareness and should not replace official notifications or safety measures.**

# PROPOSED COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD SIGN

## Example Design

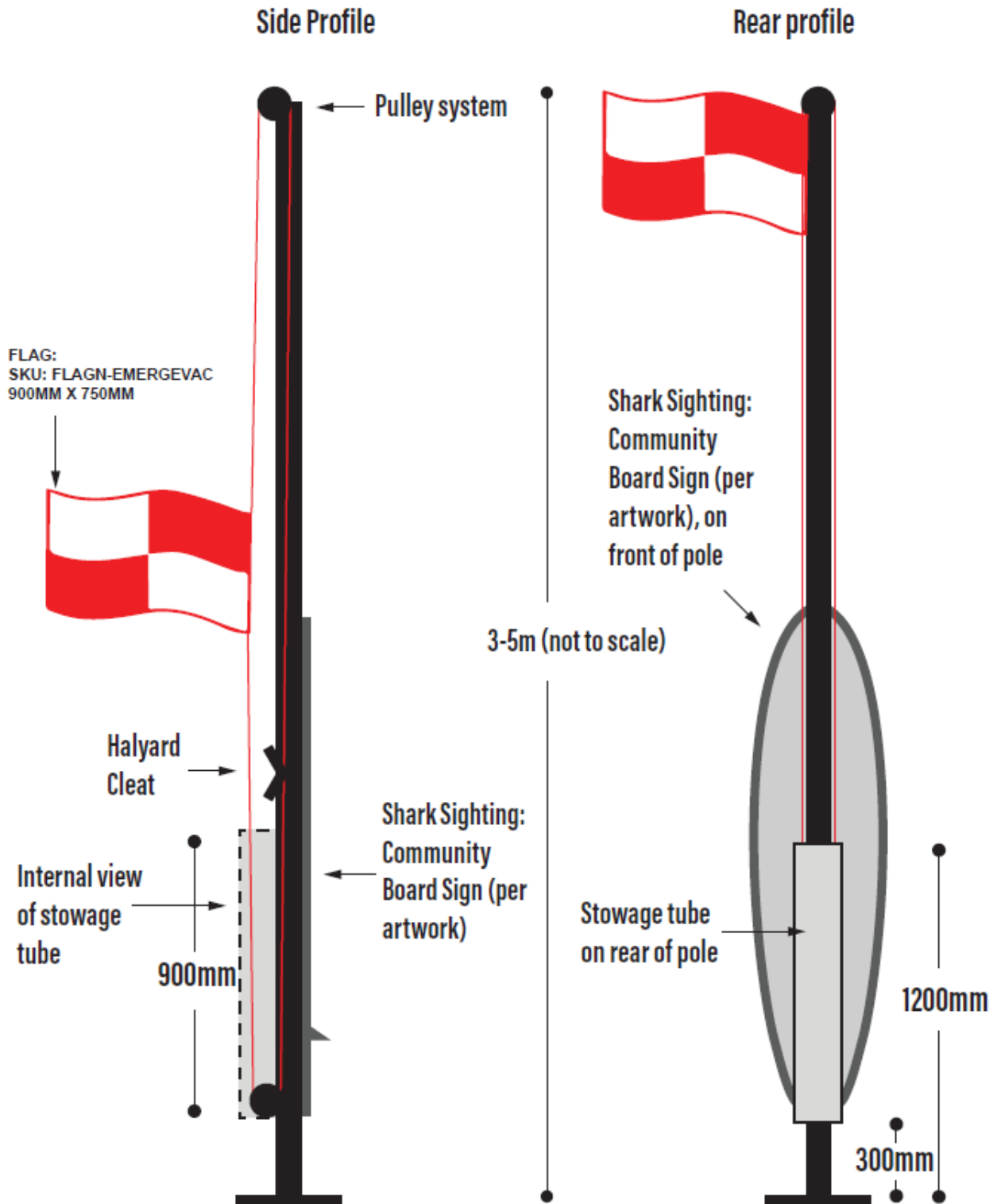


## Appendix B – Consultation Register

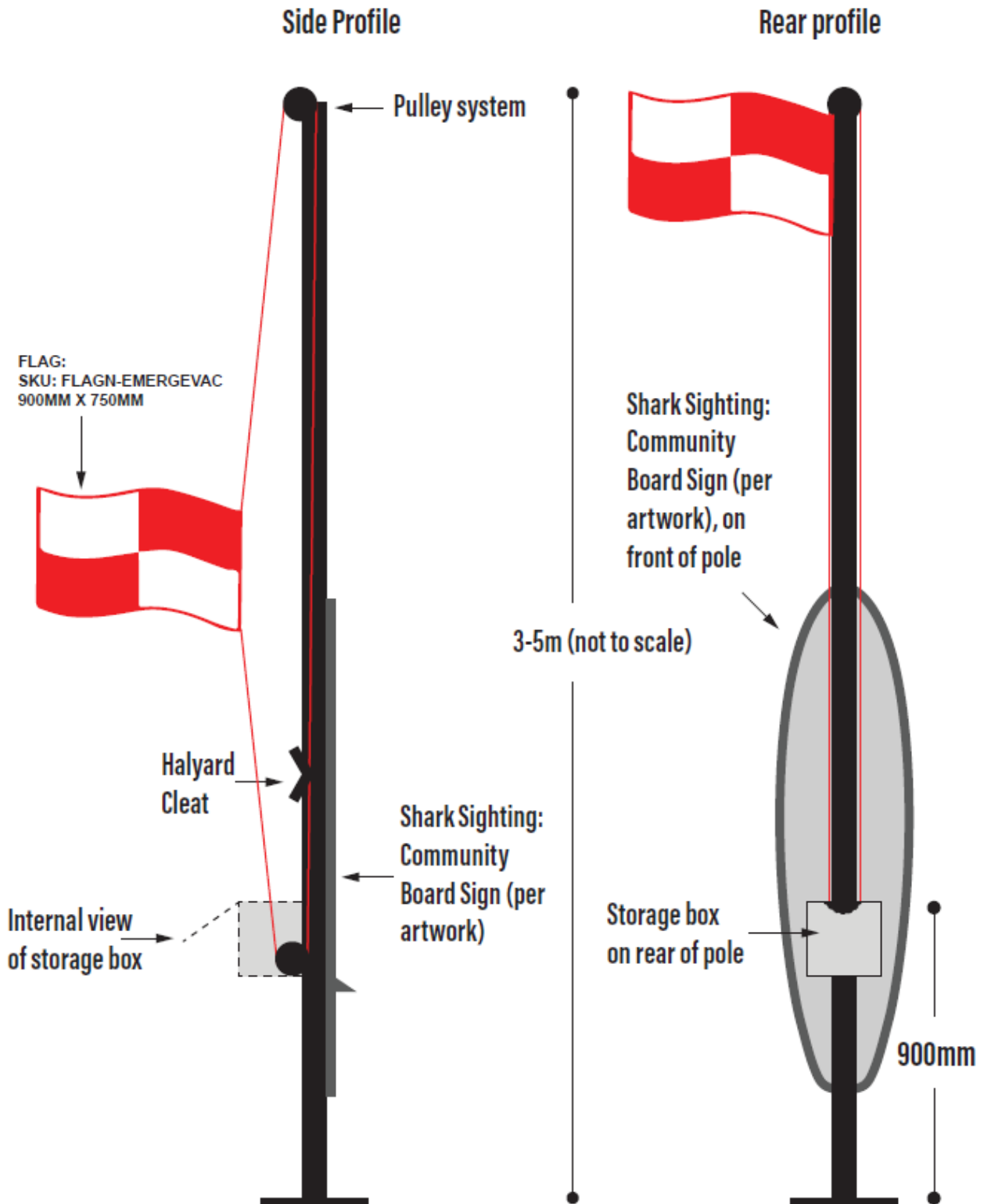
Name	Role / Position	14/1	15/1	16/1	17/1	18/1
Anthony Rosenzweig	Volunteer, CFS Streaky Bay	✓				
David Appleby	Father of Lance Appleby ( <i>most recent fatality</i> )		✓	✓	✓	
Damian Carter	Chief Executive Officer District Council of Streaky Bay	✓				✓
Daniel Lee	Local Surfer and PWC Operator					✓
David Coombe	SAAS Paramedic	✓				
David 'Johnno' Johnson	Surfer, VACSWIM Instructor in Charge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dion Edmunds	Former Commercial Fisherman, Streaky Bay Marine Products,					✓
Gemma Bawden	Secretary, Mid-West Board Riders Association					✓
Hayley Birch-Bruce	Surf Instructor Sceale Bay Surf School	✓				
Isaac Deluchi	Paramedic, Surfer ( <i>was in the water during the latest attack</i> )	✓				
Jess Davis	Community Development, District Council of Streaky Bay	✓		✓		✓
Leroy Johnson	Surfer, Lifelong friend of Lance Appleby.		✓			
Jonas Woolford	Abalone Diver / Surfer / Tourism Provider	✓				
Lo Goodhue	Council Information Officer, District Council of Streaky Bay			✓		
Lynly Kerin	Administrator, Streaky Bay Hospital				✓	
Marley Fairclough	Teacher, SLSSA Member (Penong)	✓	✓			
Rob 'Spike' Minnican	Long term Local Surfer, Environmental Advocate					✓
Sam Tefler, MP	Member for Flinders, <i>Shadow Minister for Local Government</i>				✓	
Suzie Kenny	Personal Assistant to Shadow Minister for Local Government					✓
Travis Barber	Mayor, District Council of Streaky Bay <i>Former commercial fisherman</i>	✓			✓	
Trevlyn Smith	SASES District Officer, Streaky Bay	✓				✓
Tobin Woolford	President, Mid-West Board Riders Association	✓				

