

Election 2023 – Survey Response – Shark Nets

NSW Labor understand that sharks play an important role in the marine ecosystem, and concerns about the impact of shark nets on marine life have led to the rollout of drones for increased aerial surveillance, along with the deployment of smart drumlines, VR4G listening stations and greater community awareness and education programs.

Labor supports ongoing research, trials, and the development of these technologies and know they will reduce our reliance on traditional means of protecting swimmers from shark attack.

NSW Labor will explore, fund, and implement non-lethal alternative methods to shark nets including;

- SMART drumlines,
- Drone surveillance,
- Clever buoys,
- Supporting community observer programs,
- Resourcing lifeguards with observer towers,
- Increased signage, and
- Swim and surfer education programs.

As trials of new technologies are proven to improve safety outcomes for swimmers, Labor will support the reassessment of shark nets to move towards non-lethal new technologies. Any future changes to shark net regulation in NSW will need to be evidence-based and ensure that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy our beautiful beaches across New South Wales.