

## **11.1 Chief Executive Officer Attachments**

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## **11.1 Chief Executive Officer**

### **11.1.1 CAPES REGION ORGANISATION OF COUNCIL (CAPEROC) MINUTES – 31 AUGUST 2018**

Attachment 1 – CapeROC Minutes – 31 August 2018



## **CapeROC**

### **Capes Region Organisation of Councils**

# **MINUTES**

**31 August 2018  
10:00 AM**

**MINUTES OF THE CAPES REGION ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS MEETING**  
**HELD ON 31 AUGUST 2018 AT 10:00 AM**

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## **MEETING NOTICE AND MINUTES – 31 AUGUST 2018**

### **TO: MEMBERS OF CAPEROC**

**NOTICE** is given that a meeting of the Capes Region Organisation of Councils was held in Mainbreak Meeting Room at the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Civic Administration Centre, 41 Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River on Friday 31 August 2018, commencing at 10:00am.

### **1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Chair:	Cr Pam Townshend	Shire President, Shire of Augusta Margaret River
Members:	Cr Naomi Godden	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
	Cr Grant Henley	Mayor, City of Busselton
	Cr Lyndon Miles	City of Busselton
	Cr Rob Bennett	City of Busselton
	Mr Gary Evershed	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Augusta Margaret River
	Mr Mike Archer	Chief Executive Officer, City of Busselton
Officers:	Ms Tanya Gillet	Manager Environmental Services
	Mr Mick O'Regan	Ranger Coordinator, Shire of Augusta Margaret River
	Ms Amanda Russell	Marketing and Events Officer, Shire of Augusta Margaret River
	Mr John McKinney	Coordinator, Environment and Landcare Services, Shire of Augusta Margaret River
	Ms Megan Smith	Executive Assistant Shire of Augusta Margaret River (Minutes)
Others	Ms Lisa Clack	Manager Shark Response Unit, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

#### **APOLOGIES**

Cr John McCallum	City of Busselton
Cr Kelly Hick	City of Busselton
Mr Tony Brown	WALGA
Anne Banks-McAllister	WALGA
Ms Emma Heys	Economic Development Officer, City of Busselton
Cr Mike Smart	Shire of Augusta Margaret River

## **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Minutes of the meeting of CapeROC 11 May 2018**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Capes Region Organisation of Councils held 11 May 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

#### **CAPEROC DECISION:**

Moved Councillor Henley, seconded Councillor Godden

That the minutes of the meeting of the Capes Region Organisation of Councils held 11 May 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record

***Carried***

Cr Townshend acknowledged the great work of Gary Evershed as this is his last CapeROC meeting before he leaves on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Cr Henley added that it had been a pleasure for the City of Busselton to have the opportunity for working collaboratively with him and with the Shire over the past nine years and wished him and Nerolie well for the future

## **3. PRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **3.1 No presentations given**

## **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Progress</b>
NA			

## **5. GENERAL UPDATES**

### **5.1 Shark Attack Mitigation and Response**

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS</b>	Mr Mick O'Regan, Ranger Coordinator Ms Amanda Russell, Marketing and Events Officer Ms Tanya Gillet, Manager Environmental Services Ms Lisa Clack, DPIRD
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	Shark Response Procedure SWDC feedback to SW Zone meeting

GE – raised questions with SWDC which were dealt with by SW Zone meeting last week relating to the detrimental effect on tourism and the cancellation of Surf Pro. Feedback provided by the State government – see attachment.

Discussion was held – points to note:

- Working through items from debrief after Gracetown which is taking time.
- Considerations around prescribing sharks as a hazard – passed on to DFES and have also spoken with WALGA.

