

## 4.6 SHARK RESPONSE

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### OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide direction for responding to shark attacks and shark sightings, actions following the event of a shark interaction, and the broader approach to safety warnings and information provided to the public.
- Guide the administration of the Shire of Gingin Local Government Property Local Law 2004, under which a sign may be erected to regulate, prohibit or restrict specific activities on the beach or in the water and the giving of directions to swimmers to leave the water if a shark is suspected of being in the vicinity of the beach.
- Provide a manageable response 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.

### POLICY

The Shire of Gingin is committed to providing a safe and welcoming place for residents and visitors.

The Shire's actions will be guided by the following 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.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to beach areas under the care, control and management of the Shire, excluding privately owned land and land under the jurisdiction of State or Federal departments or instrumentalities.

### RESPONSIBILITY, REVIEW POSITION AND DATE

This policy must be reviewed every two years.

Responsibility for this policy rests with the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Management Team. Responsibility for the implementation of this Policy rests with Regulatory and Development Services (Ranger Services).

## ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

The following procedures, references and/or guidelines support this policy:

- Procedure 4.1 Beach Closures

## DEFINITIONS

Key terms and acronyms used in the policy, and their definitions:

- **Authorised Person:** means a person authorised by the local government under section 9.10 of the *Local Government Act 1995* for the purpose of administering the Shire of Gingin's local laws.
- **District:** means the district of the local government.
- **Confirmed Shark Sighting:** means a shark sighting reported to the Shire by the WA Government Shark Monitoring Network, the WA Water Police, a WA government agency and SLSWA personnel or automated triggers from satellite-linked receivers.
- **Community:** means 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).
- **Shark Threat:** in the context of this document, this implies that a shark has been sighted and/or a shark attack has taken place.
- **SLSWA:** means the Surf Life Saving Association Western Australia.

## GOVERNANCE REFERENCES

Statutory Compliance	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 2.7(2)(b) <i>Shire of Gingin Local Government Property Local Law 2004</i> cl. 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5
Industry Compliance	N/A
Organisational Compliance	Procedure 4.1 Beach Closures

## POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Review Cycle	Every two years	Next Review	October 2022
Department	Regulatory and Development Services		

Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis
1.	18/12/2018 – Item 11.2.3	Policy Adopted
2.	20/10/2020 – Item 11.2.3	Policy amended