

Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]

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Submitter Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill, I am an individual responding in relation to my interest in the environment, native wildlife and tourism. The premise for the justification is false, grossly distorted and without merit. Crocodiles are part of the natural environment with very limited range, localised to waterways with certain temperature requirements. They are protected native animals. The notion that a crocodile is a problem just for existing is wrong and against science, first nations and religious reasoning. Crocodiles were hunted to extremely low levels, and risk of extinction in the wild this is the proposal being put forwards - this bill is stating that all wild crocodiles are to be removed (as they can be a problem and humans come first) and only to exist in cages - the bill is a disgrace. Crocodiles are more prevalent than 30 years ago because they are recovering from being near wiped out, and they are not moving into new areas just returning to areas they have historically lived in before the decimation of their population. Crocodile sighting numbers are also meaningless, how many people are reporting seeing the same croc, is it just being sighted and being reported for the purpose of information and data gathering, eg there are sites to report seeing a koala just to help others to see them. There are now online tools/apps for reporting them this is a clear change to years gone by and clearly accounts for a significant uptake in numbers, if there were less reports then the app would have failed! I visit Queensland for tourism to see the environment and animals, for me crocodiles are a major reason to venture to the far North, without the environment and fauna there is no reason to visit; the idea that seeing wildlife in its native habitat is counter to tourism is absurd, and there are tourist businesses specifically set up for this - Crocodiles on Daintree river, Whales in Hervey Bay etc.. If the bill had any interest in human safety and crocodiles then it would focus on human behaviour and education. Crocodiles are only present in and around waterways, there is no risk to humans unless they choose to enter these environments and so making the decision should be one of being informed. A major issue is fishermen and similar dumping entrails and the like into the water by ramps which acts as an easy meal, this behaviour by fishermen should be monitored and fined heavily. Beaches - the Ocean is inherently unsafe, jellyfish are a significant risk and moreso than crocodiles, education is the key here including stinger suits, and signage. The idea that there are no crocodiles creates a false narrative of safety and one where risk to the individual is increased as it discounts all the other risks inherent in the Ocean. This safety in real terms relies on crocodiles being extinct in the wild and this is the premise of the bill complete eradication from all waterways. People need to be realistic about the environment be informed and make informed decisions around risk. The bill is purely one of landholder rights and commercial interests thinly disguised as having any environmental interest. If the bill had any actual interest in human safety then it would be very different. If a human places itself in an unsafe environment then it is up to the human to be informed and adjust their activity, or if this is not happening then the government can legislate actions to adjust the behaviour of the human for safety eg pedestrian crossings, seat belts. Crocodiles are an important part of the fauna of Australia, and a major draw for tourism to the far North. They are protected animals and have a key part in the ecosystem and quality of waterways. The notion that just because they exist and hamper a small group of extremists ability to sit on a riverbank fishing or similar that they should be exterminated from the wild is an utter disgrace. I hope the Parliamentary body follows environmental groups and science rather than a minority fringe group of self-interest.