- Also liaising with Surfing WA re the response after the incident.
- Extended helicopter patrols being considered, as well as personal deterrents, the BEN program and the drum line trial
- Surf Life saving funding has incorporated an increase in their presence and a trial of drone surveillance in the metropolitan area and at Smiths Beach.
- Also in consultation with government and local surfers to work out best location at Gracetown – need to consider design logistics, science and feasibility and what are the constraints – complex site as there are different breaks and need to get the best benefit complex
- Some information from NSW trials but not to the level of detail or timeliness that WA government require, so undertaking their own analysis.
- An option being discussed is to prescribe sharks as a hazard so that incidents come under emergency arrangements, similar to those which come into place with incidents such as bushfires. Would require classification of incident to determine which agency takes lead in which circumstance.
- There are important questions in terms of response and rangers role such as rangers putting signage out and closing beach – where is liability if a sign taken in and then there is an incident. There are also issues when an incident is on a boundary of local government or other agencies – rangers support and assist each other wherever possible. Prioritisation of ranger resources is also a factor
- Response and communications are also issues – local government needs guidance from the State government to enable consistency. Communication and relationship with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and attractions is good.
- Support for full south west approach, with a media and communications strategy incorporated into a joint response strategy and plan.
- The previous attack in the Shire was four years ago and things have come a long way in terms of implementation of response but there are still gaps in communications. Appetite from local government would be to recognise under state emergency process which would provide benefits for planning.
- Local government bears the pressure of most of the communications requirements but don't own the information – need to direct community enquiries to the correct source which can be difficult. After the last incident media enquiries were received from local, national and international sources, so it is important to know where to refer to. Also being advised that external party information wasn't to be distributed by the Shire.
- The closure of beaches cuts across different jurisdictions. Although there is the Shark Smart website it is sometimes difficult to find information, and there is confusion around the information provided ie alerts going out as warnings, not clear if beaches are closed etc
- Need to put a public education campaign into place to advise what warnings and closures actually mean
- LC advised that as the last incident was the first time an attack had occurred in a Marine Park and the available systems and templates weren't appropriate for that particular situation. Also acknowledged that there was an issue with other agencies, and is happy to work to try and resolve this and get clarity around communications and what can be preapproved for distribution.
- City of Busselton is rolling out BEN signage – have 90 signs and are working with DPaW to make sure all beaches identified and have consistent messaging. Shire is waiting on DoT info and is hoping to submit its application for 21 signs next week.
- There was discussion around a motion that both councils write to the Minister asking that shark attacks be included in the State Hazard Plan as a declared hazard, but as only a minority of councillors were present at the meeting, this motion was not formulated or voted on.
- There was also a discussion for the motion to be for individual councils to put a report to council but this was also discontinued. Each local government will consider advocating for a state-wide approach to shark response outside the CapeROC forum
- TG and MoR will continue to meet to consider possible means of consolidation/cooperation between the Shire and the CoB

## **5.2 CapeROC Budget**

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	ALL
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	Nil

### **IN BRIEF**

Each year, the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River and the City of Busselton allocate up to \$50,000 of their respective budgets (up to \$100,000 in total) towards CapeROC approved regional economic development initiatives. This report provides an update on financial activities for the 2018 – 2019 financial year.

### **COMMENT**

CapeROC is asked to identify projects to be funded from the remaining 2018/19 budget allocation of up to \$18,300 in total.

The following projects have been agreed by CapeROC to be funded from the 2018/19 CapeROC Budget.

#### **2018-2019 Proposed Allocations**

<b>2018-2019 CapeROC Projects</b>	<b>In Principle Allocation \$100,000</b>	<b>Expenditure (AMR) \$50,000</b>	<b>Expenditure (BSN) \$50,000</b>		<b>Comments</b>
CapeROC Calendar of Events 2018-2019 (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter)	\$21,700	\$10,850	\$10,850		
Joint Trail Strategy Development	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$15,000		
Tourism Signage Strategy	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$15,000		
Potential Total Expenditure:	\$81,700	\$40,850	\$40,850		
Total Unallocated:	\$18,300	\$9,150	\$9,150		

The remaining budget does not need to be allocated at this meeting and may be allocated throughout the financial year as worthy projects arise.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That CapeROC notes the current status of the CapeROC 2018-2019 budget.

