

CORPORATE GUIDELINE: Shark Hazard Management

OVERVIEW:

To provide a risk management-based framework for the City to provide for community safety, in the event of a shark sighting or incident, in Bunbury waters.

PROCEDURE:

1. In the event of a shark sighting, the following procedure is to be used when closing a beach:
 - 1.1 Attend the beach location and using the triangular socket key provided in all vehicles, undo the bolts that attach Beach Emergency Number (BEN) signs to the poles. Reverse the sign so that "Beach Closed" is facing onlookers and secure back to pole.
 - 1.2 Repeat process for all BEN signs along specified stretch of beach ([Appendix 'C' - Refer BEN sign Map](#)).
 - 1.3 Advise the City's Public Relations (PR) team of the beach area that is closed so the details can be posted online.
 - 1.4 Inform anyone either in or near the water that the beach is closed due to a shark sighting and strongly recommend they leave the water. Rangers have no authority to forcibly prevent any person from entering the water, however an infringement may be issued for "Failure to comply with the direction of an Authorised Officer" under s 4.7 of the Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2020. This discussion may at least encourage them to comply with request so no infringement is necessary.
 - 1.5 The beach must remain closed for a minimum of one (1) hour from the last reported shark sighting
 - 1.6 Contact SurfCom on (08) 9207 6688 and the Water Police on (08) 9442 8600 and inform them of the shark sighting and status of affected beach area if required. Any emergency situation must be reported via '000' and the appropriate BEN number provided to the Operator to facilitate the fastest response time.
Note: The BEN number coding is simply an amalgamation of location 'BY'=Bunbury and the number marks the distance between the beach nearest the sign and the town's northern boundary.
 - 1.7 Once the beach is ready to be re-opened, the Ranger must return to the affected BEN signs and return them to the former position. PR should be advised so the status can be changed online.
 - 1.8 Any media enquiries must be directed to the PR team.
2. The information provided in the attached [Appendix 'A' – Shark Response Flow-Chart](#) further demonstrates the procedure required for the response to shark sightings and related incidents within the City of Bunbury.

City staff will be required to follow the processes as established in this Policy ensure the application of the relevant information as described in [Appendix 'B' - Near Coastal Shark Risk Mitigation – RACI Matrix](#).

3. Category 1 areas shall be the responsibility of relevant organisations including Surf Lifesaving WA (SLSWA), WA Police and Department Primary Industries and Regional Development

(DPIRD). City staff may be required to provide support to response agencies within Category 1 areas, subject to approval being provided by the CEO.

4. City will apply this Procedure and may establish the requirements as set out in Appendix B as detailed for the following areas that are under the care, control and management of the City -
 - (a) **Category 2 areas** - being those areas that are not patrolled by SLSWA, have easy road access, regularly populated 30+ people, and have amenities provided i.e. toilets, car parking;
 - (b) **Category 3 areas** – being areas that are not patrolled by SLSWA, access is available, not regularly occupied and has no amenities;
 - (c) **Category 4 areas** – being areas that are not patrolled by SLSWA, are remote, limited access, no amenities, and not regularly occupied.
5. Those areas that do not fall under the care, control and management of the City shall be the responsibility of the relevant owner or occupier of the area as described under the *Land Administration Act 1997* and any other relevant legislation. City staff may be required to provide support to the relevant land owner or occupier subject to approval being provided by the CEO.

LEGISLATION AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- *Local Government Act 1995*

City of Bunbury Policy Chief Executive Officer

– *Shark Hazard*

Management

Authority:

