




Speech By
Hon. Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Crocodile Management

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (9.53 am): This morning I rise to speak on how the Newman government is protecting North Queensland communities from the threat of crocodiles. We have listened and responded to the communities and to staunch local members like the member for Barron River, Michael Trout, and the member for Hinchinbrook and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Andrew Cripps. Communities and members have long complained about Labor's sit and wait approach to crocodile management. We have introduced a proactive removal program that balances community safety with conservation. We have boosted our front-line ranger services to deliver a better outcome for residents of North Queensland.

The policy is modelled on the successful Northern Territory approach and is implemented with the support and local knowledge of the Cairns, Townsville, Hinchinbrook and Cassowary Coast councils. As of this morning, 45 crocodiles have been removed in 2014—more than double the best year under Labor. That was long before they were captured by the Greens and put a halt to their removal program. We are really only now just moving into crocodile season for 2014. The 45 crocodiles are made up of 23 removed by my department and 22 removed by the Dawul Wuru Indigenous Corporation—the contracted organisation operating in and around Cairns.

We are working hard to deliver for Queenslanders, but we know there is more to be done. I am currently in discussions with the member for Barron River and the member for Cook about what we can do in conjunction with Douglas council.

In addition, an important component of the government's crocodile management policy is to educate the community about crocodile management through its Crocwise public education program. Officers have visited over 46 schools and community centres across North Queensland to convey the Crocwise message. Unlike Labor that has no plans to manage problem crocodiles, we are working hard to deliver safe communities for the people of North Queensland.