

16 August 2017

Submission on the Safer Waterways Bill 2017

I do believe that there is some fine tuning to do but basics are OK.

Formation of an Authority to focus on the issues is good and I would like to be part of this.

Page 7 - section h (1) remove not kill

(11) remove not kill

Page 7 - section (i) trade ref, - free trade between states so cannot guarantee restriction to Queensland

(j) I can see conflicts here as this means a landowner can kill a croc as he feels in danger from it and then he can commercialise it -easy to abuse the privilege and kill any croc and say it came from his land - too hard to control.

Page 17 - line 28 - remove not kill

Page 17 - line 30 the talk of crocodile reserves to relocate crocs to will not work as crocs have a homing advice so the crocs will return to the river system that they came from. This is old science that has been known since the 1970's. Any crocs captured from the wild should be sent to farms or disposed of by someone in authority and duly recorded. This may be someone who is a government employee or someone appointed by the authority from outside the ranks of government.

Page 18 - line 10 - remove - not kill

line 11/12 - I do not agree with safari hunting of crocs as it is too hard to enforce and control. In addition a wounded croc is much more dangerous and there will be wounded crocs if safari hunting is permitted. Moreover a stable crocodile community is headed up by an Alpha male. Normally this is the largest male in the system. Removal of this male will cause disruption as others fight for dominance ending up with dislocated crocs establishing a new hierarchy. Hunters will of course be seeking the largest croc.

Reports OK but for 3b - if landowners are permitted to kill crocs they may not report the act as they are usually in remote areas and will not be found out - once again hard to enforce the reporting and thus no record of the death.

If the croc egg harvesting becomes legal in Queensland as it should the end result is an industry providing a product that is in demand internationally. The skin of the saltwater croc is a highly prized commodity. If the total conservation programme has aspects within it that are questionable (such as uncontrolled shooting by landowners) then the Qld bill may be questioned by CITES. At the moment the Australian skins can be traded to or on traded from another country to USA. No other country has this advantage as the USA (Washington Convention) recognises the Aust Gov croc conservation controls. We should not introduce legislation that may jeopardise this industry advantage.

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