

## **Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025**

**Submission No:** 59  
**Submitted by:** Whitsunday Charter Boat Industry Association  
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### **Submitter Comments:**

In recent months there have been multiple sightings of estuarine crocodiles in coastal waters around Airlie Beach and in primary snorkeling and swimming sights in the Whitsunday Islands. Until recently crocodile sightings were rare and it is clear that crocodile population growth, if unchecked, will cause this frighteningly dangerous trend to continue. The net result of which could be severe injury or death, the impact of which and the resulting Media storm could undermine the ongoing viability of Marine Tourism in the Whitsundays. Marine Tourism introduces nearly a million people a year to the Whitsundays Region of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Whitsundays represents approximately 44% of the \$6.3 billion GBR market. In addition to its monetary value, the GBR is estimated to support 70,000 jobs. Airlie Beach is Australia's second most tourism-dependent town (behind Alice Springs). One in four people here are directly employed in the tourism industry; and That figure rises to one in three, when factoring in supply chains. The Whitsundays overnight marine tourism fleet hosts approximately 734,000 bed nights per year. Day tour operators carry an average of 12,000 people to the Reef and Islands every week. As the peak body for Marine Tourism Operators in the Whitsundays we are fully supportive of the content and detail of the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025.