

GREAT WHITE SHARKS — CSIRO ANALYSIS

**34. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Fisheries:**

I have a supplementary question. What additional protections will the minister implement for the more than 2.6 million Western Australians and the two million visitors to our state each year who do not have a Shark Shield, or is he happy to continue to be ridiculed by the media and bury his head in the sand?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

Since we have come to government, we have put in place a number of additional measures to give people protection. We extended the shark monitoring network to Esperance, despite the large amount of money spent in some regional areas. The previous government never extended the shark monitoring network to Esperance. We have extended the additional level of comfort to that community. We have funded a shark enclosure in the seat of Dawesville, and I think I remember seeing a tweet from the member for Dawesville. I am happy to be corrected, but I think he tweeted, “I won funding for the shark enclosure in Dawesville.” I think that is what he said. In addition to the shark enclosure at Falcon, we have found \$6.5 million for Surf Life Saving WA so it can continue to do the work it does. That is funding that was not in the forward estimates of the budget that we inherited. That has allowed it to do the aerial patrols, the beach patrols and to add drones to its capability. That is an additional service that we have provided. We have announced the beach emergency numbering system so that beaches can now be numbered. That was an initiative that Mr Gerring advocated for after the loss of his brother at the beach at Falcon. We have done a number of things in addition to the world-first subsidy program. The member for Vasse has nothing of interest to say on this issue. We are getting on with doing the job based on the science. We will not take any hectoring from the opposition or anyone else. We will do the things that we know make a difference. We will not simply be seeking cheap headlines.

**The SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.