

Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

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As someone who has lived and worked their entire life (40yrs) in FNQ, right on the Mulgrave River, I have first-hand witnessed an increase in the prevalence of crocodiles in freshwater. My family has resided here for well over 100years, we're born and bred locals so we understand the place that crocodiles have in far north Queensland. We understand there are places you must be careful, respectful, wary... I wouldn't swim in the Cairns inlet, or thw Jardine River, or pretty much anywhere in Lakefield NP... but watching the crocodiles moving further and further up fresh water is ridiculous. We grew up swimming in the Mulgrave river as far down as Gordonvale, as did my parents and grandparents before me. Now I cant even let my kids swim in the water in the upper reaches of Goldsborough, because Crocs have been sighted there! I used to swim as far down as behind the Mill in Gordonvale. Going back about 20yrs or so ago, there were rumours of sightings there. Within a few years, crocs started to get sighted at the mill regularly, then multiple crocs, then small crocs. They weren't even wary of people. Eventually 2 x 3.5m crocs were trapped and removed. Increasingly they're being spotted further and further up fresh, cold waterways. Areas where they had never resided not that long ago. One may say that they can/have travelled up into fresh water all along, and once in a blue moon, someones uncles, cousins, brothers half drunk mate would swear they spotted one up there, so maybe they did... But they were residing there, especially not to a point where people have sighted them more than once, or captured footage. Its gotten ridiculous and something needs to be done. I want to raise my kids in the outdoors as I was, not staring at a screen... But its getting increasingly harder and harder to do so. Even the numbers/regularity of sightings in the lower salt/brackish waters of the Mulgrave have increased. I lived on a farm for a time, we knew they were around and accepted it, they were wary though and we really had to work to spot one. It was a big deal... As time went on, you couldnt throw a line in without seeing one. Their numbers have definitely ballooned and we need to do something about it. I'm a hunter myself, and I dont want to see some indiscriminate "open season" for any fool to have a lash at them, but we need to keep them in check ina controlled manner.