Guideline Owner: Manager Community Law, Safety and Emergency Management

Created Date: Council Decision 227/15 7 July 2015

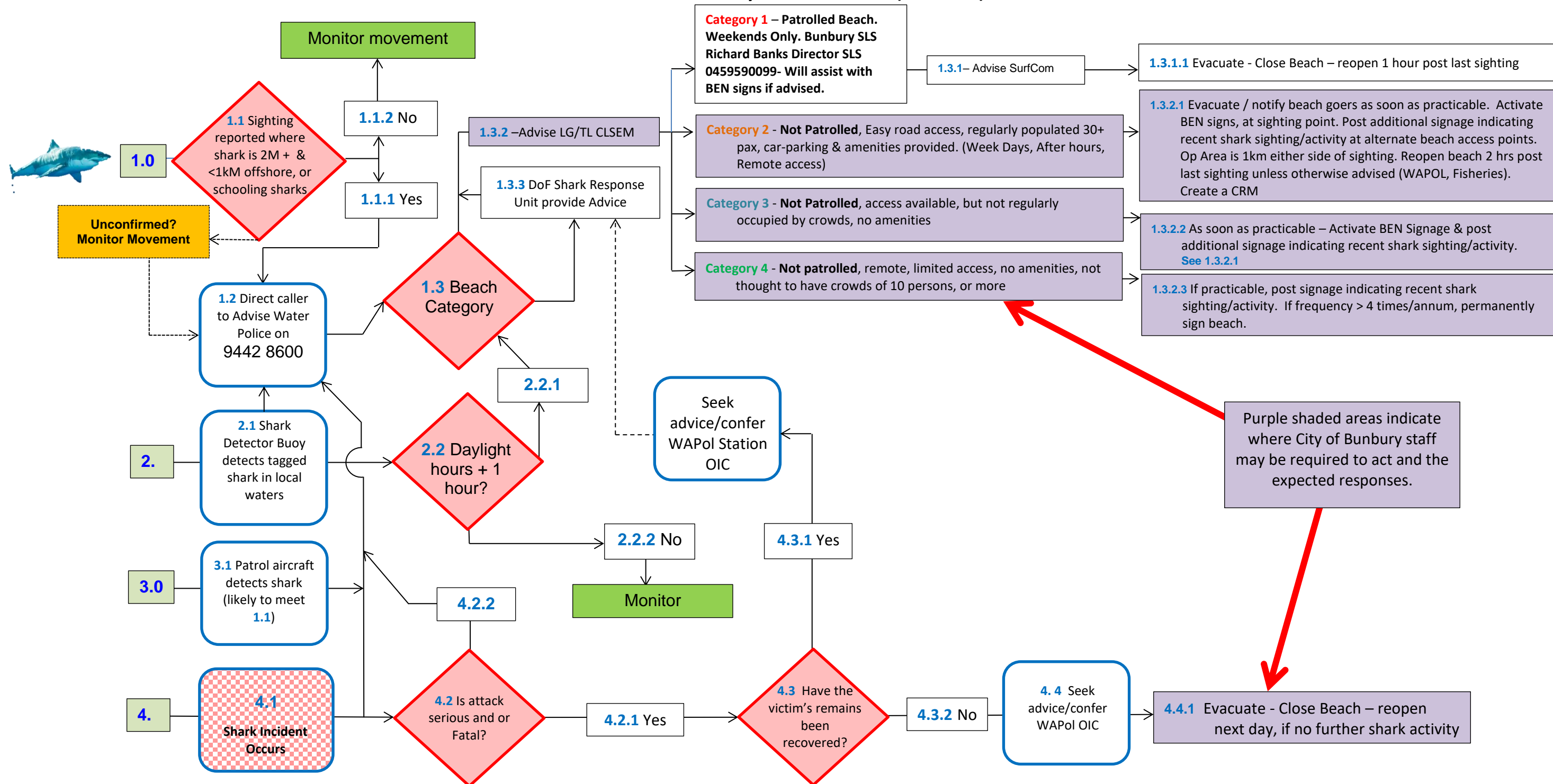
Related Policy COUNCIL POLICY: Shark Hazard Management

Document	Date	Approved	Amendment
CP-029806	27/06/2017	27/06/2017 Council Decision 231/17	Reviewed with no changes
	31/07/2019		Workflow diagram
	06/2022		Procedure/Guidelines rewritten/updated by Mark Allies

City of Bunbury - Shark Response Flow-Chart

DPIRD - Shark Manager On Duty (For additional assistance and better locations)

Not to be disseminated under any circumstances – (Redacted)