# Appendix C – Proposed Alert Flagpole Design

## OPTION 1



## OPTION 2



## PROPOSED FLAGPOLE DESIGN

### User Instructions text

## USING THE *EVACUATE THE WATER* FLAG

### Report a Sighting

- If you see a shark, or a shark has been reported in the immediate area, raise the 'red & white flag' and loop halyard (rope) to the cleat so that it is secure.
  - Write on the Board the date and time of the sighting.
- Include a brief description of the shark (e.g., size, species if known) and the location (e.g., "200m off Surfers Beach").
- Report via Shark Sighting webpage using the following QR Code:



### Follow Safety Guidance

- Check the board regularly for updates before entering the water.
  - Follow any posted warnings or advice.

### Stay Informed

- Share information responsibly with other community members.
- Lower the flag and remove old sightings from the board after 48 hours unless advised otherwise.

### In Case of Emergency

If someone is in immediate danger, **call 000** and alert emergency services.

### Remember:

The Flag and board are for community awareness and should not replace official notifications or safety measures.



Our reference: A6869538

7 May 2025

Mr Kyriakos Toumazos  
Executive  
Seafood Industry South Australia

Email: Clause 6(1)

**FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE**

2 Hamra Avenue  
West Beach SA  
GPO Box 1625  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Tel (08) 8207 5333  
www.pir.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Toumazos,

Following shark related fatalities at the Granites (via Streaky Bay) in October 2023 and January 2025, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) recently held discussions with members of the Mid West Coast Surfriders Association (MWCSA) and the District Council of Streaky Bay regarding shark interactions in the vicinity.

These bodies raised community safety concerns around shark mitigation, and collectively proposed that the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development consider the implementation of a Section 79 Notice under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007 - Temporary prohibition of certain fishing activities*.

The Minister has indicated a willingness to consider the implementation of a Section 79 Notice, subject to stakeholder consultation. Trialling such a closure is out of respect for the families of the recent shark attack victims and to address local community members' concerns.

Attached at **Appendix A** is a map with coordinates defining the proposed boundaries potentially applying to the Section 79 Notice prohibiting certain fishing activities adjacent to the Granites surf location.

The Section 79 Notice would prohibit *all* commercial and recreational fishing activities, with the exception of the taking of Rock Lobster and Abalone by hand (diving). Any Abalone taken however would need to be shucked outside the closure area. Any Notice would initially be implemented for a period of 12 months during which time a review would be conducted.

I acknowledge the need for balance between community safety expectations in the marine environment, and the operations of commercial fishers in otherwise sustainably managed fisheries - and I appreciate your understanding in this regard.

Such considerations affect fishing industry and community stakeholders in various ways and stakeholder impacts must be considered carefully. Accordingly, I seek a consolidated response from Seafood Industry South Australia on the proposed Section 79 Notice by 30 May 2025.

Should you have any further questions, please direct them to Matt Read, A/Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture by email [matt.read@sa.gov.au](mailto:matt.read@sa.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Begg', with a stylized, cursive script.

Prof Gavin Begg  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**



## FISHERIES &amp; AQUACULTURE

2 Hamra Avenue  
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Tel (08) 8207 5333  
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Our reference: A6869538

7 May 2025

Mr Asher Dezsery  
Executive Officer  
RecFish SA

Email: Clause 6(1) @recfishsa.org.au

Dear Mr Dezsery

Following shark related fatalities at the Granites (via Streaky Bay) in October 2023 and January 2025, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) recently held discussions with members of the Mid West Coast Surfriders Association (MWCSA) and the District Council of Streaky Bay regarding shark interactions in the vicinity.

These bodies raised community safety concerns around shark mitigation, and collectively proposed that the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development consider the implementation of a Section 79 Notice under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007 - Temporary prohibition of certain fishing activities*.

The Minister has indicated a willingness to consider the implementation of a Section 79 Notice, subject to stakeholder consultation. Trialling such a closure is out of respect for the families of the recent shark attack victims and to address local community members' concerns.

Attached at **Appendix A** is a map with coordinates defining the proposed boundaries potentially applying to the Section 79 Notice prohibiting fishing activities adjacent to the Granites surf location.

The Section 79 Notice would prohibit *all* recreational and commercial fishing activity, with the exception of the taking of Rock Lobster and Abalone by hand (diving). Any Abalone taken however would need to be shucked outside the closure area. Any Notice would initially be implemented for a period of 12 months during which time a review would be conducted.