### **CAPEROC DECISION:**

Moved Mike Archer, seconded Councillor Godden

1. That CapeROC notes the current status of the CapeROC 2018-2019 budget.
2. That \$18,300 be allocated provisionally toward formulating a joint public health plan to cover the contextual planning and the epidemiological data analysis requirements for the Local Public Health Plan

**Carried**



### **5.3 Joint Public Health Plan**

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Tanya Gillett, Manager, Environmental Services
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	NA

TG gave overview of the requirements for the Local Public Health Plan. Points to note:

- Five stages of implementation – stages 1&2 already in effect. Stage 3 relates to changes in terminology, stage 4 to commencement of provisions relating to communicable disease control and emergency management and stage 5 is the roll of the complete Public Health Act
- Stage 5 will take two years and will require the Local Public Health Plan to align with the State Public Health Plan which will be published in 2018, so the Local Public Health Plan needs to be finalised by 2020
- About 75% of the information required is already available and has been implemented in various ways – just need to collate and formulate the data. Some aspects not necessarily provided by all Local Governments
- There is a shared resourcing opportunity for the CoB and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River to work on this and this could commence immediately – need to develop a shared ToR for a working group, with specific outcomes in order to apply for funding, and working group also needs to come up with a determination

CapeROC determined that funding from the Budget be allocated to this project – see decision above – with a ToR to be presented to CapeROC.

### **5.4 Caves Road Heritage Listing**

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Gary Evershed, CEO, Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	NA

Following Main Roads advice that it was setting up a CRG with regard to proposed works along Caves Road, the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Council determined at the meeting of 22 August 2018, that:

*That Council is committed to safeguarding Caves Road as an iconic tourism experience and to protect its Aboriginal and European heritage and environmental values and expresses its support to have Caves Road heritage assessed with a view to attaining National Heritage listing for the road. Council requests the CEO write to City of Busselton Council seeking their support and together, through CapeROC, undertake the investigation of national heritage listing of Caves Road as a major priority project. Council requests that the Main Roads do not to take any action, specifically widening and/or any works of a capital nature on the road and requests that Main Roads defer the formation of the Community Reference group until the community has had the opportunity to have the road heritage assessed.*

Points to note:

- GE has already had discussions with MA and has drafted a letter to the City of Busselton
- Concern is that the character of Caves Road will be changed by the proposed works
- National Heritage Listing is a federal government issue – listing has already been procured for the Great Ocean Road and St Kilda Road and surrounds.
- Not a great deal of analysis of the requirements has been done at this stage, but some work has already been done by a member of the community which has identified the many historic and cultural significances of the road.
- Have had discussions with Main Roads who appear to support the listing – there was a level of urgency initially as in the past Main Roads have undertaken works which have changed

the character of roads in the region without consultation, but this doesn't appear to be the situation with Caves Road

- Some stretches not as significant as others – suggest that the stretch from the turnoff at Yallingup all the way to the Bussell Highway intersection is of most importance
- Listing would have some downsides in terms of another layer of bureaucracy for local government and adjacent landowners to deal with. Also have to consider the cost of making such an application
- CapeROC supported the investigation of heritage listing in broad terms but more investigation is required

### **5.5 Noosa Biosphere**

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Gary Evershed, CEO, Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	NA

GE gave an overview of the Noosa Biosphere presentation which was made to the recent LGCOG conference held there.

## **6. REPORTS**

### **6.1 Update of Capes Region Tourist Directional Signage and Roadside Visitor Information (August 2018)**

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Emma Heys, Economic and Business Development Officer
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	NA

#### **IN BRIEF**

RFQ 32/17 Cape Region Tourist Directional Signage and Roadside Visitor Information: Supply of audit, condition and cost report was awarded to GHD Pty Ltd in June 2018

The City of Busselton (CoB) and Shire of Augusta Margaret River (SAMR) have formed Principle in Joint, whilst CoB have taken on the role of Project Lead.

A project kick off meeting between CoB, SAMR and GHD was held in July 2018. The first part of the project, being the Survey and Data collection, commenced in late July 2018 and is expected to be finalised for review by CoB and SAMR by the end of August 2018.

#### **BACKGROUND**

City of Busselton and Shire of Augusta Margaret River had previously resolved to endorse a review of tourism directional signage and roadside visitor information bays with a predominately unified approach to branding and function (the 'Project').

