

Inquiry into Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

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8th May 2025

Queensland Parliament Committees

Health, Environment and innovation Committee

Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

Dear Committee Members ,

To day I had the pleasure of meeting some of the Committee Members and able to share some of our very real concerns about Saltwater Crocodile Management.

I did listen to the First Nation Representatives (of whom I have the greatest respect) and their concerns, but I was left a little let down at the lack of urgency in dealing with problem saltwater crocodiles in their communities.

We do have First Nation People in the Atherton Tableland and regard the protection of all members of varied backgrounds of our Tableland communities as paramount and urgent.

I am including a letter I sent to the Mareeba Shire Council because the content is largely relevant today all be it some positive steps have been taken of which I am encouraged by the listing of Quaid's Dam as zone F.

The farm dam adjacent to the Two Mile Ck (headwaters of the Mitchell River) that had the 4.2 meter crocodile removed by Dept of Environment 2 years ago, now has a resident salt water crocodile reported in January 2025. After repeated attempts by the environment officers to shot it, it is now showing aggressive behaviour to the farmer who relies on this farm dam to irrigate his crops.

The listing of Zone F should allow a farmer or land owner to dispense with the B S and permanently relocate the hazard.

Is this the Case or does legal action follow.? While waiting for environment officers lives are at risk.

The said farm dam is only two kilometres from the Barron River where I pump from to irrigate my farm . My Neighbour saw a saltie near our pump and I also saw a crocodile that moved too fast to be 100% but 99.9% but that was good enough.

The Barron River that runs from Atherton through Mareeba and to the Barron Falls to the Coast .

This River should be Zoned F from the Barron Falls right through to the source to afford some protection to river esplanade homes and our children who enjoy swimming ,fishing and catching yabbies.

It is not inconceivable that if Barramundi can live and grow to monstrous size in Tinaroo Dam then it will not be in the too distant future that it will become a saltwater crocodile habitat. Some clown has already put a freshwater crocodile in Tinaroo and Lake Eacham.

The Mitchell should also be Zoned F from the Mitchell Falls to its head waters as many tourists and locals go camping on cattle properties that are also at risk of saltwater crocodile intrusion. .

THESE ZONE F PROPOSALS ARE BECAUSE SALTWATER CROCODILES HAVE NEVER BEEN ENDEMIC IN OUR AREAS.

I HOPE THIS SUBMISSION WILL ENCOURAGE SOME POSITIVE ACTION

George Adil

28th February 2024

An open Letter to Mareeba Shire existing Councillors and potential Councillors

George Adil

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Dear Councillors and Potential Councillors

To send an open letter to the Mareeba Shire Councillors and candidates (forth coming local Government Elections) does not sit well with me having only done this once before when the gravity of an issue defied logic so badly that one was driven to this extreme.

The Salt water crocodile situation in the Mareeba Bibboohra Area has been developing for nigh 20 years with not one ongoing public comment from our elected shire and State representatives.

If this situation is allowed to fester for another 20 years no doubt some salt water crocodile enthusiasts will state as there has not been any public or local and state Government outcry about their presence, then these reptiles have a right to live in our rivers and creeks where they DID NOT EXIST PREVIOUSLY.

First reports of Salt water Crocodiles appeared in Quaid's Dam on the Mitchell River a mere 2-3-meter elevation difference to the Bibboohra 2-mile creek area.

It is quite feasible for these Quaid's Dam Crocodiles to migrate to the Bibboohra Creeks and Barron River

During the Jasper Down Pour in December 2023 of a meter of rain, many farm animals were washed away with some luckily retrieved thanks to downstream good Samaritans

Were these the only displaced livestock?

We grew up swimming in our rivers and creeks and quite recently braved river and creeks cleaning our irrigation foot valves as our livelihood depended on our ability to water our crops

Taking the Grand children swimming has been canned because of the presence of these maneaters.

To call these crocs anything but is to deny the fact that the relocated 4.2 meter Salty caught in the vicinity of two-mile Creek by parks and wildlife was the same size that not so long ago killed and devoured a man in Lakefield National Park

Are you our shire representatives going to sit idly by and ignore this on going and recently expanding problem (2023 December 1meter Rain Event with more sightings)

It was reported to me that council wants proof before it acts but a few years ago a helicopter survey had figure of 45 plus salt water crocodiles counted not including the ones in Quaid's Dam.

That report seems to have fallen off the flat earth thinking that seems to permeate not only councillors but senior employees of the M S C when it comes to salt water crocodiles and the jitters of having to justify one's stance to the environment lobby.

Checking irrigation day or night without some defence mechanism is un healthy

Allowing Kids to go Catching yabbies in the Two-mile Creek is child abuse

The Mareeba Shire has had a great increase in population post covid because of our great rural lifestyle where kids could explore catch fish and yabbies and swim in our creeks and rivers.

This develops resilience, character moral fibre self-reliance and respect where private properties are involved

To throw this away by local and State government inaction is not doing justice to the income received for these positions of trust.

I am sure no councillor or State Government Members will want on their conscience what may occur because of their complacency

Will this situation get the reaction it deserves when saltwater crocodiles take up residence in the Mareeba town River frontage?

Once again it pains me to be so forthright but this demands action.

Regards George Adil.