

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.  
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ABN: 39 638 876 538



Reference: 003-26

The Hon. Tara Moriarty, MLC  
Minister for Agriculture  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

cc. Minister for the Environment

Thursday, 19 February 2026

By online contact form

Dear Minister,

**Re: Shark mitigation measures in Sydney Harbour**

On behalf of our member Councils, I am writing to seek your leadership in establishing a collaborative approach between the NSW Government and local councils to develop and implement a comprehensive shark mitigation strategy for Sydney Harbour.

The recent fatal shark attack that claimed the life of a 12-year-old boy was devastating and has deeply affected families, communities, and water users across Sydney. It underscores the importance of doing everything we reasonably can to reduce the risk to swimmers and harbour users.

We welcome the NSW Government's recent announcement regarding the tagging of bull sharks and the deployment of listening devices within Sydney Harbour. This is an important and positive step. However, to be most effective, we believe this initiative needs to sit within a broader, coordinated suite of measures developed in close partnership with local councils.

Councils have a critical role to play in reducing shark risk, particularly in areas that fall within local government responsibilities. This includes the management of stormwater run-off, which is known to increase the likelihood of bull shark presence in nearshore waters by attracting prey species and altering water conditions. Addressing stormwater quality as well as sewage discharges (the responsibility of Sydney Water) is therefore an important component of any meaningful mitigation strategy and is being thoroughly investigated through the [Outer Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program](#) (OSHCMP) which the SCCG is leading.

A coordinated harbour-wide strategy, developed collaboratively between the NSW Government, councils, and relevant agencies, would allow these measures to be integrated with state-led initiatives such as shark tagging, monitoring, community education and data sharing.

We encourage the NSW Government to actively engage councils around Sydney Harbour as partners in this work. By fostering collaboration, sharing data, and establishing clearly defined roles, we can enhance public safety while maintaining community confidence in the safe



Sutherland Shire  
COUNCIL



INNER WEST



WAVERLEY  
COUNCIL



Bayside Council

northern  
beaches  
council



WILLOUGHBY  
CITY COUNCIL  
City of Diversity



Randwick City Council  
a sense of community



enjoyment of Sydney Harbour. The SCCG stands ready to support this process by convening workshops and briefings with its member councils and other stakeholders involved in the OSHCMP.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you have any queries, please contact me by email at [sarah@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](mailto:sarah@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Penny Joyce  
**Executive Director**