A notional amount of funding (\$30,000) was allocated by CapeROC with a view to procuring an audit and condition report, inclusive of recommendations. Specifically, the report is to include:

- Electronic database of existing asset condition information
- Written report including any assumptions, methodology used and asset condition reports
- Design drawings for single prototypes of each of the potential new or replacement signage concepts; and
- Indicative cost estimates for design manufacture and installation of new signs.

At the 11 May 2018 CapeROC meeting, GHD Pty Ltd was endorsed as the preferred proponent for RFQ 32/17 Cape Region Tourist Directional Signage Roadside Visitor Information: Supply of audit, condition and cost report, with the project commencing in June 2018.

## **CURRENT STATUS**

GHD Pty Ltd have commenced with the first part of the Cape Region Tourist Directional Signage and Roadside Visitor Information: Supply of audit, condition and cost report project, being the Survey and Data Collection.

It is anticipated the first part of the project will be completed in August 2018 and GHD Pty Ltd will present the date for review by CoB and SAMR by the end of August 2018.

An update of the findings will be provided to the CapeROC committee at the next meeting.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That CapeROC notes the updated status of the Cape Region Tourist Directional Signage and Roadside Visitor Information: Supply of audit, condition and cost report project.

## **CAPEROC DECISION:**

Moved Cr Henley, seconded Cr Townshend

1. That CapeROC notes the updated status of the Cape Region Tourist Directional Signage and Roadside Visitor Information: Supply of audit, condition and cost report project.

**Carried**

## **7. Major Project Updates**

### **7.1 Opening of Youth precinct – Gary Evershed**

- Opening event was held on the 3rd of June – opening went well and being used on a regular basis.

### **7.2 Cultural centre – Gary Evershed**

- Demolition and asbestos removal undertaken and construction underway – completion scheduled for July 2019
- Total cost \$9.46m, construction and equipment \$8.7m
- Funding sources - \$3m Royalties for Regions \$1.8 National Stronger Regions. \$1.4m Lottery West, (for community use areas), \$1.1m developer contributions
- Site visit to be arranged for next CapeROC meeting.

### **7.3 Busselton Margaret River Airport – Mike Archer**

- Airside and landside almost complete, but no works on the terminal. If the City are successful in acquiring the Qantas flight training academy, then funding should be given
- Not paying holding fees, otherwise would have had to cancel the project

### **7.4 Infrastructure Projects – Mike Archer**

- Foreshore playground in October, then toddlers playground – these are the last civic components - private components expected to commence at the end of next financial year
- Townscape still being mooted – timing being discussed.
- Busselton Entertainment and Arts Cultural Hub (BEACH). Two designs going out for community consultation shortly. Proposing 625 seats – intention is that this complement facilities in Bunbury and Margaret River rather than compete with them. Digital rather than fly tower operation. Sunken seating – building will be raised so that the floor can slide over the seating, which will enable the venue to be used for concerts and conferences.

## **8. GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Changes in recycling costs**

- Suez have advised the Shire that they need to cover their costs by increasing their collection fee - have also communicated this to other local governments.
- Real cost of waste will escalate and needs to be considered at federal and state levels.
- City of Busselton currently undertaking a three month trial of carting waste to external sites – will bring results to the next CapeROC.

### **8.2 Caves Road widening**

See item 5.4

### **8.3 Osmington Response**

- Response was an example of extraordinary community mobilisation. Drop in centre established at CRC within two hours and counselling arranged by the next day. The drop in centre was open for two weeks.
- Massive media interest from news agencies from all over the world. Key messages from Commissioner of Police, Shire President and CEO – PT did an excellent job.
- Recovery meetings to establish an overview of shire role – over 100 people attended the initial meeting.
- Health professional and community networks set up – issue affected so many groups – school, environmental, home school, autism related.
- Red Cross support excellent with provision of training – came and stayed in Shire. Premier also came, commenting that it was just the right thing to do. Demonstration of leadership from Shire and state government.
- Still working through it – funding for .5 of Shire officer for health provided for work on analysis and planning for the future.
- One outcome could be for the City of Busselton to use AMR template in order to be prepared for emergency management should a comparable situation arise. The Shire President of Harvey has asked PT to present on the lessons learnt.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

16 November 2018 – Shire of Augusta Margaret River

## **10. CLOSURE**

The meeting was closed at 12.18

## TOPIC 12

### Shire of Augusta Margaret River - Margaret River Surf Pro

- The cancellation of this year's Margaret River Surf Pro due to shark attacks had an immediate effect on local business but more importantly potentially longer-term damage to our reputation as a tourist destination.
- Can the Minister please advise if these concerns are shared by the State Government and if so what reasonable steps will be taken to increase real and perceived levels of safety at popular surfing and swimming beaches and to combat the negative publicity received internationally in the wake of the Surf Pro cancellation?

