



Logic urged in debate over shark cull in WA

PERTH — The producer of a documentary about great white sharks has called for rationality in the ongoing debate about Western Australia's controversial cull.

Julia Redwood of Prospero Productions, the company behind *Outback Truckers* and *Shipwreck Detectives*, said the finishing touches were being put on *The Real Jaws*, which will be broadcast in June on the Nine Network and the PBS science channel, NOVA.

The crew interviewed shark attack survivors and joined researchers from the University of Western Australia's Oceans Institute on expeditions, watching the reactions of sharks to experimental deterrents from the safety of the boat, thanks to underwater cameras.

Ms Redwood said shark attacks had become a complicated social issue in WA following a spate of fatal

maulings, with both the general public and scientists responding emotively.

"It's so emotive on both sides of the fence," she told AAP.

"Loved ones get taken and it's completely understandable ... the desire to rid ourselves of a threat.

"It's a natural human response. It is a deep, innate fear that is understandable, but also irrational.

"Logic doesn't come into it but it has to.

"This isn't a massacre (of humans) going on."

She said the WA government's cull was politically-driven and questioned whether it would make any difference to the safety of swimmers and surfers.

"How effective it is going to be is not proven, given no great whites have been caught and they are the greatest threat."