



## Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **Future for mako fishery secured**

Recreational anglers will be able to continue to fish for the shortfin mako shark thanks to action by the Rudd Government says the Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom MP.

Mr Sidebottom welcomed today's move by the Minister for Environment, Peter Garrett, to change legislation to allow recreational fisherman to still fish for mako.

"When I was alerted to this situation late last year I contacted the Minister immediately, and was able to receive an assurance that recreational fishers practising tag and release were unlikely to be prosecuted," Mr Sidebottom said.

"However, I had also urged Mr Garrett to go further and make sure this wasn't to become an ongoing concern for anglers and he has responded."

Mr Sidebottom said attempts to misrepresent the situation by Liberal Senator Richard Colbeck had caused unnecessary distress for anglers.

"Under the EPBC Act written by the previous government, of which Senator Colbeck was a member, once a species is listed under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) the Australian Government is obligated to list the sharks as a migratory species – in this case the mako shark," he said.

"But Mr Garrett has been quick to act in this situation after myself and other Labor MPs contacted him to pass on the concerns of anglers and the industry..

"I am also writing to him to urge a change to the Act as part of the current Hawke Review of the EPBC to see this doesn't happen into the future with other species, and to allow more room for notification and consultation.

"Rather than stirring up the fishing community, I decided it was better to find a long-term solution to the mako fishery."

**For more information** - Luke Sayer on 0458 311 355