### RESPONSE

- There have been 15 fatal shark attacks in Western Australia since 2000. Government continues to commit to a suite of shark hazard mitigation initiatives across aerial and beach surveillance, science, education/awareness, emerging technologies, enclosures and field responses.
- The government has responded to the shark incidents near Gracetown in a responsible and fulsome way to address the threat posed to WA water users, but there are no simple answers.
- We are committed to our multi-faceted approach to keep the community and event organisers informed about real and potential shark hazards.
- Tourism WA is in discussions with the World Surf League (WSL) and Surfing WA (SWA) regarding the event beyond the current contract term.
- The state government also continues to support Tourism with \$39.7 million allocated to Brand WA – Destination Marketing and Event Tourism from 2018-10 to 2021-22.

### ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- The state is investigating a trial of the Smart Drum lines technology in partnership with NSW government
- Adopt a reinforced media presence around dedicated fisheries tagging program becoming publicly visible to map the current shark population
- Smart Drones being utilized by Surf Life Saving and Surf Clubs at competitions over peak periods and recreational timing would be welcomed in the region
- Further encouragement of the surfing community to use shark shields and information as to the government rebate program and where to access it
- Appropriate adoption of use of applications such as Dorsal Fin and community groups such as Shark Safe as to alert to sightings
- NB: Shark Safe has recently formed in South West and marched on Parliament House on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and advocates of the Smart Drum lines adopted by the NSW government

# Shark Response Procedure



September 2015

*This policy was adopted by Council to set governing principles in place that align the strategic direction of the organisation with community values and aspirations.*

## Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction on Shark Response protocols within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. Implementation of this policy will assist with provision of a safer environment for the enjoyment of residents and visitors by clarifying the following:

- Criteria to assist Shire directed response to shark sightings and attacks;
- Shire response activities and communications to the public related to shark threats;
- Jurisdictions and role clarification of agencies related to response protocols;
- Prioritisation of response activities;
- Record Management;
- Financial Support.

## General Considerations

- Warning the public and closing beaches is a strategy to reduce the likelihood of shark human encounters however complete protection from sharks can never be guaranteed.
- Sharks are very mobile and are capable of travelling large distances in a short period of time.
- Authorised Persons should access credible information to inform response strategies – primarily from Water Police (9442 8600).
- The contents of this Policy are deemed manageable from a practicable and resource capacity perspective, while also giving the public the option of making an informed decision about personal safety with regards to entering the water after a confirmed shark sighting / attack.

## Strategy

### Responding to Shark Attacks and Sightings:

While there is no definitive South West local government approach / protocols currently being used for shark response, it was agreed by a collaborative state, local and industry Think Tank held in August 2014, that the Surf Life Saving WA assessment criteria was deemed to be best practice at this current time.

In light of this industry feedback and subsequent consultation with Think Tank partners, the following criterion is presented as the policy guideline for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River to administer regarding shark response. While not failsafe in its surety of harm reduction to the public, by adopting this approach it is deemed that the Shire is doing what is reasonable from a jurisdiction, resource capacity and practicability perspective in regards to its shark response protocols.

### Criteria of Evaluation

***All shark sightings are to be reported to Water Police on 9442 8600.***

The Shire will mobilise Authorised Persons to respond to a confirmed shark sighting reported by Water Police where it meets **ALL** of the following criteria:

**Type:** White, Whaler, Tiger or Bull Shark

**Size:** 2-3 metres in size or schooling sharks

**Location:** Sighted within 500m of shore, and within Shire managed coastline

Or

**Size:** Greater than 3 metres in size

**Location:** Sighted within 1 km of shore, and within Shire managed coastline

Where the shark species is unconfirmed but meets the remaining criteria, the Shire will also mobilise as outlined below.

