



Media release

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Shark barrier tender awarded

Global Marine Enclosures has been successful in tendering to install and maintain a shark barrier at Middleton Beach for a three-year trial period.

Albany City Council last night awarded the tender to the company, after accepting a State Government grant of \$200,000 for the project at its August meeting.

The successful tender has come in on budget and an Aquarius Barrier will be installed for a trial period of three years, with council to set aside \$30,000 per annum for maintenance of the barrier during the trial while also exploring other funding opportunities.

The Aquarius barrier is exciting new shark exclusion technology designed to protect swimmers while still allowing small fish species to swim freely through the barrier.

Made out of rope and plastic, the barrier is draped in the water and anchored in place with concrete footings and an anchor chain tied between.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the council preferred this model over a second tender which would have required the installation of piles at a higher cost.

“This is new technology that is setting new ground in shark safety and having it at Middleton Beach will give swimmers peace of mind,” Mayor Wellington said.

“Albany has some of the State’s most stunning coastline and Middleton Beach is one of our most popular destinations for beachgoers, but there are many who choose not to swim because of the fear of sharks.

“We want people of all ages to be able to enjoy the ocean and the beach safe in the knowledge they are protected.”

Mayor Wellington said the shark barrier would be an added tourist attraction for Albany and would also complement the future Middleton Beach development.

The City will require an Environmental Management Plan to be submitted by the contractor and approved before installation commences, and will undertake community environmental education during the trial.

The City is confident the trial will be a success.

It is expected the barrier will be ready to install in early March 2016.

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