

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

14 February 2020

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6AM MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2020

Shark drumlines returned to CQ beaches

Shark control equipment will be returned to Central Queensland waters within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park from today (Monday) to boost swimmer safety.

Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said drumlines were being re-installed at nine local beaches after negotiations with the Federal Government and workplace health and safety discussions with shark contractors.

“This decision is a major win for local swimmers, tourists, the tourism industry and the wellbeing of the workers who inspect the drumlines,” Ms Lauga said.

All 47 drumlines will be returned to the water at Central Queensland beaches within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park including:

- Emu Park
- Fisherman’s Beach
- Tanby Point
- Mulambin Beach
- Kemp Beach
- Lammermoor Beach
- Cooee Bay
- Yeppoon
- Farnborough Beach

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“Like many Central Queenslanders, I was stunned by the implications of the AAT and Federal Court decision to order these drumlines out,” Ms Lauga said.

“The return of all 47 drumlines to Central Queensland beaches within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a solid victory for commonsense and safety.”

Some 120 drumlines will be reinstated across 27 CQ, NQ and FNQ beaches bringing total drumlines to 203 – the same number in place prior to the Federal Court decision.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner said restoring the program was made possible after the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) issued an amended permit that took into account workplace health and safety issues.

“These are the exact same drumlines that were removed after an AAT and Federal Court decision imposed a permit that could not be complied with, forcing their removal,” Mr Furner said.

“Our preference has always been to continue the proven Shark Control Program in the Reef, but this is a federal park with federal laws and Queensland must comply with the permit.

“We wanted to put our drumlines back in and that is exactly what we are doing, with extra training and new procedures ensuring our contractors can safely comply with the new requirements.

“Contractors will check drumlines regularly and tag, relocate and release tiger, bull and white sharks alive where possible and if it is safe for them to do so.

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“If it is unsafe for the contractor, or if there are any animal welfare concerns, sharks will be euthanised.”

Mr Furner said relocating and releasing sharks would reduce the immediate risk to swimmers at that location but would not remove the risk entirely.

“That’s why we continue to encourage everyone to be SharkSmart and stay aware of what is happening around you every time you are in the water,” he said.

“Our approach will help ensure swimmer safety in the short term while moving in the longer term to non-lethal approaches, based on the best available science and trials.”

People are reminded to **Be SharkSmart:**

- Don’t swim at dawn or dusk
- Always swim in clear water (not in murky water, anchorages, estuary mouths or canals)
- Don’t throw food scraps or fish waste overboard
- Don’t swim where fish are being cleaned
- Swim, surf, snorkel or dive with a buddy
- Follow local signage and swim between the flags at patrolled beaches.

ENDS

Contact John 0400787037

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