

Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

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HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT and AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE.

Submission re Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

DR Tim Coyle



Honourable Members,

I am currently a practising GP in the Cairns area. With many others I am concerned at the effect of social media and phone/tablet addiction in our young people, and hence the loss of a healthier pursuit of outdoor activities. Many enjoyable outdoor activities take place in and around fresh water, lakes and rivers. Only a few years ago the Mulgrave River very close to Cairns was the site of such activities, swimming, kayaking and these days, stand up paddle boarding, which, indeed, I used to do myself on the Mulgrave river at Gordonvale and at Fisheries Crossing on the Mulgrave River on the way up to Kearney's Flats. We used to take our children often to these areas in the Summer months.

For a few years now these areas have been encroached upon and inhabited by crocodiles, making use of such areas quite unsafe.

It is ridiculous that areas of enjoyable rivers such as the Mulgrave River, so close to Cairns, have been left to crocodiles, prohibiting human access.

For the sake of our young people who need river access for enjoyable, safe water activities, please keep crocodiles out of waterways, such as the Mulgrave River that are so close to Cairns.

A local tourist group was also using the Mulgrave river for paddle boarding and kayaking tours and have had to cease such activities because of incursion by crocodiles.

Crocodiles are very dangerous animals and need to be kept in their place, and that is many miles from populated areas such as Cairns, Gordonvale and surrounding areas.