

Nets Out Now Coalition Sign On



NETS
OUT
NOW

respect the locals

benley



Dear prospective coalition member,

When I set out to film *Envoy: Shark Cull (2021)*, I hoped the finished product would spark a movement.

I hoped to see such overwhelming public outcry, so large that the Government would be forced to end, or modernise, their archaic 'shark control' and 'bather protection' programs in New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland (QLD).

Whilst the film helped to grab attention and put a spotlight on this topic, and the amazing organisations and individuals who have been working in this space for many years, it was not enough. The political bent towards the status quo has thus far been too strong.

That's where you come in. We need your help to put the final nail in the coffin of these programs.

To join the coalition, we need you to sign on to the coalition position statement, and ask that you send a letter to the Premier in each state. We of course welcome any and all other contributions towards our strategies and tactics.

If all coalition members can contribute what they are best at, under their own name, their own brand, with their own resources - optionally and occasionally sharing resources for large scale actions like protests - we will be stronger together.

If you're unsure how you can best contribute, we have prepared a list of campaign strategies and tactics that we will be actioning, and are happy to walk you through those to see how you can assist.

Together, with the greater goal in mind of standing up for wildlife and human safety, we can end the 86 years of shark culling in Australian waters in favour of modern alternatives.

Will you join us?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Borell", written over a horizontal line.

Andre Borell
Envoy Foundation
Founding member of the Nets Out Now coalition



NETS OUT NOW COALITION POSITION STATEMENT

Introduction:

Since the 1930's, sharks have been targeted and killed by government-run shark culling programs to "protect" beaches in Australia. These have operated in New South Wales since 1937, and Queensland since 1962. In this time, almost 70 shark bite incidents, including 3 fatalities, have occurred at so-called "protected" beaches.

Shark bite mitigation and modernisation:

It is the position of the members of the Nets Out Now Coalition that:

- shark culling via the use of shark nets and lethal drumlines is an ineffective method for promoting public safety, providing only a false sense of security to beachgoers
- these methods are extremely detrimental to the health and ecological viability of our marine life and ecosystems, affecting both 'target' and 'non-target' species
- we directly oppose the continuation of outdated, lethal measures of shark control and beach safety programs that are not supported by scientific evidence, namely shark nets and lethal drumlines, and support the immediate transition away from these methods
- we support and advocate for the use of scientifically supported, evidence-based approaches using modern and non-lethal alternatives in these programs, in conjunction with community education and support for lifesavers and first responders, and request the rapid implementation of these measures

It is our position that these updated measures will improve protection for both beach-goers and marine life within Australian waters, as well as positioning Australia as a global leader on shark mitigation, leading to improvements in human safety, tourism, conservation and reputation.

Conclusions:

Lethal programs designed to kill target sharks are ineffective at improving beach safety and do not have the social license to continue, especially those that kill large amounts of by-catch of non-target species such as dolphins, whales and turtles. It is our position that lethal drumlines and shark nets should be replaced with non-lethal mitigation methods as a matter of urgency.

Member organisations may have their own individual position statements with further detail on their organisations position on more specific issues, and are available to be approached directly.

NB: For a live version of the above featuring all current signatories, please click [here](#) to request access.



NETS OUT NOW COALITION LETTER TEMPLATES

We have created two letter templates to send to the NSW and QLD decision makers - the State Premiers.

After years of lobbying Fisheries and Environment ministers, we no longer consider these to be genuine decision makers. Each time there comes a pivotal moment in the campaign, Premiers of both states have stepped in to stop progress, because progress is not a political risk they are willing to take.

By taking this action, they have put their hand up and signalled they are the only true decision makers on this topic.

We ask that you send this letter to the Premier(s) from your own organisation, on your letterhead, with the coalition position statement attached.

You are free to make slight changes and customisations as you see fit, providing they do not contradict the coalition position as articulated in the position statement. Please speak from the heart, about why this matter is important to you.

If you are in the tourism business, let them know that killing wildlife at our popular beaches is not good business.

If you are a charity or NGO, let them know how these programs negatively impact the very thing you exist to protect.

If you are an individual, let them know that you are going to use your voice against these programs, and to make sure everyone knows what is happening.



By email: premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Hon. David Crisafulli MP
Queensland Premier
PO Box 15185
City East, QLD 4002

Dear Premier,

We ask that your government commit to the immediate transition to evidence-based non-lethal shark control measures in Queensland. The immediate commitment and transition to modernising Queensland's Shark Control Program (SCP) is imperative for improving the protection of beach goers in Queensland waters.

As has been on public record for several years now since the *Federal Senate Inquiry on Shark Mitigation and Deterrent Measures (2017)*, and the *HSI v GBRMPA and QDAF (2019)* case, the use of nets and drumlines provides no measurable benefit to human safety, and that the scientific evidence in this regard is "overwhelming".

The continued use of outdated equipment that is not supported by scientific evidence in the name of a false sense of security, not only threatens the lives of beach goers in Queensland, but poses a threat to tourism in the locations where they operate. The lethal components of the SCP additionally threaten and target native and migratory marine species, some of which are protected under Australian law.

We collectively wish to see Queensland beaches be as safe as possible, for both people and wildlife. In order for this to occur, the current SCP must transition as soon as possible to an evidence-based non-lethal program.

We call upon the Queensland government to follow a robust, evidence-based approach to best protect their citizens and visitors, as well as conserve our marine wildlife. Queensland faces the unique opportunity to set a global standard for beach protection and to showcase the technological advancements available in the 21st century to coexist with nature.

