



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Recreational Fishing Targeted Again By Minister Garrett**

Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett has once again taken a swipe at the recreational fishing community by unilaterally acting to ban fishing for longfin mako, shortfin mako and portbeagle sharks.

Once again we see the same appalling approach by Minister Garrett in totally ignoring the views of recreational and game fishers in this Country by implementing the ban.

Game fishing clubs around Australia will be severely impacted by this decision. Yet once again, no thought has been given to seek to work with affected industry, clubs or local communities.

Wayne Bayne, Secretary of the Australian Fishing and Lifestyle Party said “Minister Garrett seems to have one methodology when it comes to decision making – just do it no matter what the consequences.”

“We experienced exactly the same approach when he unilaterally decided to declare the Coral Sea as a conservation zone earlier this year” said Bayne.

“This decision will once again have a serious impact on businesses and regional communities. At what stage do the interests of regional communities and the economy figure in Minister Garrett’s decision making?” asked Bayne.

“There are numerous options under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to put in place sensible measures. He would have discovered these options had he taken the time and had the courtesy to consult with industry and other stakeholders” said Bayne.

“It is abundantly clear that once again he is shown to be prisoner to fundamentalist green groups who have little or no regard for mainstream community views. One can’t help but feel this is the thin edge of the wedge with plenty more surprises in store” said Bayne.

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