Due to the minimal risk associated, if a shark reported is less than 2m in length, the Shire will monitor but maintain normal operations.

### Overarching Beach Categories

In determining the level of shark response, the following Beach Categories and summary response protocols have been established.

**Category 1** – Patrolled by Beach Life Guards or Surf Life Saving services.

**Response:** Evacuate / close beach – re-open 1 hour post last sighting.

**Category 2** – Not patrolled, easy road access, regularly populated 30+ people, car parking and amenities provided.

**Response:** Notify beach goers as soon as practicable. Post signage indicating recent shark sighting / activity. If frequency > 4 times/annum, consider permanently beach signage. Remove signage 2 hours post last sighting.

**Category 3** – Not patrolled. Access available but not regularly occupied by crowds, no amenities.

**Response:** As soon as practicable, post signage indicating recent shark sighting/activity. If frequency > 4 times/annum, consider permanently sign beach.

SHARK RESPONSE PROCEDURE

**Category 4** – Not patrolled. Remote, limited access, no amenities, not thought to have crowds of 10 persons or more.

**Response:** If practicable, post signage indicating recent shark sighting/activity. If frequency > 4 times/annum, consider permanently sign beach.

***The Shire operates a Beach Life Guard service at Margaret River Mouth (Category 1), while the remaining Shire beach responsibility areas relate to Category 2 and 3.***

***NB: Beach maps for Shire responsibility beaches and signage locations have been developed within Shark Response Procedure documentation.***

### **Response activities and communication to the public related to shark threat**

#### **Shark Sighting at Shire Managed Patrolled Beaches (Category 1):**

- Shire managed beaches that have Beach Life Guards patrolling (approximately December to April each year) will be closed for a shark sighting meeting the above criteria for a minimum of one hour.
- Beach closed signs will be installed by Authorised Persons at key car park and beach access points to inform the public.
- Shire employed Beach Life Guards will operationally respond to shark sightings on patrolled beaches as per current Surf Life Saving WA Shark Incident Management protocols.

#### **Shark Sighting at Shire Managed Non Patrolled Beaches (Category 2 and 3):**

- Shire controlled beaches that are NOT patrolled by Beach Life Guards will not be formally closed in the event of a shark related sighting. Instead, warning signs displaying relevant information of public interest will be erected at key car park / beach entry points as soon as practicable to notify beach goers of the potential danger.
- Where a reported shark is greater than 3 metres in size, less than 500 metres from shore and or schooling sharks, an Authorised Person will also walk the relevant beach area 1 km each side of the sighting to notify beach goers of the potential danger.
- Where it is identified that the public is in clear immediate danger from shark threat, an Authorised Person will endeavour to notify the public via the use of a dedicated speaker / siren system, where available and practical.
- Department for Fisheries scientists estimate sharks travel approximately four kilometres per hour, therefore, at non patrolled beaches, warning signs will remain in place for a minimum of two hours from the time of reported sighting, not from the time of arrival at site.
- Where the sighting occurs at dusk, or Rangers are responding to other priority matters, warning signs will stay in place for the remainder of that day, to be removed the following day.

SHARK RESPONSE PROCEDURE



### **Shark Attack at Shire Managed / Controlled Beaches (Category 1, 2 and 3):**

- Where a shark attack / fatality occurs at a Shire managed / controlled beach, it will be formally closed by an Authorised Person(s) for the remainder of the day of the incident.
- Upon deliberation with WA Police and Department of Fisheries, the beach may either be re-opened to the public by an Authorised Person the following morning, or remain closed for another 24 hours.
- Beach closed signs will be erected at key car park / beach entry points as soon as practicable to notify beach goers of the potential danger.
- An Authorised Person will also walk the relevant beach area one kilometre each side of the attack to notify beach goers of the potential danger.
- Where it is identified that the public is in clear immediate danger from shark threat, an Authorised Person will endeavour to notify the public via the use of a dedicated speaker / siren system, where available and practical.