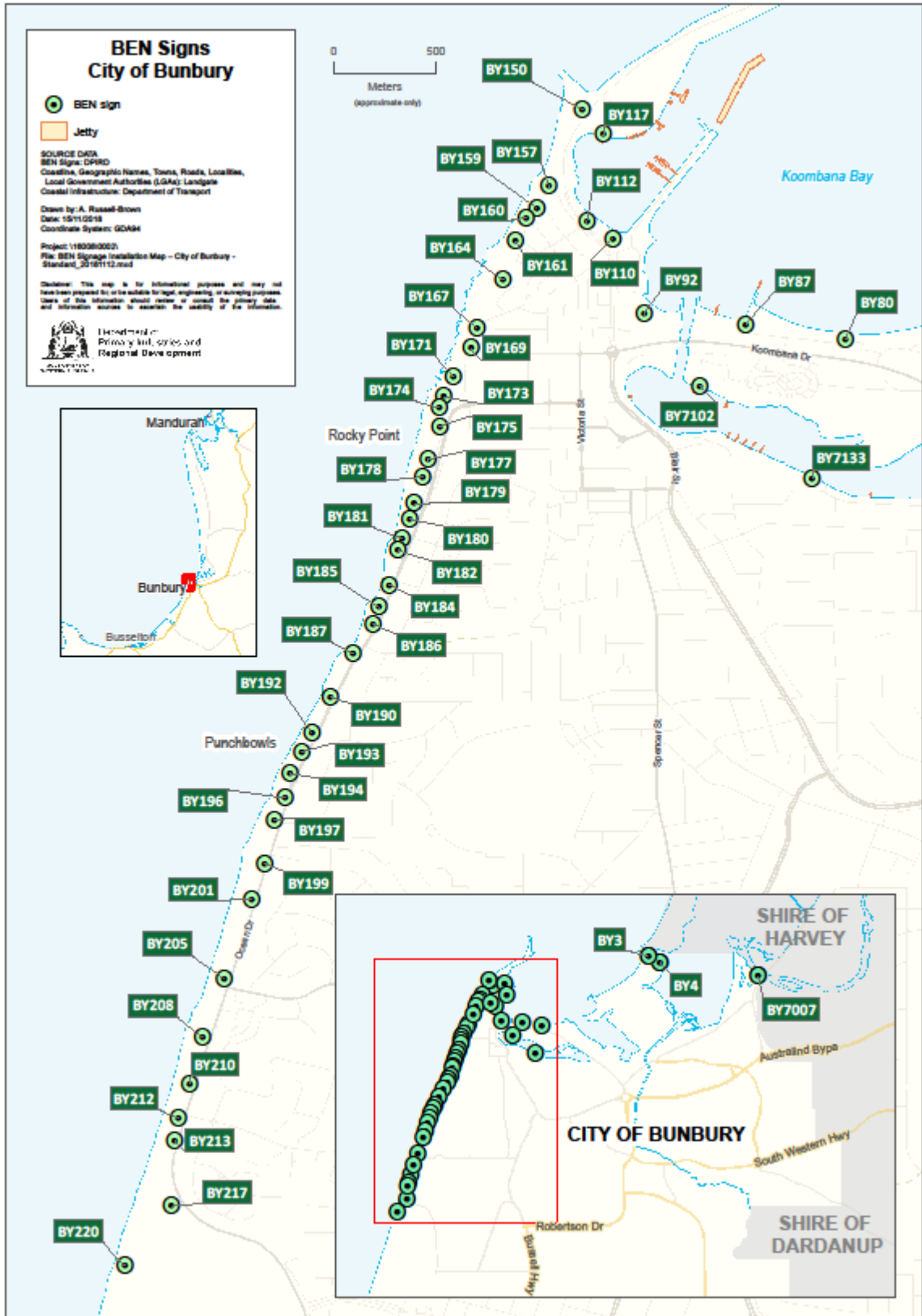
Near Coastal Shark Risk Mitigation – RACI Matrix

