

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

**Submission No:** 116  
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**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:**  
**Submitter Comments:**

27th March 2025

## Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

Sent via email to: [heic@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:heic@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee,

### Submission on Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

I'd like to take this opportunity to make a submission on the *Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill* 2025 (**Bill**).

This Bill has been introduced with the suggested aim of reducing human-crocodile interactions and increasing the safety of people living and holidaying in North Queensland, despite evidence that it will do neither of these things. Rather it appears to be an egregious attempt to both capitalise on the commercial benefits of harvesting crocodiles (adults or eggs), while allowing the culling of a listed vulnerable species because of a proportion of societies distaste for them.

I don't live in north Queensland but visit regularly and am aware when I am in that space that I am in crocodile country and behave accordingly. I don't find this difficult and the Crocwise campaign to raise awareness has been very successful. Despite the significant increase in crocodile numbers, and the consequent increased visibility of crocodiles in waterways, DESI data shows that number of crocodile attacks have not increased, which can be attributed to the success of the awareness campaigns and behaviour modifications in locals and visitors. I strongly believe that the crocodile you can see isn't the one you need to worry about, and that allowing crocodile populations to establish and settle reduces risks by allowing hierarchies to form and decreasing the number of transient crocs in a system.

When I travel to north Queensland with friends and family, they all want to see a wild crocodile. Strong populations of these impressive and ancient creatures draw tourists in, support the economy and defines the strong yet ethical acceptance of a shared space, rather than the knee-jerk, shoot it, reaction of the last century.

I recommend that the Committee **reject** the passing of the Bill, due to the reasons outlined above. In addition, my concerns include:

- potential conflicts with Australia's international obligations and existing Commonwealth legislation, particularly by supporting the creation of a crocodile trade scheme which could be in breach of international and federal law requirements.
- Subversion of Queensland's current legislative and regulatory framework for the management of crocodiles, with the potential to result in unsustainable levels of crocodile harvesting, culling, and farming.
- the potential to increase the risk of dangerous human-crocodile interactions, while causing negative ecological consequences, contrary to what the Bill purports, due to complacency and a diluted and contradictory Crocwise messaging.

- The potential to limit the right of First Nations Peoples to maintain and enjoy their cultural heritage and spiritual practices, protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld).

### **Conclusion**

This Bill proposes a scheme of crocodile management that fails to consider the relevant science, underdelivers on its promise of economic benefit, and undermines International, Commonwealth, and State law. Furthermore, it may counterproductively increase the risk of crocodile attacks. Ultimately, it advances a dangerous narrative that the mass killing and harvesting of crocodiles will make the communities of Far North Queensland safer when it may in fact create more danger.

I recommend the Committee reject the Bill in whole.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sally Martin