### **Promotion of relevant information sources**

- The Shire will promote to the public relevant information sources to assist education, awareness raising and informed personal decision making.
  - Report Shark Sightings to Water Police on 9442 8600
  - <http://twitter.com/SLSWA> - Surf Life Saving WA Twitter
  - <http://www.sharksmart.com.au> – Department of Fisheries information portal.
  - Shire of Augusta Margaret River website / media releases
- Where shark related sightings are a frequent occurrence, that is, more than four times in one given year in one location, or in area of known shark attack / fatality, the Shire may consider installing permanent static signs to notify the public of the potential risk.
- Permanent signage may contain relevant information provided by the Department of Fisheries and Surf Life Saving WA outlining safer water use practices / considerations.

### **Jurisdictions and role clarification related to response protocols**

- Shire Authorised Personnel will respond to sightings within Shire designated beaches, and at beaches patrolled by the Shire's seasonal Beach Life Guards as per the intent of this Policy.
- The Shire will support other agencies such as the Department of Fisheries, Department of Parks and Wildlife, WA Police, Surf Life Saving WA and other local government authorities to respond to shark threat within their jurisdictions where resources and capacity is available.

SHARK RESPONSE PROCEDURE

- WA Police are the controlling agency for shark fatality on behalf of the coroner. The Shire will assist with beach closures, media coordination, as well as community recovery initiatives where relevant.
- Department of Fisheries is responsible for any actions related to the attempted capture and or destruction of a potentially dangerous shark(s).
- The Department for Parks and Wildlife is responsible for shark response protocols associated with beaches / coastline under its jurisdiction.
- The Department for Child Protection is available to provide linkages to counselling services for impacted community members where required.
- In the event of a shark related fatality, a debrief will be organised by the Shire post event, inclusive of response and support agencies, as well as the public (where relevant), to review and refine response protocols / areas of improvement.
- Procedure documentation will guide specific response and activation protocols for Shire Authorised Persons.

### **Prioritisation of response activities**

- Shire Rangers / Authorised Persons will respond to shark sightings as a matter of priority, except where currently engaged in or mobilised to respond to the following:
  - Fire / emergency
  - Dog attack on person
  - Stock on road
- Shire Rangers / Authorised Persons will respond to shark attacks as a matter of priority, except where currently engaged in or mobilised to respond to the following:
  - Fire / emergency
- Where priority activities divert Shire resources from dealing with immediate shark matters, secondary support resources will be activated as soon as possible to assist from the following:
  - Other on-duty Shire Rangers / other Authorised Persons
  - WA Police and other Emergency Service agencies (where relevant)
  - Neighbouring Local Governments.

### **Record management**

Responding Authorised Persons are required to collate and archive records containing the following:

- Date, location, type, size and time of shark sighting / attack and summary of activities undertaken in each instance;

The Rangers and Beach Life Guards teams will also collate and maintain a record of:

- Number of shark related activations within each financial year;
- Number of shark related closures within each financial year;
- Number of shark attacks in each financial year.

**Financials:**

- A budget allocation will be provided annually for the cost of sign replacement and upkeep and to support activities associated with implementation of this Policy.

**Application**

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with the Chief Executive Officer and Directors and is to inform all strategies and plans of the Shire. The Policy is to be reviewed every three years.

DEFINITIONS	
Community	A specific geographical area, professional associations, a group with common interest, or even individuals who provide services to a specific location (Australian Safe Communities Foundation 2012).
Authorised Person	“authorised person” means a person authorised by the local government under section 9.10 of the Local Government Act;
District	“district” means the district of the local government;

<b>Adopted by Council</b>	
Last reviewed	September 2015
Related Policies	Safer Communities Policy
Related Procedures	<p>Shark Response Flow Chart</p> <p>Shark Risk Management – Responsibility matrix</p> <p>Shark Response Checklist</p> <p>Surf Life Saving WA Shark Incident Management Protocol</p>
Related Documents	<p>Shark Warning Signage</p> <p>Beach Closed Signage</p> <p>Shark Reporting Sheet</p>
Legislation	State Records Act 2000