

SHARK DETERRENT DEVICES — SUBSIDY

315. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the government's \$200 subsidy for 1 000 personal shark deterrent devices as part of the shark attack mitigation strategy.

- (1) Given that hundreds of thousands of Western Australians seek regular access to our beaches, why is the subsidy limited to 1 000 devices?
- (2) As the cost of the personal shark deterrent device is typically in excess of \$600, does the minister agree that the subsidy is therefore available only to wealthier Western Australians and their families?
- (3) Given that this subsidy is highly indicative of the government's confidence in the effectiveness and reliability of these devices, has the government sought legal advice on the state's exposure to claims for compensation should a subsidised device prove ineffective in a shark attack event?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Minister for Fisheries has provided the following answer.

- (1) The shark deterrent subsidy was launched on 26 May 2017 as a trial and has been extremely popular, with 447 claims already made. The government will review this initiative before 1 000 rebate claims have been submitted and assess whether the scheme should be extended to help keep Western Australians as safe as possible when in the water.
- (2) No. The purpose of the \$200 trial subsidy was to make proven shark deterrent devices more affordable for all Western Australians.
- (3) I understand the Department of Fisheries has sought legal advice on the rebate scheme.