

## Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

**Submission No:** 41  
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### Submitter Comments:

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee Queensland Parliament Parliament House Cnr George and Alice Streets Brisbane QLD 4000 Subject: Opposition to the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025 Dear Members of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, I am writing to formally express my opposition to the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025, proposed by Mr. Shane Knuth MP, Member for Hill. While I acknowledge the importance of public safety, I strongly believe that this bill's approach of culling and forced removals is misguided and ultimately harmful to both people and wildlife. Crocodiles have inhabited Queensland's waterways for millions of years, long before human settlement. Rather than fostering responsible coexistence, this bill risks creating a false sense of security, leading to increased complacency around crocodile-inhabited areas. This not only endangers people but also disrespects the natural ecosystem and the role these apex predators play in maintaining balance. This bill is dangerous because it promotes a reactive, rather than proactive, approach to human-wildlife interactions. By implementing a policy that prioritizes killing and relocation over education, the government is failing to address the root cause of incidents—human behavior. Encouraging the removal of crocodiles from their natural habitat will make people less vigilant, believing that waterways are "safe" when in reality, crocodiles will always be a natural part of the environment. This false sense of security could lead to more dangerous encounters rather than fewer. Additionally, increasing culling and removals will disrupt the delicate balance of Queensland's ecosystems. Crocodiles are apex predators that play a crucial role in controlling populations of other species and maintaining the health of wetlands and river systems. Removing them in large numbers could have unintended consequences, such as overpopulation of prey species, habitat degradation, and even long-term declines in biodiversity. The bill also disregards the perspectives of Indigenous communities, who have coexisted with crocodiles for thousands of years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have traditional knowledge and management strategies that respect the natural balance between humans and crocodiles. Instead of passing a law that threatens these creatures, the government should work with Indigenous communities to implement sustainable management practices based on cultural knowledge and scientific research. Education and awareness should be the priority. Instead of implementing a broad eradication policy, Queensland should focus on: Expanding public education campaigns to promote safe behavior near crocodile habitats. Improving signage and enforcing regulations in high-risk areas. Supporting Indigenous-led conservation and management strategies that respect both human safety and cultural traditions. We do not have the right to eliminate a species that has been a vital part of this ecosystem for millions of years. Coexistence is possible through education, responsible policies, and respect for wildlife. I urge the committee to reconsider this bill and seek solutions that prioritize education over eradication.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response. Sincerely, Chantel Lawson  
Resident of Queensland