

Crocodile Control, Conservation and Safety Bill 2024

Submission No: 8
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

There is no good reason for crocodiles to be in areas where there is high level human use. There is no chance of crocodiles becoming extinct, especially if remote areas are retained as crocodile habitat. Therefore, all of the Queensland coast from the Cook River to the southern border should be non-crocodile habitat for saltwater crocodiles. Freshwater crocodiles should be permitted, and indeed encouraged, to be in this habitat. Rivers that have a high level of recreational use should also be non-saltwater crocodile habitat. This would mean that rivers like the Barron and Mulgrave are only for freshwater crocodile use. Rivers like the Walsh may be restricted in their headwaters but permitted crocodile habitat in the lower reaches. The best form of control is by hunting by licensed crocodile hunters who may also on a one-on-one basis oversee hunting on a commercial basis for experienced tourists. Each crocodile shot in tourism hunting should pay \$5000- to the government. In control shooting, there is no payment to the government and the shooter must cover their costs by sale of the skins. The number of licensed shooters must be strictly limited and areas of shooting controlled. The area to be shot (maximum 100 square kilometres and the dates limited to 10 days from area entry to exit. Only one licensed shooter is allowed in an area at any one time. Maximum straight-line distance in and area should not exceed 25 kilometres. I would expect the number of licensed crocodile hunters to be small, less than 20 and for that number to decline to less than 10 after a few years. Licensed hunters who 'accidentally' oversee / shoot a freshwater crocodile should be fined \$5000- and after a second occurrence, their authorisation revoked. Shooting / trapping of crocodiles outside of the restricted area and the removal/relocation of dangerous crocodiles should continue as present by the Department in populated areas where there is a danger to locals near towns and communities. Mark A freeman 4/06/2024