

Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

Submission No: 79
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

2 April 2025 Health, Environment and Innovation Committee Dear Committee, Submission on Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025 We welcome the opportunity to make this submission on the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025 (Bill). As a rural, coastal resident of Far North Qld, I am a staunch advocate for education over attempting to legalise killing of native wildlife, but even before we get to that I am unclear on the entire premise for considering this bill in the first place. I expect more from our government and its representatives. The points below are in response to the Explanatory Notes accompanying the proposal of this Bill.

1. "Conservation" The term "conservation" is bandied about and is plain in sight in the title of the Bill, yet I cannot see any reference to the conservation of crocodiles in their current habitats? Before we even get into the details of the Bill, we've already been misled by false pretenses. Are we going to take this seriously? This is blatant sugar coating of a serious issue that may well be illegal.

2. "Increased sightings" Crocodile tourism both in Qld and the NT is a huge business so how is this a bad thing? How does this negatively impact the value on human life? Would this not increase the value of one's life either for the individual or for the community as whole given the economic benefits? I do not believe increased sightings have a negative impact on human life, and believe the opposite to be true, thus one of the premises underlying this Bill is flawed.

3. "Increased crocodile attacks" This sounds like the all too familiar rhetoric of anti-croc members of parliament. Where is the data to support this claim? Publicly available datasets (including the Croc Attack Database) do not show an increase in croc attacks. This is another premise of this Bill that is outright unfounded.

4. Rowing Clubs are closing How many of these clubs closed due to COVID? Where is the data to support this claim? Our Olympic venue for rowing in 2032 is the Fitzroy River, which currently hosts National and International rowing events so this premise is also not valid.

5. "Tourism businesses are feeling the effect of an increase in numbers" I might just let that one simmer for a bit.

In conclusion, I am baffled as to how this Bill was even tabled in the first place. Misdirection, flawed concepts and unfounded claims are rife which makes you wonder if the party/ies behind its inception are actually educated in the matter. This Bill should not be considered until the underlying premise is sound. At which point, I think we will all find that there is no logical need to duplicate an existing, fact-driven framework or to replace it with something that may not even stand up to Australian and International legal scrutiny. I implore the committee to consider these points especially in the light of the upcoming Olympic Games and hosting rowing in Rockhampton on the Fitzroy. Crocs are a contemporary issue and the potential for public backlash is large. This is not a well-considered proposal. Sincerely,