I acknowledge there must be a balance between community safety expectations in the marine environment, and the activities of recreational fishers in otherwise sustainably managed fisheries - and I appreciate your understanding in this regard.

Such considerations affect fishing industry and community stakeholders in various ways and stakeholder impacts must be considered carefully. Accordingly, I seek a consolidated response from RecFish SA on the proposed Section 79 Notice by 30 May 2025.

Should you have any further questions, please direct them to Matt Read, A/Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture by email [matt.read@sa.gov.au](mailto:matt.read@sa.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Begg', with a stylized, cursive script.

Prof Gavin Begg  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

**From:** Porter, Karen (PIRSA)  
**To:** Clause 6(1) >; Carter Damian - STREAKYBAY; Clause 6(1) @members.streakybay.sa.gov.au; Darter, Gary (PIRSA); Read, Matt (PIRSA); Mid West Coast Surfriders Association Inc. <Clause 6(1)>; Begg, Gavin (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Clause 6(1) @streakybay.sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** AGENDA - District Council of Streaky Bay | PIRSA meeting - Proposed closure feedback  
**Date:** Thursday, 19 June 2025 9:15:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[A6968537 Agenda - meeting with DC Streaky Bay Res79 progression.pdf](#)  
[Appx A - Proposed s79 closure - the Granites.pdf](#)

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OFFICIAL

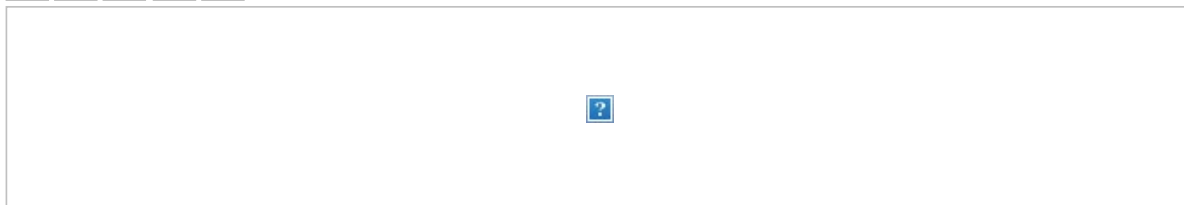
Hi All,

Please find meeting papers attached for today's meeting at 3:00pm.

With kind regards,

Karen

**Karen Porter** | Executive Support Officer to Executive Director & Director Operations  
Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**  
Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue, West Beach SA 5024  
GPO Box 1625 Adelaide SA 5001  
**T:** +61 8 8429 0131 | **E:** [karen.porter@sa.gov.au](mailto:karen.porter@sa.gov.au)  
[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



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DATE 19 June 2025 – 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm  
MS Teams

## PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture (F&A) & D.C. of Streaky Bay Re: Proposed s.79 closure to fishing activity (the Granites)

*We would like to acknowledge this land that we meet on today as the traditional lands for the Kaurna People and we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.*

*PIRSA would like to acknowledge its support to the White Ribbon initiative and ending the violence against women and children.*

### Meeting Principles:

- *Be respectful and courteous towards other participants.*
- *Aggressive and abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.*
- *Observe confidentiality and exercise tact and discretion when dealing with sensitive issues.*

**Attendees:** Gavin Begg (Executive Director Fisheries & Aquaculture / Chair), Matt Read (a/Director Operations PIRSA F&A), Gary Darter (a/General Manager Operations Support), Mayor Travis Barber (DC of Streaky Bay), Damian Carter (CEO DC of Streaky Bay), Clause 6(1)

**Apologies:** Tobin Woolford

Item	Item name	Form of Info	Lead
1.	Welcome and Apologies	Verbal	G Begg
2.	<b>Feedback</b> re: proposed s79 closure to fishing activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seafood Industry SA [stakeholder fisheries]</li> <li>- Rec Fish SA</li> <li>- Other stakeholders</li> </ul>	Verbal	G Begg
3.	<b>Gear type</b> discussion	Verbal	All
4.	<b>Zone</b> Boundary discussion	Verbal	All
5.	Summary	Verbal	G Begg
6.	Other Business	Verbal	All

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** Assessment of Responses - proposed s79 Granites Closure

**Start:** Wed 18/06/2025 12:00 PM  
**End:** Wed 18/06/2025 1:00 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA)  
**Required Attendees:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA); Lopez, Lambertus (PIRSA); Lear, Jordan (PIRSA); Matt Read; Jones, Annabel (PIRSA); Drew, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI)

Hi Team,

A meeting to consider RecFish, MFA, and Tobin Woolford and Clause 6(1) responses to proposed s79 closure around the Granites.

**Responses** are in the first OBJ folder link.

Proposed **Geographical Closure** at Appx A

**Correspondence** to SISA and Recfish at Appx C and D (no Appx B)

Regards

Gary

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

**From:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 July 2025 2:58 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Mat (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA); Darter, Gary (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** FW: Council Response – Proposed Trial Closure of the Granites Area  
**Attachments:** 2025.07.13 Letter to RecFishSA.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hi Mat – fyi – I have also spoken to Damian.  
Regards  
Gavin

**From:** Damian Carter <[redacted]@streakybay.sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 July 2025 12:46 PM  
**To:** Executive Officer <[redacted]@recfishsa.org.au>  
**Cc:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>; [redacted]@internode.on.net; [redacted]@recfishsa.org.au; [redacted]@recfishsa.org.au; [redacted]@hotmail.com; [redacted]@hotmail.com; [redacted]@gmail.com; [redacted]@gmail.com; [redacted]@tackleworldpl.com.au; [redacted]@live.com.au; [redacted]@flinders.edu.au; [redacted]@gmail.com; [redacted]@members.streakybay.sa.gov.au  
**Subject:** Council Response – Proposed Trial Closure of the Granites Area

Hi Asher,

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed trial closure of the Granites area to lobster pots, and for sharing the concerns of RecFish SA.

As your correspondence was circulated to a number of stakeholders, I considered it important to provide a written response to clearly articulate Council’s position on this matter. Please find our response attached.

I remain open to further discussion and would be happy to speak with you in person or via phone at your convenience.

Kind Regards,

**Damian Carter – Chief Executive Officer**  
P.08 8626 1001  
W. [www.streakybay.sa.gov.au](http://www.streakybay.sa.gov.au)  
PO Box 179 STREAKY BAY SA 5680





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**From:** Executive Officer <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@recfishsa.org.au](mailto:[redacted]@recfishsa.org.au)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 July 2025 5:00 PM  
**To:** DCStreaky <[DCStreaky@streakybay.sa.gov.au](mailto:DCStreaky@streakybay.sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <[Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au)>; <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@internode.on.net](mailto:[redacted]@internode.on.net); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@recfishsa.org.au](mailto:[redacted]@recfishsa.org.au); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@recfishsa.org.au](mailto:[redacted]@recfishsa.org.au); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@hotmail.com](mailto:[redacted]@hotmail.com); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@hotmail.com](mailto:[redacted]@hotmail.com); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@gmail.com](mailto:[redacted]@gmail.com); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@gmail.com](mailto:[redacted]@gmail.com); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@live.com.au](mailto:[redacted]@live.com.au); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@live.com.au](mailto:[redacted]@live.com.au); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@tackleworldpl.com.au](mailto:[redacted]@tackleworldpl.com.au); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@tackleworldpl.com.au](mailto:[redacted]@tackleworldpl.com.au); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@tackleworldpl.com.au](mailto:[redacted]@tackleworldpl.com.au); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@flinders.edu.au](mailto:[redacted]@flinders.edu.au); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@gmail.com](mailto:[redacted]@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Att: Damian Carter- Letter from RecFish SA

Good afternoon Damian,

Attached is correspondence from RecFish SA- Peak body for recreational fishing in South Australia.

