

Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

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Me and my wife moved from Europe to Far North Queensland because of it's beautiful nature and wildlife, there is no such place anywhere else in the world. I met my current employer while out and about, photographing North Queensland's wildlife. He offered me a position as a tour guide on the Daintree River. For almost 6 years I've been on this river at least 4 days a week showing people from all over the world this beautiful river and its inhabitants. Educating them on how crocodiles have been around for over 200 million years and play a VITAL role in our eco-system. Crocodiles are native animals, they are part of this region and self-regulated. It's completely unnecessary and arrogant to think you have to and can successfully control a native animal. Us humans should learn from our previous mistakes thinking we can control nature. Introducing non-native animals that have now become a widespread pest, like cane toads and pigs. In fact, crocodiles are the only animals that eat pigs. We should stop intervening with nature. Tourists from around the world are shocked to see the damage the recent floods have done to our Daintree River as there is hardly any river banks left because we've destroyed the natural Rainforest to make space for sugar cane, to make money. There is literally no space left for the river to meander. We should have the greatest respect for nature and for crocodiles, they provide a balanced eco-system. Humans are not smarter than nature and we can not say we should 'place greater value on human life by responsibly reducing the risk of crocodile attacks as much as possible'. Will a human life have greater value after this bill? No and we are also not reducing the risk of crocodile attacks by 'just removing a few crocodiles'. Crocodiles are smarter than that, that's why they have survived for over 200 million years. We should start properly educating people on how to live together with crocodiles. It happens SO OFTEN that I have Australians on my tour who are surprised to see how easy it is for a crocodile to disappear underwater without a ripple. It's then, when they see this, and learn this, they start to understand we should NEVER underestimate a crocodile. Crocodiles will always be part of North Queensland, whether we want that or not, they will. So we better learn how to deal with that, than to just kill them (which is a very old fashioned way of dealing with a problem. And I am not talking about crocodiles creating this problem). It's time we learn from our mistakes and do better. Educate not eradicate. When will the time come that humans stop blaming others or other species and take responsibility for their actions?