



Queensland shark management implementation plan

2025 to 2029

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government

Introduction

The Shark Control Program started in 1962, following several fatal shark attacks across the state. For over 60 years, the program has evolved, continuing to protect Queenslanders and visitors using our coastal waters.

The Queensland Government developed the *Queensland shark management plan: 2025 to 2029*, to deliver a clear and strong direction for the future management of the Shark Control Program – with the protection of human life central to its implementation.

This document outlines schedules for the delivery of key initiatives under the management plan, covering 4 focus areas:



Operations



Research



Trials



Education & engagement





Focus area 1: Operations

Implementation schedule

Initiative	Comments	Cairns	Townsville	Mackay	Capricorn Coast	Tannum Sands	Bundaberg	Rainbow Beach	Sunshine Coast	North Stradbroke Island	Gold Coast	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Shark control equipment (nets and drumlines) to be operated throughout the year	Nets			✓				✓	✓		✓				
	Drumlines	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	Daily servicing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Shark control equipment optimisation	Optimise existing equipment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	Consideration *						Q		Q		Q				
	* Up to 5 new locations to be identified (may include regions not covered by the current program)														
Marine Animal Release Team (MART)	Review MART practices			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				
SharkSmart Drone Program	Current		1					1	4	1	3				
	Consideration *						Q		Q	Q	Q				
	* 2026–2027: Up to 6 new locations under consideration – Agnes Water, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, North Stradbroke Island, Gold Coast; 2026–27: Additional 5 sites to be determined														
Develop performance measures	Monitoring framework	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

✓ Initiative confirmed for the location. Q Initiative being considered for the location.

1 Number of beaches confirmed for the location.



Focus area 2: Research

Implementation schedule

Initiative	Comments	Cairns	Townsville	Mackay	Capricorn Coast	Tannum Sands	Bundaberg	Rainbow Beach	Sunshine Coast	North Stradbroke Island	Gold Coast	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Shark control program research strategy	Research strategy refresh	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Shark population studies	Deliver biomass estimates for key species	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Whale deterrent technology	Implement latest technology in whale deterrents			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				
Forensic shark attack tools	Deliver research into forensic shark attack techniques	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Shark tagging and tracking	Tag sharks and maintain receiver network	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

✓ Initiative confirmed for the location.



Focus area 3: Trials

Implementation schedule

Initiative	Comments	Cairns	Townsville	Mackay	Capricorn Coast	Tannum Sands	Bundaberg	Rainbow Beach	Sunshine Coast	North Stradbroke Island	Gold Coast	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Shark mitigation alternatives – framework		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Catch alert drumline trial where required under Commonwealth legislation or approvals	Current beaches	4		3	4										
	New beaches	1	6		5										
Improving the effectiveness of shark control equipment		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

✓ Initiative confirmed for the location.

1 Number of beaches confirmed for the location.



Focus area 4: Education & engagement

Implementation schedule

Initiative	Statewide	Comments	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
SharkSmart education program	✓	Campaign refresh				
	✓	Implement strategies to address high-risk activities				
SharkSmart education and extension delivery	✓	Expand current partnerships				
	✓	Develop community engagement program				