

Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

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Steven Diehm

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- **I am in support of the proposed Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025.**

Key Reasons for my support as are follows:

- Many rowing and skiing clubs have closed their doors because crocodiles drove their members away. Specifically, at Rockhampton Waterski Club membership continues to struggle. Attracting new members is impossible as many potential members will not enter the water due to the threat of crocodiles. The club is unable to run any events without legal risk. The only participation on the water is by individuals at their own risk.
- The Bill places greater value on human life by responsibly reducing the risk of crocodile attacks as much as possible.
- Communities across Central and North Queensland are consistently reporting significant increases in crocodile numbers. Waterways which people previously regularly swam, skied and row in, are now infested with crocodiles.
- A more effective crocodile management strategy is urgently required to reduce the risk to human life. The Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025 would ensure that all crocodiles are immediately removed by an authorised person if located in a populated waterway.

Please find below a summary of my personal experience in this area.

I have lived in Rockhampton for my entire life and am 45 years old. Waterskiing has been a generational sport for my family. I was introduced to skiing on the Fitzroy river as a young child and have spent many, many hours enjoying skiing and social family activity on and around the Fitzroy River. I have held several volunteer roles in the Rockhampton Water Ski Club and Waterski Qld over 20 years. I have 3 teenage children who have also been raised on skiing in the river. In recent times, the risk of crocodile interaction has increased to dangerous levels and, for the first time in all my years on the river, I have decided it is no longer safe for my family to be in the water. This is a devastating outcome to have lost the ability to continue our family sport and spend time with close friends around one of the most beautiful natural waterways in the country. I am not screaming for uncontrolled culling. I am asking that we find a sensible solution to allow the fresh water city region in Rockhampton to be utilised to its full potential allowing all users to be and feel safe. This is a wonderful region with a community ready to flourish on outdoor family activity if we can be given the opportunity to do so. The numbers of these animals have increased due to a lack of management over the past 20 years. We have an opportunity now to get this management right and ensure this region and the community who lives here can make the most of this beautiful asset. I am asking to please stop, help, consider and plan together with the community to bring back SAFE access to an amazing waterway!