

Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Dan Walton
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Submitter Comments:

Firstly, I agree in-principal with the better management of saltwater crocodile populations to restore the ecological balance that was disrupted when culling was common-place. Prior to this, the largest crocodiles would have contributed to the management of overall populations in their territory by killing smaller crocs. Historical culling / hunting would have taken the largest of these animals out of the ecosystem and when this practice ceased, the remaining crocodiles, in the absence of predation grew at similar rates, resulting in less dominant but more abundant crocodiles all competing for the most desirable territory. Large numbers of similarly sized crocodiles all competing for the best territory must contribute to the spread of crocodiles into waterways where they take up residence, resulting in the increased risk of human / crocodile interaction. I think we should be aiming to restore the ecological balance through selective culling that results in the re-establishment of the large, dominant animals (in more remote areas), combined with the removal of saltwater crocodiles in high value (human use) locations where they didn't previously inhabit. In the Cairns region this includes places like Lake Placid, Ross and Locke and the more recently the upper reaches of the Mulgrave River. Being a conservationist at heart, I think it's time we had a pragmatic look at the ongoing impact of upsetting the balance in the past and seek to restore the balance through contemporary legislation based on science and evidence-based decision making.