

Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

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For generations, First Australians sustainably managed crocodile populations by hunting them for meat and harvesting their eggs. This traditional practice helped maintain a natural balance, ensuring that crocodile numbers did not spiral out of control. However, under current laws, these practices have been prohibited, allowing crocodiles to breed unchecked. The result is a dangerous overpopulation crisis that threatens human safety and disrupts the way of life for many Queenslanders. Human life must always take precedence over the lives of crocodiles. These apex predators are overrunning our waterways, and their numbers are far greater than what is visible at any given time. In just a few short years, once-safe swimming areas have become no-go zones due to the increasing presence of these dangerous animals. Historically, humans were the crocodile's only natural predator, but as we have ceased controlling their population, they have multiplied unchecked. It is time for Queensland to take decisive action to restore balance and protect people from unnecessary risk. To address this escalating crisis, we must enforce a policy of zero tolerance for crocodiles in populated waterways. Queenslanders should not have to live in constant fear near every body of water, worrying about their own safety or that of their families and pets. Swimming in Far North Queensland is more than just recreation—it is an essential part of our lifestyle, a way to cope with the heat, and a cherished tradition for families and communities. The government must take back the swimming holes to ensure they remain safe for people to enjoy. Additionally, establishing a Queensland Crocodile Authority in Cairns would allow for localised, expert-led management of crocodile populations. This authority would oversee culling efforts, relocation strategies, and ongoing research to ensure a sustainable balance between conservation and human safety. Furthermore, we have an opportunity to create economic benefits for Indigenous communities by reinstating traditional crocodile harvesting practices. This would not only provide employment and business opportunities but also honour the knowledge and expertise of First Australians in managing crocodile populations responsibly. It is time for the Queensland Government to prioritise human life over crocodiles. The unchecked spread of these predators is not just a minor inconvenience—it is a direct threat to our way of life. Action must be taken now to reclaim our swimming holes and ensure the safety of all Queenslanders.