I'd love to be able to expand further in person, however in the short term implore you to discuss potential arrangements regarding the proposed Granites fishing area closure.

Community members within the Streaky Bay area would like to be given the opportunity to represent their requirements and input to the issue being presented to state government on behalf of them by Streaky Bay Council.

RecFish SA would like to offer potential support and consensus of an arrangement on the basis Streaky Bay community members have the opportunity and ability to be heard and considered as recreational fishers throughout the decision and information process.

kind regards



**ASHER DEZERY**  
Executive Officer

<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted]  
<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] [@recfishsa.org.au](mailto:[redacted]@recfishsa.org.au)



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**ABN:** 93 970 509 459

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29 Alfred Terrace

PO Box 179

Streaky Bay SA 5680

[www.streakybay.sa.gov.au](http://www.streakybay.sa.gov.au)

13<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Asher Dezsery  
Executive Officer,  
RecFish SA

Via Email: [info@recfishsa.org.au](mailto:info@recfishsa.org.au)

Dear Mr Dezsery,

**RE: COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CONCERNS REGARDING GRANITES AREA LOBSTER POT CLOSURE**

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed trial closure of the Granites area to lobster pots and your expressed concerns on behalf of RecFish SA.

Given that your correspondence was copied to a number of individuals, I felt it was important to provide a written response to clearly outline Council's position on this matter. I remain open and willing to discuss the issue in person or over the phone, should you wish to continue the conversation.

*Misrepresentation of Council's Position*

I must begin by stating that the letter you received represents a complete mischaracterisation of Council's actions and intentions. I understand how this misunderstanding may have arisen, as the complainant has had multiple interactions with both Council and elected members, and it appears there may have been some inconsistencies in how those discussions have been interpreted or conveyed.

Council has not disregarded the community voice. Every Councillor and I have personally spoken with the individual involved and considered their perspective at length. Additionally, as I understand that individual has also represented their viewpoint to PIRSA in relation to the closure as well. After exhausting those conversations, Council determined that a formal deputation to the meeting was unnecessary and would not offer any new insight.

Importantly, facilitating a deputation from this individual would likely have been problematic. Given the intensity of community sentiment surrounding this issue, including strong emotions and traumatic experiences tied to the recent tragedies at the Granites, there was a real risk of conflict during the meeting. The complainant's presence may have incited a volatile and emotionally charged environment. The large majority of our community support the closure, and their attendance in opposition to the complainant would have further intensified the situation. For that reason, Council determined that it would be far more responsible and respectful to continue such discussions in private settings where perspectives could be shared constructively and without disruption.

*Community-Driven Response and Shark Mitigation Rationale*

Council has provided a letter of support, supporting the temporary closure of the Granites to lobster potting following direct requests from local board riders and numerous other community members. The decision also aligns with prior community feedback received during the development of a shark mitigation strategy prepared in collaboration with Surf Life Saving South Australia.

This strategy was initiated in response to the devastating loss of two lives at the Granites in under two years – both due to shark attacks. In the most recent case involving the tragic death of Lance Appleby, there were credible reports of a shark interacting with a lobster pot allegedly baited with tuna being retrieved from the water. These events have left an indelible impact on our close-knit community.

The community's response to Lance's passing was immediate and heartfelt. Council was compelled to step in and provide substantial logistical support simply due to the scale of the grief and the number of people who wished to pay their respects. This included opening the Streaky Bay Hall for the memorial service, blocking off the adjacent carpark, coordinating access and setup with community members, and providing operational assistance throughout the day. The attendance far exceeded what could have been anticipated – a clear sign of how deeply the tragedy had affected people from all walks of life in our region.

Further, in recognition of Lance's importance to the local community, local sporting bodies formally dedicated a round of the local football/netball season to his memory. This was not a symbolic gesture – it was a community-wide act of collective mourning and solidarity.

This level of public response shows that this is not a niche issue affecting a select group. It is a deeply felt concern for a large portion of the Streaky Bay community, who are actively seeking ways to reduce risk, honour those lost, and move forward with dignity and care. The 12-month trial closure of lobster pot placement at the Granites is one such measure. A measure seen in Western Australia and supported by many who use the water for both recreation and work.

#### *Clarifying the Scope and Impact*

Contrary to the suggestion that recreational fishing is being broadly banned, this proposal solely restricts the placement of lobster pots in the defined Granites area. Individuals are still free to fish, dive, spearfish, and collect lobster by hand. As such, the closure affects only a small number of local individuals – all of whom are well aware of alternative potting locations in the surrounding area.

The rationale for isolating lobster pots from this location is based on reducing the amount of time baited attractants such as tuna remain suspended in the water column. These attractants can linger for hours, drawing the attention of large predators like sharks into a high-use area. This extended presence of baited pots creates a heightened and unnecessary risk in a zone heavily used by swimmers, surfers, and divers. Unlike other fishing methods that involve brief interactions with the water or bait, lobster pots are designed to remain submerged and baited over long periods of time – and this distinction is central to the safety concerns raised by the community.

The impact on the region's thousands of recreational visitors will be negligible. This is not an attempt to limit fishing – it is a targeted safety measure based on community input, risk assessment, and lived experience.

It's important to stress that in communities like Streaky Bay, most people both fish and surf. If it's calm, you fish; if it's rough, you take the board out. This is not a "surfers versus fishers" debate. This is a traumatised community trying to find balance between their love for the ocean and their need to feel safe in it.

#### *Robust Consultation and Community Consensus*

The claim that Council has bypassed community consultation is unfounded. Council undertook community engagement in partnership with Surf Life Saving SA in developing its shark mitigation strategy. PIRSA, as the authority responsible for the formal closure process, also facilitated a consultation process as part of its regulatory obligations.

Your suggestion that Council must now "discuss these priorities with the broader community" is based on incorrect assumptions. The reality is that Council already has – and continues to do so. The overwhelming majority of feedback received has supported the trial closure. This includes support from recreational and professional fishers alike.

To suggest consensus has not been sought is simply not accurate. There is community consensus – and it favours the closure. To withdraw the closure now would create significantly more division, not less.

