



The Hon Mark Furner MP  
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

3 April 2019

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<b>Queensland Legislative Assembly</b>	
Number: <u>5619T526</u>	
 3 APR 2019	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MP: <u>Mark Furner</u>	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
Clerk's Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	

Dear Minister

I write to seek your urgent attention in relation to the operation of the Queensland Shark Control Program (the program) within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park area.

Yesterday afternoon, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) made a decision to vary the conditions under which the program can operate within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the main change being to restrict the program's lethal impacts upon sharks.

The program currently protects 27 beaches with 173 drumlines within the Marine Park, including locations near Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone.

The program has been supported by successive Queensland Governments since 1962 and is well supported by local governments, tourism bodies and community organisations.

I am sure that you would agree that we must prioritise human safety in this matter.

While I am seeking advice from my department as to the implications for the program from a state perspective, I seek your advice as to any administrative, legal or legislative support or change that the Commonwealth can provide to this vital program.

Urgent action from the Commonwealth Government is required to provide for swimmer safety and ensure the continued safety of swimmers within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

I am mindful of the encroaching caretaker period and critical need to resolve this issue. I have provided a copy of this correspondence to the Hon Tony Burke, Shadow Minister for Environment and Mr Josh Thomas, Chief Executive, GBRMPA for their consideration.

Please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Brett Murphy on phone (07) 3719 7420 in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

**MARK FURNER**  
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries