



## ↳ LETTERS

### **Shark cull cruel**

RECENT polls have shown that an overwhelming number of Australians oppose the culling of sharks and do not live in fear of going back in 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 an agonising death.

Sharks have inhabited the oceans for 34 million years, and have earned their right to live in their natural habitat without being hunted and killed. Since the year 1580, there have been less than 500 fatal shark attacks on humans around the world. Yet we are afraid of them?

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, including the great white pointer, are endangered due to human exploitation. How can the Federal Environment Minister condemn Japan for the indiscriminate killing of whales and dolphins and still credibly allow the WA government to capture and kill the protected great white shark?

Thousands of Australians have already expressed their disapproval of this barbaric, knee-jerk reaction that shark experts from the University of Western Australia have advised is pointless, since increased incidents with sharks are attributable to a growing human population and more people entering the

water.

PETA is asking the Western Australian government to reverse its unpopular and unjustifiable decision.

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