### *Respecting Community Process and Healing*

Given the depth of grief experienced by the Streaky Bay community, we respectfully ask that RecFish SA recognise and support the process our community is currently going through. This is not simply a policy decision or a fisheries access matter — it is a response to an extraordinary and traumatic series of events. The people of Streaky Bay are still grappling with the emotional and psychological impacts of these shark fatalities. They are searching for tangible, proactive steps to create a sense of safety and control in waters that are fundamental to their way of life.

The temporary closure of a specific fishing method in one small area is one of many actions being trialled as part of this broader community healing process. It is essential that RecFish SA approach this situation not only with procedural or economic considerations, but with empathy, understanding, and respect for the collective journey the community is navigating.

### *Final Remarks*

The assertion that Council is obstructing community voices is baseless. The real issue here is that one individual has not achieved the outcome they wanted and is now escalating the issue externally. This is not a failure of process or consultation — it is a case of one person refusing to accept a broadly supported decision.

Council is, and will always be, open to genuine, respectful, and informed discussion with community members and stakeholder groups. But we also have a responsibility to ensure that public debate does not further traumatise a grieving community or descend into conflict driven by misinformation.

I urge RecFish SA to take a more balanced approach by seeking broader feedback from within our region before forming conclusions or circulating positions that are not representative of our community. I would welcome the opportunity to speak further, either by phone or in person.

Yours sincerely



**DAMIAN CARTER**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STREAKY BAY

**From:** [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Correspondence to SISA Re: Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 4 June 2025 3:03:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [image006.jpg](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)

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**From:** Pat Tripodi <eo@mfasa.org.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 May 2025 9:26 PM  
**To:** Removed from Disclosure Log  
**Cc:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Correspondence to SISA Re: Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)

Hi Kyri

Please see the response from the MFA to the proposed Section 79.

The MFA would like to highlight some of the facts surrounding and leading up to last tragic fatality at the Granites. The only fishing gear set in the vicinity of the Granites surf break were Recreational Rock Lobster Pots. A report alleges they were set with tuna heads used as bait. No commercial fishing gear of any kind was in the vicinity of the Granites surf break at the time. As such commercial fishing activities should not be subjected to restrictions or loss of area due to poor actions and fishing practices by the Recreational fishing community.

The MFA will only support this Sect. 79 notice on the proviso that it's a **one off**, interim arrangement. Closing off areas sets a dangerous precedence and loss of access, and it could be inferred this could apply to other surf breaks in SA. We would like it acknowledged in **writing** that Sect. 79's will not be used for this purpose in the future. This initial Sect. 79 will provide ample time for the Government/community/water users to develop other more appropriate shark mitigation strategies.

We recommend that PIRSA immediately develops a Code of Conduct for shared water users (surfers and fishers) and outline expectations and acceptable practices.

The Government to investigate and fund a shark surveillance program (with a regional focus) to provide a warning system for water users about the presence of a shark/s in the area in conjunction with other States.

Regards

**Pat Tripodi**

Executive Officer

Marine Fishers Association Inc.

M 0429 000 282

[eo@mfasa.org.au](mailto:eo@mfasa.org.au)

[www.marinefishersa.com.au](http://www.marinefishersa.com.au)

PO Box 546, Port Adelaide SA 5015

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**From:** Kyriakos Toumazos <Removed from Disclosure Log>

**Sent:** Thursday, 8 May 2025 1:36 PM

**To** Removed from Disclosure Log  
Removed from Disclosure Log

**Subject:** Fw: Correspondence to SISA Re: Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)

Hello Members

Trust that you are well

Please find attached information for your consideration

Kind Regards

Kyriakos (Kyri) Toumazos

Executive

Seafood Industry South Australia (SISA)

Mobile: Removed from Disclosure Log

Email: Removed from Disclosure Log

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**From:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 9:56 AM

**To** Removed from Disclosure Log <Removed from Disclosure Log>

**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <[Matt.Read@sa.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Read@sa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Correspondence to SISA Re: Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning Kyri,

Please see attached correspondence to SISA seeking comment on a proposed s79 closure regarding commercial fishing activities in waters around 'The Granites' (via Streaky Bay). The proposed closure would apply to both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

It would be appreciated if you can kindly provide a consolidated commercial fishing industry response on the proposal by 30 May 2025. Contact details for your response are provided in the correspondence.

Kind regards

Gary

**Gary DARTER** | A/General Manager Operations Support

Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue, WEST BEACH 5024

Removed from  
P: Disclosure Log E: [gary.darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:gary.darter2@sa.gov.au)

[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



*The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.*

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**From:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 May 2025 12:45:53 PM

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[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

On 8 May 2025 12:01 pm, Tobin Woolford <[tobin@eyrewoolfabalone.com.au](mailto:tobin@eyrewoolfabalone.com.au)> wrote:

Hi Gary,  
The section 79 was supposed to allow shucking of abalone but not discarding the viscera inside the area, please make this change.  
It was confirmed by Travis and myself with Gavin via email after the meeting.  
Best regards,  
Tobin  
Sent from my iPhone

On 8 May 2025, at 10:14 am, Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <[Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au)> wrote:

### OFFICIAL

Good morning Travis, [Clause 6\(1\)](#), Tobin, Surfriders and DC Streaky Bay,

To keep you informed - this morning I forwarded correspondence to Seafood Industry South Australia (SISA – representing SA commercial fisheries) and RecFish SA (peak SA recreational fishing body) seeking comment on a proposed Section 79 Notice (Fisheries Management Act 2011) prohibiting certain fishing activities adjacent to the Granites surf location. Comments have been sought by 30 May 2025.

The Section 79 Notice would prohibit *all* commercial and recreational fishing activities, with the exception of the taking of Rock Lobster and Abalone by hand (diving). Any Abalone taken however would need to be shucked outside the closure area. Any Notice would initially be implemented for a period of 12 months during which time a review would be conducted. A map of the draft closure area is attached for reference and represents discussions you have held with Matt Read (A/Director Operations).

PIRSA will consider commercial and recreational comment received and revert back to you after 30 May 2025.

Kind regards

Gary Darter

**Gary DARTER** | A/General Manager Operations Support

Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue, WEST BEACH 5024

P: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | E: [gary.darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:gary.darter2@sa.gov.au)

[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)

[<image001.png>](#)

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*The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.*

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[<Appx A - Proposed s79 closure - the Granites.pdf>](#)

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

**From:** Executive Officer <Executiveofficer@recfishsa.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 June 2025 10:53 AM  
**To:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA); O'Brien, Mat (PIRSA); <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> @internode.on.net; <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>  
<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>  
<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> @tackleworldpl.com.au; <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> @flinders.edu.au;  
<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>  
**Subject:** RE: Correspondence to RecFish SA Re: Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Gary,

As discussed with the Minister and various PIRSA staff, the concern from a recreational standpoint is:

- The unnecessary closure of shore based fishing in particular being that recreational fishing is not a known contributor to Great White Shark attacks.
- The precedence this creates for other areas around the state, including Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and Metro coastlines (Mid Coast Surf Reserve) in scope of recent shark attacks at Port Noarlunga. RecFish SA would like to note the same amount of Great White Shark attacks have occurred at Port Noarlunga in the same time period (2).
- The concern with councils being encouraged by PIRSA to take on the remit of managing natural resources/fishing related concerns.

