

Last chance to choose a winner

WEST Australians have just one day left to vote for the person they believe is the People's Choice in the 2012 Pride of Australia awards.

Voting for the winners of each medal in 10 categories across Australia is open until tomorrow.

Now in its eighth year, the Pride of Australia Medal recognises ordinary West Australians who achieve extraordinary things. The medallist with the most votes across the country will win the People's Choice award and receive \$10,000 cash and



\$10,000 for their nominated charity, thanks to Toyota Camry.

WA's 11 medallists are in the running. They are heroism recipient Michael Lanagan, Fair Go medallist Suresh Rajan, Child of Courage

Hannah Spanswick, Young Leader Thomas Davies, Care and Compassion medallist Craig Pennell, Community Spirit winner Steve Andrews, Courage medallist Helen Majewski, Environment winner Kim Hands, Inspiration medallist Josh Bond and Outstanding Bravery medal winners Michael and Dee-Anne Thorpe.

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www.prideofaustralia.com.au

HUNGRY

'Green stamp' bid in sell-off to Asia

Trevor Paddenburg
Chief Reporter

WA is poised to further feed Asia's appetite for shark fin in a controversial move being pushed by WA Fisheries Minister Norman Moore.

But the plan has "astounded" green groups who say exporting fins will undermine the worldwide campaign against shark finning and become a "global embarrassment" that undermines the Barnett Government's green credentials.

A delegation to China led by Fisheries Department director-general Stuart Smith found there would be strong demand for WA shark fin with a "green stamp" that guaranteed it has come from sustainable sources.

The minister and his department have now commissioned the independent Marine Stewardship Council to analyse the state's catch limits and fishing practices so WA can be certified as a sustainable fishery.

WA already exports about 30 tonnes of shark fin a year to Asia at \$10-\$20 a kilogram. But prices could jump to as much as \$100 a kilo with

sustainable certification, according to the Fisheries Department.

The fins are used in highly prized shark-fin soup, which can sell for as much as \$1000 a bowl in hotels and restaurants in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea.

Conservation Council marine co-ordinator Tim Nichol said the move would "torpedo the campaign against shark finning - one of the cruellest and most wasteful fishing practices in the world".

"I'm appalled that they are in Asia, representing us as West Australians, and undermining the campaign against this pointless industry," Mr Nichol said.

"Demand for shark-fin soup underpins a criminal trade, almost as big as the drug trade, that is decimating shark populations around the world."

Michael Skoletsky, executive director of international group Shark Savers, said he was "very sceptical" of the MSC certification process, with marine and fisheries scientists voicing concerns over its procedures.

But Mr Smith said the MSC tick of approval was the "gold standard" and there was nothing wrong

with exporting shark fin if it was taken sustainably. "To the green groups we would be saying we support a ban on shark fishing that's not done in a responsible way (but) if it's done responsibly from sustainable stocks then we believe there's a market for it," the fisheries boss said.

He said certified shark fin would not encourage the illegal trade because it could be "traced from the restaurant right back to the boat".

Demand in Asia would be strong if our shark fin had the green stamp, Mr Smith said.

"We could supply all of the product we have into China and still not satisfy demand," he said.

Brad Adams, chairman of the WA Fishing Industry Council, denied also that WA shark fin would fuel the global trade in illegal fins.

"I totally agree with a ban on shark fins where they take the fin and throw the shark away. But that doesn't happen in WA," Mr Adams said.

Most of the shark meat is sold locally through fish and chip shops.

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Want to keep mentally healthy?

In today's society when there are a lot of things to feel stressed about, it is more important than ever to do things to keep ourselves mentally healthy so we can enjoy life more and cope with the stresses and strains of everyday living.

During Mental Health Week (7 - 14 Oct) make time to visit the **act-belong-commit** website to find out how **you** can boost your mental health and wellbeing.

actbelongcommit.org.au



Visit the website or call 9266 3788 and make a pledge to keep mentally healthy.

You'll simply feel happier too.



Government of Western Australia
Mental Health Commission



Curtin University



SHARK FISHING IN WA

■ 4 shark fisheries

■ Mostly school, gummy, bronze and whiskery sharks are caught.

■ 1031 tonnes of shark and rays caught in 2011-12.

■ About 30 tonnes of shark fin taken in 2011-12.

Source: Fisheries Department catch data.

SHARK SPECIES SURVIVAL

■ 14 shark species most common in the fin trade are at risk of extinction globally.

■ 141 shark species threatened or near threatened with extinction.

■ An International Union for Conservation of Nature study showed a third of shark species were threatened with extinction.

■ It also showed that up to 73 million sharks were killed in the fin trade annually.

Source: Shark Savers and Sea Shepherd

SHARK FIN SOUP

■ Shark fin is used for shark fin soup, a delicacy in Asia.

■ It sells for as much as \$1000 a bowl.

■ Its popularity has dropped since a global campaign against it.



ELIZABETH QUAY



Elizabeth Quay will bring the city and river together again, transforming 10 hectares of waterfront land in the heart of Perth's CBD.

PROJECT INFORMATION

- A 2.7ha inlet surrounded by 1.5ha of continuous public promenade
- 800 apartments to house more than 1,400 people and 400 new hotel rooms
- Office and retail space for 15,000 workers
- Diversion of Riverside Drive around the project area
- New ferry terminal and public moorings
- An improved Barrack Square

MAJOR TRAFFIC IMPACTS

- **Mounts Bay Rd:** down to two lanes between Mill and William streets until December 2012
- **Kwinana Freeway South On-Ramp (at Mounts Bay Rd):** lane narrowing and bus lane closed to November 2012
- **Riverside Drive:** lane narrowing and speed restrictions west of William Street until November 2012

KEY MILESTONES

- 2012 April** Works commenced
- 2013 Early** Two-way connection of William Street to Point Lewis Rotary complete
- March** Barrack Square jetty reconstruction works complete
- August** Conversion of William Street to two-way up to Mounts Bay Road complete
- Sept/Oct** Riverside Drive redirected
- 2015** Inlet and public realm construction complete

For more information or traffic and travel updates visit the website.

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