

Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

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Submitter Comments:

This bill will not improve safety for people in North Queensland. This bill seems to attempt to remove all responsibility from the citizens, enabling irresponsible actions and opening the way for further degradation of wildlife populations in the region. The bill presents assumptions as fact and misrepresents data. I have referred to 10 below for the sake of brevity. 1. Communities may report increases in crocodile numbers. This is not alarming; it is expected of a species that is recovering from the brink of extinction. 2. Waterways that people previously utilized are not infested with crocodiles. People utilized waterways that were for a time depopulated of a naturally occurring keystone species. Their return to these waterways is something to be proud of. 3. The increase in crocodile sightings (less than 3%) is provided without context, and again, is expected of a species that is recovering from the brink of extinction. 4. Attempting to control crocodiles will not reduce the risk to human life, affecting human behaviour will. 5. "The way North Queenslanders live" is not defined by recreation. As a society we can adapt and share this outstanding region with the wildlife who preceded us. It is insulting to suggest that North Queenslanders cannot persist without slaughter. 6. Operating tourism enterprise in Croc Country has risk, whether there is 1 crocodile or 1000. 7. The immediate removal of crocodiles from "populated waterways" will contribute to further and increased complacency, which is correlated with increased incidence of human-crocodile conflict. 8. There seems to be a belief that crocodiles are only an asset if controlled by the state and industry. This is a concerning frame of mind. 9. There are some assumptions made regarding Indigenous people and the value they place on crocodiles. Indigenous relationships with crocodiles are diverse and sensitive. I will rely on Indigenous peoples for commentary on Indigenous values. 10. People who live in North Queensland are better placed to manage crocodiles, by consulting with a broad spectrum of educated and qualified experts and ensuring we make responsible choices about how we interact with the environment. The bill as presented will not improve human or crocodile safety. It will make way for the large-scale commercialisation of a keystone species and continued irresponsible use of waterways. Australia has an exceptionally low rate of crocodile-related fatalities, mostly due to education and the fact that most people are not forced to utilise crocodile habitat for their livelihoods unlike other parts of the world. This bill will lead to terrible outcomes through the encouragement of complacency and irresponsible recreational use of crocodile habitat.