The proposal was not co-designed in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and was instead presented after PIRSA committed on-site resources and expensing to engage with Streaky Bay council and workshop the concept. It is difficult to now work backwards on an unsuitable concept.

Proposals around suitable activity restrictions by PIRSA are perplexing, particularly with scientifically quantified shark attractants remaining in the proposed area, including the generation of sound attractants by underwater harvesting activities such as noisy mechanically propelled submersible abalone cages, low frequency and pulsing sounds such as repetitive four stroke engine idling and gearbox noise (over a dozen scientific papers have been written on this), harvest noise by metallic instruments and more. As PIRSA and DEW are aware, noise attraction is one of the key attractants from 1 of the 2 GWS cage tour dive boats operational on the Eyre Peninsula (who do not have a burley license). Great White Shark interactions continue to remain predictable, reliable and commercially viable however without the use of burley by these operators.

Removal of commercial Abalone harvest area will of cause require negotiation with the Abalone industry and potential compensation for loss of access.

RecFish SA have sympathy for the recent events and have previously engaged in promoting pathways forwards for shark mitigation with experts such as <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>

It is not clear or well communicated by PIRSA how line fishing closures and particularly shore based fishing closures will assist in mitigating Shark attacks at Granites surf break.

Important and relevant scientific reports or information would be beneficial for Recfish SA to be able to formulate a position.

regards



**ASHER DEZSERY**

*Executive Officer*

Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1)

@recfishsa.org.au



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**From:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 June 2025 12:24 PM  
**To:** Executive Officer <Clause 6(1)@recfishsa.org.au>  
**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Correspondence to RecFish SA Re: Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon Asher,

With reference to the email thread below, the consultation period for the proposed s79 closure around the Granites (via Streaky Bay) closed last Friday. 30/5/25. Should RecFish SA wish to provide a comment in regards the proposal, I respectfully ask that this is provided by COB this **Wednesday 4 June**.

Please reach out to Matt Read, A/Director Operations, should you have any questions or for formal comment to be provided

Kind regards

Gary Darter  
**Gary DARTER** | A/General Manager Operations Support  
Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**  
Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue, WEST BEACH 5024  
**P:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** [gary.darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:gary.darter2@sa.gov.au)  
[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



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**From:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA)

**Sent:** Thursday, 8 May 2025 9:59 AM

**To:** Executive Officer - <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@recfishsa.org.au](mailto:[redacted]@recfishsa.org.au)>

**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <[Matt.Read@sa.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Read@sa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Correspondence to RecFish SA Re: Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)

Good morning Asher,

Please see attached correspondence to RecFish SA seeking comment on a proposed s79 closure regarding recreational fishing activities in waters around 'The Granites' (via Streaky Bay). The proposed closure would apply to both the recreational and commercial fishing sectors.

It would be appreciated if you can kindly provide a consolidated recreational fishing industry response on the proposal by 30 May 2025. Contact details for your response are provided in the correspondence.

Kind regards

Gary Darter

**Gary DARTER** | A/General Manager Operations Support  
Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**  
Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue, WEST BEACH 5024

**P:** <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> [redacted] | **E:** [gary.darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:gary.darter2@sa.gov.au)

[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



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**From:** [tobin@eyrewoolfabalone.com.au](mailto:tobin@eyrewoolfabalone.com.au)  
**To:** [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\); mwcsa.inc@outlook.com; cr.Barber@members.streakybay.sa.gov.au;](mailto:Darter, Gary (PIRSA); mwcsa.inc@outlook.com; cr.Barber@members.streakybay.sa.gov.au;)  
[Removed from](#)  
**Cc:** [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](mailto:Read, Matt (PIRSA))  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)  
**Date:** Monday, 12 May 2025 5:14:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Hi Gary,

Sorry for the late reply, I had a big week on Flinders Island and diving last week when this was sent around, I have only just had time to look at the map in more detail. The line in Westall Bay should be on the beach on the north side, There is commercial species fished on the rocks of that point, the discussion in the meeting was that the line in Westall Bay could be much further north but the point is a good landmark to see, the beach would be a much better line to identify than the middle of the point. Something like 32.54.00"S rather than 32.54.04"S.

Best regards,

Tobin

---

**From:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 May 2025 10:14 AM  
**To:** [mwcsa.inc@outlook.com](mailto:mwcsa.inc@outlook.com); [cr.Barber@members.streakybay.sa.gov.au](mailto:cr.Barber@members.streakybay.sa.gov.au);  
[Removed from Disclosure Log](#) Tobin Woolford <[tobin@eyrewoolfabalone.com.au](mailto:tobin@eyrewoolfabalone.com.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <[Matt.Read@sa.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Read@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Proposed s79 closure - The Granites (Streaky Bay)

## OFFICIAL

Good morning Travis, Noel, Tobin, Surfriders and DC Streaky Bay,

To keep you informed - this morning I forwarded correspondence to Seafood Industry South Australia (SISA – representing SA commercial fisheries) and RecFish SA (peak SA recreational fishing body) seeking comment on a proposed Section 79 Notice (Fisheries Management Act 2011) prohibiting certain fishing activities adjacent to the Granites surf location. Comments have been sought by 30 May 2025.

The Section 79 Notice would prohibit *all* commercial and recreational fishing activities, with the exception of the taking of Rock Lobster and Abalone by hand (diving). Any Abalone taken however would need to be shucked outside the closure area. Any Notice would initially be implemented for a period of 12 months during which time a review would be conducted. A map of the draft closure area is attached for reference and represents discussions you have held with Matt Read (A/Director Operations).

PIRSA will consider commercial and recreational comment received and revert back to you after 30 May 2025.

Kind regards

Gary Darter

**Gary DARTER** | A/General Manager Operations Support

Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue, WEST BEACH 5024

**P:** Removed from Disclosure Log **E:** [gary.darter2@sa.gov.au](mailto:gary.darter2@sa.gov.au)

[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



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**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

**From:** Darter, Gary (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Friday, 11 July 2025 7:46 AM  
**To:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA); Read, Matt (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** FW: Att: Damian Carter- Letter from RecFish SA  
**Attachments:** Streaky Bay Council- Granites Closure .pdf

Hi Gavin and Matt,  
 Recfish SA are referencing the broader closure to all rec fishing which is no longer proposed. Important the Minister is aware of the additional correspondence from Recfish prior to signing the s79  
 Regards  
 Gary

**From:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 July 2025 6:47 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Mat (PIRSA) <Mat.O'Brien2@sa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Att: Damian Carter- Letter from RecFish SA

## OFFICIAL

Hi Mat – fyi. Note today (prior to this letter) I discussed the concerns raised by a local rec fisher with the Streaky Bay Council Mayor and CEO. Both were still supportive of progressing the s79. Will let you know if we hear further from the Council following this letter from RecFish.  
 Regards  
 Gavin

**From:** Executive Officer <Executiveofficer@recfishsa.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 July 2025 5:00 PM  
**To:** [dcstreaky@streakybay.sa.gov.au](mailto:dcstreaky@streakybay.sa.gov.au)  
**Cc:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>; @internode.on.net; @recfishsa.org.au; @hotmail.com; @gmail.com; @tackleworldpl.com.au; @live.com.au; @flinders.edu.au; @gmail.com  
**Subject:** Att: Damian Carter- Letter from RecFish SA

Good afternoon Damian,

Attached is correspondence from RecFish SA- Peak body for recreational fishing in South Australia.

