



Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Record of Proceedings, 10 August 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

North Queensland, Crocodile Attacks

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.56 pm): I rise to speak about concerns relating to the risk of crocodiles in North Queensland. I have been contacted by a lady who lives in Mourilyan. I want to read into the record a letter she has sent me. However, she does not wish me to mention her name. The letter states—

We live on the banks of the South Johnstone River in Mourilyan, NQ. On Tuesday afternoon we lost our 6 month old purebred white Shepherd to a very large crocodile. As we live very close to the river our dog had gone down to the water's edge, failing to call her up to our yard we went down to try and get her when the crocodile just so quietly grabbed her and took her into the water, this was absolutely terrifying for both my partner and myself as we weren't aware it was there and it could of easily been us!

In October last year we lost another white Shepherd to possibly this same crocodile. About a half hour or so after our puppy was taken on Tuesday we were sitting there looking over the river when another 2 crocs showed up! It was like feeding time at the zoo.

A few months back 2 young boys were taking a short cut through our yard, when I asked what they were doing, they said they wanted to go fishing in the river, I warned them about the dangers but they insisted they'd be fine, point is, its private property but you can't always stop people from fishing on our banks, and we're not always here to warn people.

Please help us to do something about these monsters, we need dogs for security reasons, but it's simply too dangerous for them and traumatic for us. I forgot to mention my partner was down not far from the bank poisoning the grass as to keep it down, something made him turn around and look out onto the river to see this monster swimming towards the bank at him.

Something clearly has to be done with these killers as we cannot swim in either our beaches or waterways here anymore ...

There has been an increase in crocodile sightings and also deaths. One headline states 'Crocodile kills and eats family dog on property near Innisfail'. That happened about two months ago. Another headline is 'Crocodile captured that killed spear fisherman Warren Hughes in Far North Queensland' which happened about six months ago. Another headline states 'Crocodile caught and killed in Cindy Waldron search found to have human remains inside'. Another headline states 'Report confirms that Queensland's saltwater crocodile populations are rising'. I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106.