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Hon Ann Bressington MLC  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

11/02/2012

Dear Ms Bressington,

I write in response to your letter to the Friends of Gulf St Vincent regarding your proposed Fisheries Management (Attracting Sharks) Amendment Bill 2012.

Thank you for inviting the views of our group.

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent support any initiatives that will:

1. Foster a unified community approach to the protection and wise use of Gulf St Vincent
2. Advocate for the
  - conservation of marine and coastal environments
  - protection of key habitats in the Gulf
  - sustainable use of marine resources
3. Promote awareness of issues relating to the health of Gulf St Vincent
4. Provide a means of conveying community concerns to the government

If we have understood your proposed bill, it will tighten up the existing prohibitions relating to berlying, and make it clear that deliberate attraction of sharks close to shore is illegal.

We note also that penalties have been increased significantly. As always, such measures can only be effective with adequate surveillance, and we urge that resource provision be made to support enforcement, or increased frequency of surveillance by Fisheries compliance officers. This is likely to necessitate additional staffing for Fisheries. Alternatively, training and authorisation of other agencies to issue fines to offenders is an option. Local government officers may be able to provide such a service.

We support this escalation of control over an activity that could endanger swimmers and other beach users, however the magnitude of this hazard needs to be viewed alongside other water-based activities that cause injury and death each year.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Gackle

Secretary, Friends of Gulf St Vincent