I'd love to be able to expand further in person, however in the short term implore you to discuss potential arrangements regarding the proposed Granites fishing area closure.

Community members within the Streaky Bay area would like to be given the opportunity to represent their requirements and input to the issue being presented to state government on behalf of them by Streaky Bay Council.

RecFish SA would like to offer potential support and consensus of an arrangement on the basis Streaky Bay community members have the opportunity and ability to be heard and considered as recreational fishers throughout the decision and information process.

kind regards



**ASHER DEZSERY**  
*Executive Officer*

Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1)

@recfishsa.org.au



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Dear Damian Carter- Streaky Bay Council CEO,

RecFish SA represent 360,000 fishers within SA- understanding the tremendous contribution the industry has on regional towns such as Streaky Bay. We invest significant resources into encouraging regional travel and recreational fishing participation, including a range of far-west coast fishing events and clinics we provide to the community at no cost.

Part of this business is immediately reliant on the ability for recreational fishers to engage in particular fishing activities- including niche opportunities such as Lobster pot fishing.

We have been closely engaged from a state department, organisation and community level, ensuring all positions are discussed and considered in regard to Shark interaction mitigation.

RecFish SA have discussed this personally with the Minister for Primary Industries, and we implore the Streaky Bay council to discuss these priorities with the broader community of Streaky Bay on all levels of water use.

We have worked closely with impacted stakeholders, including seeking feedback from those within the council area- as well as those who have been personally involved with shark interactions and/or significant injury from White Shark encounters who identified some concerns over the proposed Granites Closure. A closure of recreational fishing here is not supported and a best-practice guide was suggested.

RecFish SA are advising the Streaky Bay Council that stakeholder agreement and consensus is preferable in order for such significant motions to be acceptable by state government, and is encouraged in order to achieve community goals in a positive way.

Additional support will be granted for such proposals with consideration to reasonable and well-planned outcomes. In the case of the Granites area, RecFish SA believe the proposed area may be an over-reach of community safety and creates an abundance of conflict, suggesting particular activities are more important than others. This is creating a friction point within the community and RecFish SA seek to find a reasonable solution in order to progress this issue amongst all users of the Granites area.

In order to progress further, we wish to advise:

- The area proposed for no lobster pots and recreational fishing is excessively large, and encompasses significant recreational and commercial fishing access. Access to fishing area is protected by a variety of policies and compensation required for loss of access.
- The methodology of closing the area to fishing by by-passing all levels of stakeholder engagement challenges policies in stakeholder engagement circles.
- A consideration for consensus may be offered provided some flexibility is offered by Streaky Bay council, as conflicting information is being provided from the Streaky Bay community regarding their ability to be heard.

RecFish SA understand it is important to listen to all stakeholders impacted by events and changes in regulations, and are prepared to work through this to reach a suitable result.

In the meantime, RecFish SA are prepared to discuss this, present to council or endorse community members to be given the opportunity to speak and represent themselves as a relevant interested party or stakeholder as a rate payer. This is a responsibility of council to ensure state government are being provided a complete picture of community desires for outcomes if discussing such issues on behalf of those constituents.

Kind Regards

Asher Dezsery, EO RecFish SA



**From:** [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Kyriakos Toumazos](#)  
**Subject:** Streaky Bay S79 Rock Lobster pot closure  
**Date:** Thursday, 24 July 2025 1:21:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[Granites s79 Rock lobster pot closure map.pdf](#)

---

Hi Kyri

As discussed , please find attached the map with associated coordinates for the S79 closure at the Granites

Thanks

**Matt READ** | Director Operations  
Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**  
Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue, WEST BEACH 5024

**P:** Removed from Disclosure Log | **E:** [matt.read@sa.gov.au](mailto:matt.read@sa.gov.au)  
[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



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**From:** [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Begg, Gavin \(PIRSA\)](#); [Lopez, Lambertus \(PIRSA\)](#); [Lear, Jordan \(PIRSA\)](#); [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Annabel \(PIRSA\)](#); [Drew, Michael \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#)  
**Subject:** Summary of responses to proposed s79 Notice - The Granites  
**Date:** Tuesday, 17 June 2025 8:06:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Appx A - Proposed s79 closure - the Granites.obr](#)  
[APPX C - Letter to SISA re proposed s79 closure - Granites - May 2025.obr](#)  
[APPX D - Letter to RecFish SA re proposed s79 closure - Granites - May 2025.obr](#)

---

Hi Team,

To expedite discussions tomorrow, please see excerpts of relevant comments from stakeholders.  
 Jordan will be an apology

Regards

Gary

#### **MFA:**

The MFA would like to highlight some of the facts surrounding and leading up to last tragic fatality at the Granites. The only fishing gear set in the vicinity of the Granites surf break were Recreational Rock Lobster Pots. A report alleges they were set with tuna heads used as bait. No commercial fishing gear of any kind was in the vicinity of the Granites surf break at the time. As such commercial fishing activities should not be subjected to restrictions or loss of area due to poor actions and fishing practices by the Recreational fishing community.

The MFA will only support this Sect. 79 notice on the proviso that it's a **one off**, interim arrangement. Closing off areas sets a dangerous precedence and loss of access, and it could be inferred this could apply to other surf breaks in SA. We would like it acknowledged in **writing** that Sect. 79's will not be used for this purpose in the future. This initial Sect. 79 will provide ample time for the Government/community/water users to develop other more appropriate shark mitigation strategies.

We recommend that PIRSA immediately develops a Code of Conduct for shared water users (surfers and fishers) and outline expectations and acceptable practices.

The Government to investigate and fund a shark surveillance program (with a regional focus) to provide a warning system for water users about the presence of a shark/s in the area in conjunction with other States.

#### **RecFish SA**

As discussed with the Minister and various PIRSA staff, the concern from a recreational standpoint is:

- The unnecessary closure of shore based fishing in particular being that recreational fishing is not a known contributor to Great White Shark attacks.
- The precedence this creates for other areas around the state, including Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and Metro coastlines (Mid Coast Surf Reserve) in scope of recent shark attacks at Port Noarlunga. RecFish SA would like to note the same amount of Great White Shark attacks have occurred at Port Noarlunga in the same time period (2).
- The concern with councils being encouraged by PIRSA to take on the remit of

managing natural resources/fishing related concerns.

The proposal was not co-designed in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and was instead presented after PIRSA committed on-site resources and expensing to engage with Streaky Bay council and workshop the concept. It is difficult to now work backwards on an unsuitable concept.

