

GREAT WHITE SHARKS — CSIRO ANALYSIS

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

I have a supplementary question. Given the global organisation Ironman has this week been forced to change the Busselton swim course due to the threat of shark attacks, can the minister confirm that his inaction is having an impact on our international reputation for ocean events?

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

I do not want to keep referring to the member's tweets, but the other day she tweeted what a massive —

**Ms L. Mettam:** Answer the question!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse, you have asked your question. The answer you get is what you get!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** The other day the member for Vasse tweeted how successful the Busselton Jetty Swim was. She had hundreds if not thousands of people on the beach that day, all enjoying the Busselton Jetty Swim. It is not the case that people in Western Australia are abandoning the beach culture. Every Saturday and every Sunday at dozens of beaches up and down the coast people are enjoying the amenity that Western Australia has to offer. In evidence given to the Senate inquiry into the shark issue last year, the head of the Australian Hotels Association, Bradley Woods, said that it was actually international publicity about the Barnett government's shark cull that was tarnishing our reputation internationally. People want to come to Western Australia because we have beautiful weather, beautiful beaches and a clean, green image. Having Western Australia known for things such as a shark cull is actually extremely unpopular and does not encourage people to come to Western Australia. I urge the member for Vasse to try to deal with this on the basis of science and what will make our beaches safer, and to forget about trying to peddle a party political message.

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