A response from Julie Anderson regarding the Western Australian proposal to destroy sharks that are found swimming too close to beaches:

It is hard to believe with all we know about sharks, including their dwindling numbers, their critical role in our oceans, and the small risk they actually pose to humans in the grand scheme of things, that the archaic concept of killing these animals solely or our “protection” still exists. And that a country like Australia, whose citizens are known for their enlightened, balanced view of nature. would declare war on sharks – giving the approval to kill any sharks swim near beaches in Western Australia. Even the protected and endangered white shark. All this in a medieval response to five deaths due to shark bites in the past year. At a cost of far more than the $6.35 million that the Australian government is investing in the program. It is absolutely shameful.

Make no mistake. Our hearts go out to the victims’ families. But while these six tragic deaths evoke our primal fears, fueled by media hype, we, as a globally impacted community, still need perspective.

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