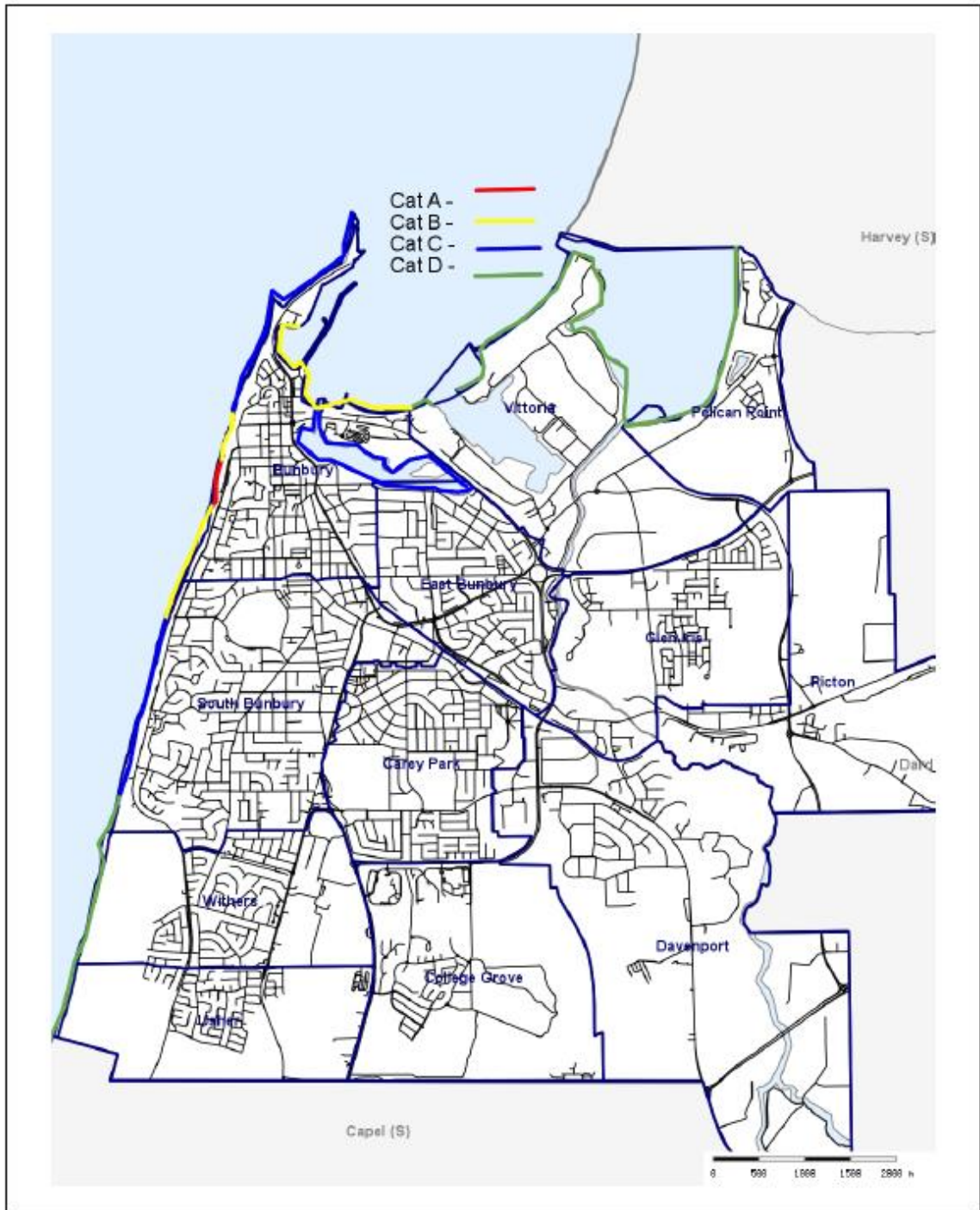
Serial	Incident	Water Police Coordination Centre (WPCC)	Dept Of Fisheries	WAPol Station OIC	Tenure Dependent Response		
					SLSWA	LG	DBCA or other
1.0	Shark detected by the general public – ‘direct them to contact’ Water Police Coordination Centre (WPCC) on 9442 8600	IA					
1.1	Shark detected at 1.0 satisfying criteria (2M or greater in length & within 1 km from shore, or schooling sharks, species thought to be White, Tiger or Bull shark) – Decision Point	C	I	I			
1.1.1	Shark in area meets criteria (>2M length + < 1km offshore, or schooling) – ‘Direct’ caller to report to WPCC on 9442 8600	RA	CI				
1.1.2	No (or unconfirmed report) – Monitor movement of animal/s	A					
1.2	WPCC verifies a report, which meets triggers, decides further action for locality & beach category, then refers to appropriate authority	RA	C		I	I	I
1.3	From intelligence received – WPCC decide on tenure and transfer detail to responsible authority - Decision Point	RA	C	I	I	I	I
1.3.1	Category 1 Beach (currently patrolled) – WPCC Advise SLSWA SurfCom – <i>(during a non-patrol period, reverts to Category 2,3 or 4 beach)</i>	R	C		A		
1.3.1.1	SLSWA Close beach, manage per SLSWA Shark Hazard Plan			I	RA		
1.3.2	Category 2, 3 & 4 Beaches – WPCC advise relevant agency (LG, DBCA or other) according to tenure	RA	C	I		I	I
1.3.2.1	Category 2 Beach – Evacuate, notify beach goers ASAP. Reopen after no sighting for past 2 hours. Place signage.			I		R	R
1.3.2.2	Category 3 Beach – As soon as practicable, post signage warning of recent shark activity. Remove sign as soon as practicable, after 2 hours with no further shark sighting.			I		R	R
1.3.2.3	Category 4 Beach – If practicable, post sign warning of recent shark activity. Remove next day, or as ASAP from then.			I		R	R
1.3.3	Seek DPIRD-DoF Subject Matter Advice, transmit to relevant, responsible agencies	R	A	I	I	I	I
2.0	Detector Buoy – Detects tagged shark		RA				
2.1	Buoy detects tagged shark meeting criteria (1.1) . Referred to WPCC (plus other authority where buoy within local waters only)	C	RA		I	I	I
