A MURRUMBA Downs angler says it's only a matter of time before a shark attacks at a popular swimming and wakeboarding spot on the Pine River.

While fishing near Murrumba Downs' Castle Hill estate on Tuesday afternoon, Angie Thorpe and friends caught two 1m bull sharks in one hour, but she said it was the one that got away that had them worried. “It was probably 3m and it came full pelt at the front of the boat, peeled off to the side and ripped the bait off with the hook and sinker, an 80-pound swivel. That's a big shark,” she said. “It's only a matter of time before there's a fatality here.”

Young wakeboarders, including Kedron’s Joel Woods, were not fazed. “We've always known there's sharks in here ... you don't really think about it,” he told the Press before a late-afternoon session.

Murrumba Downs wakeboarding instructor Dean Heidke said anglers often tried to scare wakeboarders off with tall tales of big sharks. “I've been skiing there for eight years and never come across a shark,” he said.

University of Queensland Professor of zoology and shark expert Craig Franklin said it was “possible but unlikely” adult sharks were active in the Pine River. He said adult female bull sharks only swim upriver to give birth, and pups leave the river system when they reach adulthood. Prof Franklin said swimming in the Pine River was no different to swimming in the ocean.

“Limit your swimming at dusk or dawn as sharks tend to feed at night ... people swim in the Pine and the Brisbane rivers, and especially upstream, and there's never been a fatality,” he said.