



Avert tragedy or Tourism faces the death penalty.

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Daniel McCarthy KAP candidate for Leichhardt says Governments need to wake up to the danger lurking in our waters.

“The growth in shark and crocodile numbers is due to the healthy environment of the Great Barrier Reef and the key to information and appropriate action is citizen-science” says McCarthy.

Northern Australian shark and pelagic fishery scientist; with prior involvement with Australian White Shark and Grey Nurse Recovery Plans, Mr Geoff McPherson says “The abundance of sharks has increased. The high level of predation has become unacceptable to all fishing sectors. Fishers should consider forming alliances based on Citizen Science principles to collate their observations into data and present a case to management agencies”.

Daniel McCarthy agrees “Those of us who spend countless hours on the water are well and truly aware of the exponential growth in shark and crocodile numbers along our coast. Government should grasp rather than ignore the huge resource and expertise of recreational and commercial fishers who have an enormous collective knowledge from years of observations”.

Rather than the Queensland government protecting all sharks over 1.5m as they currently do, allowing them to grow into man eaters, sharks should and can be easily harvested to appropriate levels with stock assessment measures based on science not NGO hysteria.

Sold as flake, it has been a main stay of fish and chip shops around the country for decades. Frozen and boxed it could be sent overseas as part of our generous foreign aid programs. Indeed, crocodile meat also has the same potential.

“Sharks and crocodiles are predators. The government’s solution of posting warning signs advising that man eaters are present just simply doesn’t cut it.

Locals and Tourists come to Queensland to swim in our spectacular oceans and freshwater creeks. If that becomes merely ‘history’ due to safety risk the government will surely feel the pain at the ballot box” says McCarthy.

It’s only a matter of time before an attack happens out on the GBR or on an iconic beach like Port Douglas, Palm Cove or Trinity.

When it happens our tourism economy will be on its knees in a dying heartbeat. Government needs to act now not wait for further tragedy” says McCarthy.

—ENDS— Media Enquiries: Daniel McCarthy Ph 0413 054 031