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# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **Ministers hang up on recreational fishermen as shark ban earns anglers' ire**

Ministers' offices are refusing to take phone calls over the Government's decision to ban mako shark fishing, demanding that any "complaints" be put in writing. Callers are told the Minister is on leave while his advisers are all "too busy" to take calls. Anglers are upset as the Minister had promised to delay the decision until after a review of the Australian EPBC Act. California and New Zealand have granted exemptions for mako shark fishing. A petition to the Government to stop its ban on mako shark fishing is receiving nation-wide support.

<http://www.frankstonindependent.com.au/news/local/news/general/shark-ban-earns-anglers-ire/1722550.aspx?storypage=0> and <http://www.liberal.org.au/news.php?Id=4487> and <http://www.liberal.org.au/news.php?Id=4469>

## **Report of the Independent review of the EPBC Act**

Dr Allan Hawke presented the final report on the independent review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* to the Minister on 30 October 2009. The Act is currently too repetitive, unnecessarily complex and, in some areas, overly prescriptive. It needs restructuring to make it more accessible, easier to navigate and reduce the regulatory and resource burden on those impacted by the Act. The review attracted a wide range of contributions, including 220 written submissions and 119 comments.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/review/publications/final-report.html>

## **Fishermen investigated after illegal shark catch**

Fisheries are investigating claims two anglers caught a 2.8-metre bull shark and boasted about it in the media. At 2.8-metre and about 70kg, the shark is almost double the legal size limit. The catch was reported in two newspapers, with a photograph of it hanging from a tree. The men could face a maximum \$75,000 fine.

<http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/pair-investigated-over-bull-shark-catch-20100106-lu5v.html>

## **Barramundi licence buy back on track**

The Government recognises the importance of recreational fishing, and in response to public comments has bought back the fourth commercial barramundi licence as part of its election commitment to purchase fishing licences. The closures will effectively reallocate the barramundi resource in these areas to recreational fishermen, fishing tour operators and the Indigenous sectors and will enhance the fishing experience in the area.

<http://newsroom.nt.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=viewRelease&id=6432&d=5>

## **Councils urge use of \$20 rubbish levy to fix dying Swan River**

Riverside councils are calling on the Government to use its new household waste levy to clean up old landfill sites. At least 13 former landfill sites are thought to be leaching heavy metals, pesticides and other contaminants into the Swan River. The situation was so bad last summer old metal drums of waste could be seen emerging from eroded areas of the river foreshore. Government will get an extra \$39 million a year.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/6655512>

## **Forrest Beach fenced off**

Legal checks have shown the area between the sand dunes and water's edge is privately owned. Concerns to the owners are the increasing levels of "hoon" type driving putting other beach users at risk, camping on the beach with associated fires, and the activities of commercial horse trainers. Fencing is to stop vehicles being driven on the beach, but will allow persons on foot to go through this area for fishing, swimming or general walking.

[http://www.capel.wa.gov.au/minutes/minutes\\_161209.pdf](http://www.capel.wa.gov.au/minutes/minutes_161209.pdf) pages 42-47

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