Proposals around suitable activity restrictions by PIRSA are perplexing, particularly with scientifically quantified shark attractants remaining in the proposed area, including the generation of sound attractants by underwater harvesting activities such as noisy mechanically propelled submersible abalone cages, low frequency and pulsing sounds such as repetitive four stroke engine idling and gearbox noise (over a dozen scientific papers have been written on this), harvest noise by metallic instruments and more. As PIRSA and DEW are aware, noise attraction is one of the key attractants from 1 of the 2 GWS cage tour dive boats operational on the Eyre Peninsula (who do not have a burley license). Great White Shark interactions continue to remain predictable, reliable and commercially viable however without the use of burley by these operators.

Removal of commercial Abalone harvest area will of course require negotiation with the Abalone industry and potential compensation for loss of access.

RecFish SA have sympathy for the recent events and have previously engaged in promoting pathways forwards for shark mitigation with experts such as Clause 6(1) [REDACTED].

It is not clear or well communicated by PIRSA how line fishing closures and particularly shore based fishing closures will assist in mitigating Shark attacks at Granites surf break.

Important and relevant scientific reports or information would be beneficial for Recfish SA to be able to formulate a position

### **Tobin Woolford**

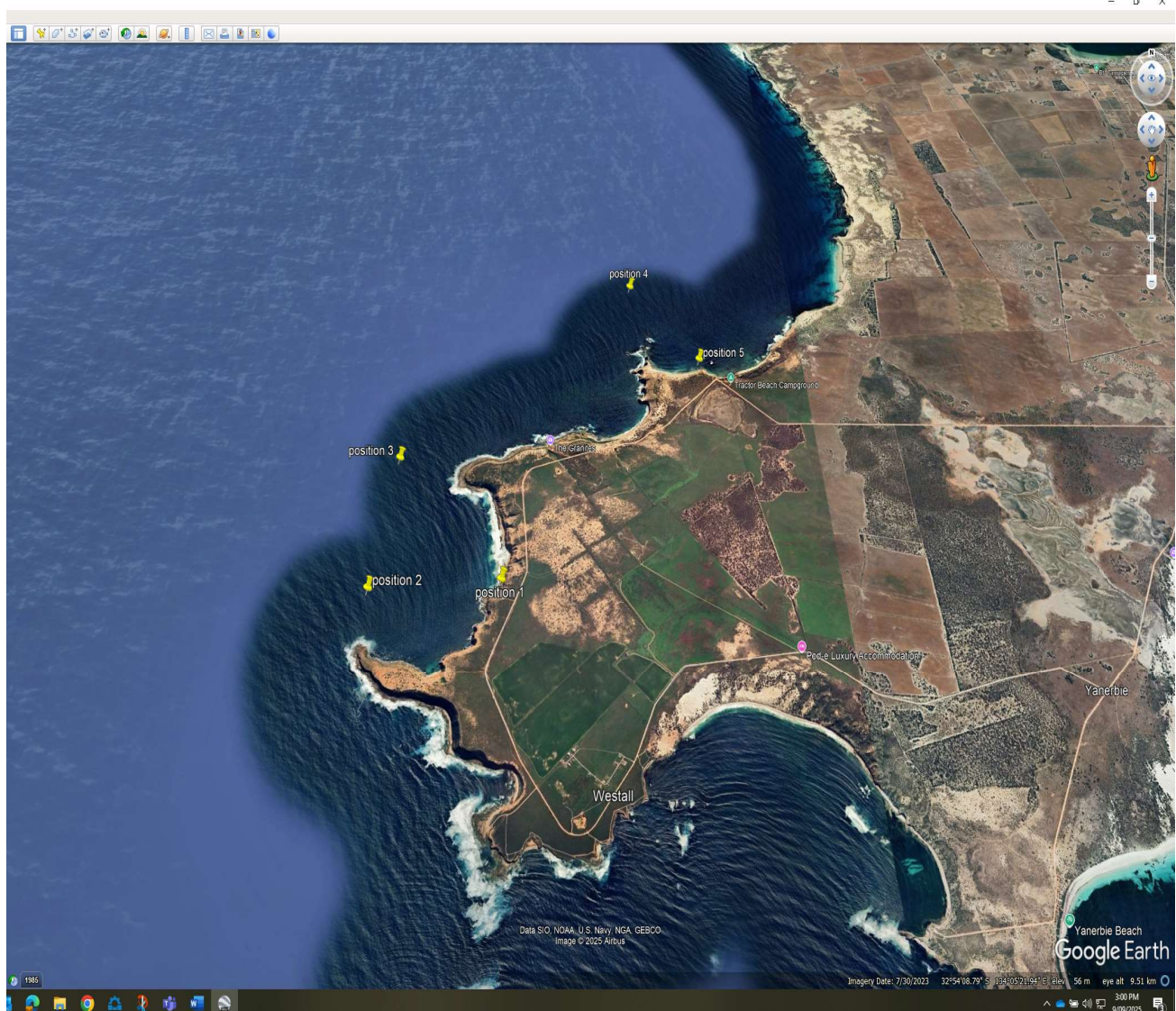
The section 79 was supposed to allow shucking of abalone but not discarding the viscera inside the area, please make this change.

It was confirmed by Travis and myself with Gavin via email after the meeting.

AND

The line in Westall Bay should be on the beach on the north side, There is commercial species fished on the rocks of that point, the discussion in the meeting was that the line in Westall Bay could be much further north but the point is a good landmark to see, the beach would be a much better line to identify than the middle of the point. Something like 32.54.00"S rather than 32.54.04"S.

Clause 6(1) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Begg, Gavin \(PIRSA\)](#); [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Porter, Karen \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: A6869538 A6869538 Proposed s79 Granites, consultation - Minute to ED - Workflow Task: Approval Required  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 May 2025 8:45:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [~WRD0001.ipq](#)  
[image001.gif](#)

---

Thanks Gavin

I confirmed the coordinates on the map with all parties, and all are happy to proceed due to the ease of utilising land marks on the Southern Boundary for reference

Thanks  
Matt

---

**From:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:29:31 PM  
**To:** Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Porter, Karen (PIRSA) <Karen.Porter@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: A6869538 A6869538 Proposed s79 Granites, consultation - Minute to ED - Workflow Task: Approval Required

### OFFICIAL

Hi Matt/Gary - Approved - please check with Council and MWCSA that area coordinates are correct before sending (suggest you send them the final map before letters go out).

Thanks  
Gavin

---

**From:** Objective Administrator <pirsa.darms@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 May 2025 4:00 PM  
**To:** Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** A6869538 A6869538 Proposed s79 Granites, consultation - Minute to ED - Workflow Task: Approval Required

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## Approval Required

*Requester* » Darter, Gary

*Approval Sequence* » Read, Matt » **You** » Porter, Karen

---

**Workflow:** Send for Approval

**Slip:** A6869538 A6869538 Proposed s79 Granites, consultation - Minute to ED

**Task:** [Approval Required](#)

---

## Workflow History

**Read, Matt** acting as Read, Matt chose **Approved** for document version **6.0**

Actioned on: 07-05-2025 15:59:58 Comment: "approved"

**Darter, Gary** acting as Initiator chose **Approval request** for document version **6.0**

Actioned on: 07-05-2025 13:59:39 Comment: "Initiated"

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