



Kill off shark cull

Recent polls have shown that an overwhelming number of Australians oppose the culling of sharks and do not live in fear of going into the water. Despite this, the Western Australian government is laying drum lines with cruel hooks that will catch not only sharks but dolphins, turtles and rays, and cause them agonising deaths.

Since 1580, there have been fewer than 500 fatal shark attacks on humans around the world. Humans pose a much bigger threat to sharks than they ever will to us. Every year, humans pull roughly 100 million sharks from the water, slice off their fins to make soup, and throw their mutilated bodies back into the sea to bleed slowly to death. Many shark species are endangered because of human exploitation.

How can the federal Environment Minister condemn Japan for its indiscriminate killing of whales and dolphins and still credibly allow the WA government to kill the protected great white shark? Shark experts from the University of Western Australia have advised that this barbaric, knee-jerk reaction is pointless, as increased incidents with sharks are attributable to a growing human population and therefore more people entering the water.

Des Bellamy, PETA Australia