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**The story...**

Shark-detecting drones

**Learn language related to...**

Danger

**Need-to-know language**

sinister – (adjective) gives the impression something bad will happen

threatening – (adjective) something that feels hostile

in distress – in need of help

do more harm than good – make things worse rather than better

**Answer this...**

How does the drone know if it's spotted a swimmer or a shark?

**Transcript**

A shadow in the sea or something more **sinister**?

From the beach it's hard to tell but from the skies the drone has a clearer view. It feeds into deep learning software which it's claimed has a 92% success rate in spotting sharks, as well as less **threatening** species. Every time it sees a dolphin, whale or a swimmer **in distress** it learns their shape. Launched along the beaches of New South Wales, the drones can patrol for 40 minutes. Daniel was one of the first to train as a lifesaver pilot.

Daniel Trollope, Drone pilot

I mean, I can't physically run out and grab a board and paddle out and save someone, but sitting on the beach we've got eyes in the sky and we're just another layer of protection, really.

The drones don't only observe - they can react too, dropping an inflatable device to help people in the sea. It won't replace the use of controversial shark nets and drum lines however – which some claim **do more harm than good**. The drones won't be on every

beach every day, but they should give everyone a better understanding of what's down below.

**Did you get it?**

How does the drone know if it's spotted a swimmer or a shark?

**The answer:**

It compares the shape against images and shapes stored in its deep learning software. It's claimed to have a 92% success rate.

**Did you know?**

There are over 500 species of shark, ranging from the colossal 20m whale shark, which weighs around 30,000kg and is the world's biggest fish, to the tiny dwarf lantern shark that only grows to 10-20cm.