2.2	Is detection within day light hours (+1 hour either end)? Decision point	C	RA				
2.2.1	Yes, warn beachgoers of risk, within 2 nautical miles of beacon (including social media – websites). Place Signage	C	RA	I	R	R	R
2.2.2	No – Monitor movement, report further contacts until meets criteria for 2.2.1	C	RA				
3.0	Detection by aircraft patrol				RA		
3.1	Aircraft sighting – validates sighting of shark meeting criteria 1.1 – Advises WPCC notify local agency with jurisdiction	C	C	I	RA	I	I
3.2	Activate SLSWA warning media, advises local authorities relevant to jurisdiction (SLSWA, LG, DBCA or other)	I	I		RA	I	I
4.0	Incident – Attack on human, or vessel						
4.1	Attack or ‘incident’ upon human - immediate WAPol involvement	A	C	I	I	I	I
4.2	Is attack fatal to human? – Decision Point						
4.2.1	Attack fatal to human – seek advice of WAPol Station OIC	A	C	C	R	R	R
4.2.2	Non-lethal attack– Beach closures for normal response (1.3) , consult WAPol Station OIC for advice + inform WPCC on 9442 8600	C	C	C	R	R	R
4.3	Have Victim’s remains been recovered? – Decision Point						
4.3.1	Yes – seek advice of WAPol Station OIC for decision to reopen beach (refer 1.3.1.1, 1.3.2.1, 1.3.2.2, or 1.3.2.3)	C	C	A	R	R	R
4.4	No – Seek advice of WAPol Station OIC, consider closing remainder of day and next.	C	C	RA	R	R	R

Note - Risks identified:

1. SLSWA may only patrol beaches intermittently. May lead to confusion on whether/when beaches may be Category 1 or 2.
2. WPCC may not understand the category of local beaches. Would need GIS support and accurate report locations.

Code	Definition	
R	Responsible for action/initiation	Executes the task
A	Accountable to ensure outcomes	Owns outcomes – determines criteria for decisions
C	Consulted	Prior to & during execution
I	Informed	Prior to & post event
RA	Responsible & Accountable	





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Shark Response Beach Categories

4/01/2018

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