

SHARK TAGGING AND MONITORING NETWORK

510. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Premier:

I ask a supplementary question. I ask again: how much money is the government saving by cutting funds from further shark tagging, and from cuts to the shark monitoring network, and why did the Premier put us through the shark cull if he is only going to cut programs that now actually work?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

The program continues. We have 660 tagged sharks, including 200 great whites. They continue to be monitored. That is a sufficient sample. A shark does not decide whether to attack a diver or a surfer according to whether it is tagged. It is a sample of sharks. It does not provide the safety that the member might believe. The safety is provided by the aerial surveillance of beaches. That is where the safety is provided. If the member cannot understand it, a two-year research program has been completed.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the second time. Premier?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I have finished, Mr Speaker.