For matters pertaining to budgetary deliberations, we would direct your attention to the Modernisation Proposal and Cost Estimate our coalition submitted to your offices in October 2020. The ongoing costs of the program suggests the SCP budget will reduce, after the initial upfront infrastructure/asset investment, whilst creating more jobs than the current SCP does.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to the modernisation of the SCP away from outdated lethal methods, to best reflect modern safety standards, technology and societal values.

Our attached position statement has been signed by Businesses, Tourism Operators, NGOs and other organisations who oppose the use of lethal equipment such as shark nets and traditional drumlines within your jurisdiction, in favour of modern, evidence-based alternatives.

Signed:



By email: office@premier.nsw.gov.au

Hon. Chris Minns
NSW Premier
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

We ask that your government commit to the immediate transition to only non-lethal shark control measures in New South Wales. The immediate commitment and transition toward taking the final step in modernising the New South Wales Bather Protection Program, by ending the Shark Meshing Program (SMP), is imperative for the effective protection of beach goers in New South Wales waters.

As has been on public record for several years now since the *Federal Senate Inquiry on Shark Mitigation and Deterrent Measures (2017)*, the use of nets provides no measurable benefit to human safety. NSW has taken great steps forward recently in embracing the benefits of modern science with the recent investment in non-invasive technologies, however the continued use of lethal shark nets undermines the entire program and keeps NSW locked in an archaic understanding of shark mitigation.

The continued use of outdated equipment that is not supported by scientific evidence in the name of a false sense of security, not only threatens the lives of beach goers in New South Wales, but poses a threat to tourism in the locations where they operate. Despite a low number of fatalities at netted beaches, there have still been 53 shark bites at netted beaches. Fatalities have been avoided by improvements in emergency response, training and procedures, as well as netted beaches being nearer population centers. The presence or absence of nets has no impact whatsoever on fatalities, and does not reduce shark bites. The lethal components of the SMP additionally threaten and target native and migratory marine species, some of which are protected under Australian law.

We collectively wish to see New South Wales beaches be as safe as possible, for both people and wildlife. In order for this to occur, shark nets must be removed as a shark mitigation strategy. Most local councils with these devices have already motioned for this to occur, and the rest have abstained (acknowledging that this is a state matter), and the recent survey of public sentiment on shark mitigation measures echoes this. There is simply no council or community support for them to remain.

Given the performance of shark nets over the past five years (specifically the ~90% bycatch rates in most years) and both, the TSSC and FSC scientific reviews, these nets continue to severely impact ecosystems and threatened species, all the while as well as the performance of the non-lethal alternatives is now proven. We implore you to take this opportunity to follow the science, and discontinue the use of shark nets.

New South Wales faces the unique opportunity to set a global standard for beach protection and to showcase the technological advancements available today to coexist with nature. This cannot occur while the 86 years of senseless culling continues under the false guise of protecting beach goers. Making the long overdue decision to remove nets will send a clear message that New South Wales embraces modern technology and advocates for coexistence with our threatened marine ecosystems. We truly hope you will be the Premier to do that.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to the modernisation of the Shark Management Strategy away from outdated lethal methods, to best reflect modern safety standards, technology and societal values.

Our attached position statement has been signed by Businesses, Tourism Operators, NGOs and other organisations who oppose the use of lethal equipment such as shark nets within your jurisdiction, in favour of modern, evidence-based alternatives.

Signed:



NETS OUT NOW COALITION ORGANISATION/BUSINESS SIGN UP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

By signing and returning this page, the organisation's authorised representative agrees for the organisation to join the Nets Out Now coalition, on the basis that participation within this coalition is done on a voluntary basis.

Signing **does not** bind any set commitments or resources to future campaign efforts, be it financial, participatory or otherwise.

Signing **does** constitute permission for Nets Out Now coalition (strikethrough any that are unacceptable):

1. To use the organisation logo and authorised signature on the coalition position statement found in this document, which will be replicated as a standalone public facing document.
2. To use the organisation logo on social media posts and website announcements advertising your membership to the coalition.

Any and all other and future uses of the organisation's logo or the authorised signature will need to be approved by the organisation on a case-by-case basis, upon request by the Nets Out Now Coalition.

By signing below, I consent to becoming a member of the Nets Out Now Coalition and the above statements.

Authorised Representative Name:

Authorised Representative Signature:

Organisation:

Date:

Please send completed form to netsoutnow@envoy.foundation



NETS OUT NOW COALITION

INDIVIDUAL AMBASSADOR SIGN UP

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

By signing and returning this page, the individual agrees to become an official signatory of the Nets Out Now coalition, on the basis that participation within this coalition is done on a voluntary basis.

Signing **does not** bind any set commitments or resources to future campaign efforts, be it financial, participatory or otherwise.

Signing **does** constitute permission for Nets Out Now coalition (strikethrough any that are unacceptable):

1. To use the individual's name and authorised signature on the coalition position statement found in this document, which will be replicated as a standalone public facing document and as part of social media posts and website announcements advertising your being a signatory to the coalition.
2. To use the individual's image and likeness as part of social media posts and website announcements advertising your being a signatory to the coalition.

Any and all other and future uses of the name/image/signature/likeness will need to be approved by the individual on a case-by-case basis, upon request by the Nets Out Now Coalition.

By signing below, I consent to becoming a signatory of the Nets Out Now Coalition and the above statements.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Please send completed form to netsoutnow@envoy.foundation