

## Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 14

**Submitted by:** Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Far North Branch

Making the submission and your name public

**Publication:**

See attachment

**Attachments:**

**Submitter Comments:**

# Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Far North Branch (WPSQFNB)



RE: Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill

Members of this the Far North Wildlife are interested as to why this Bill is necessary. Crocodiles are already managed by the Department of Science, Environment and Innovation which is legally responsible for the conservation and management of all Queensland fauna. This Bill is proposing establishing a new Authority with associated bureaucracy etc and cost to achieve what? If the current management is not working the logical thing is to fix it, not set up a whole new structure.

Crocodiles are an essential component of the North Queensland waterways and marine ecosystems, and their presence needs to be recognised and respected.

Where a crocodile is exhibiting threatening behaviour in proximity to an area of regular human use it may be appropriate that it should be removed or destroyed. However, people need to be educated to the risks and take suitable precautions when in crocodile habitat.

Landholders losing livestock may be another acceptable reason for removal of crocodiles, however their high mobility means suitable habitat will be rapidly colonised by crocodiles looking for their own territory and one large animal may be replaced by a number of animals of varying sizes.

Crocodile populations can be considered to be to some extent, self-limiting. Large crocodiles predate quite heavily on juveniles and are territorial and will limit the use of an area by other crocodiles.

Removal of a crocodile from its established territory can disrupt and redistribute a population. A large female crocodile was known to occupy a section of the Barron River at Kamerunga for many years and apparently her presence prevented the movement of other crocodiles upstream into Lake Placid; a very popular swimming and recreation area. Since her removal Lake Placid has been closed to swimming due to the presence of crocodiles.

Under the current system, there is a Management Plan with aims very similar to those proposed in this Bill. Such plans are subject to regular review involving stakeholder, indigenous and public consultation, and access to the best available information to provide the basis for the best conservation outcomes for the species while considering public safety and other interests.

There appears there is already an adequate mechanism available under current legislation to provide a management structure for the control and conservation of crocodiles without the necessity for the establishment of a separate costly authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment



Neil Warburton

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Of Queensland Far North Branch