




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2019

SAFER WATERWAYS BILL

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.58 pm): With the brief time that I do have I want to make a few points on the bill. It might surprise members of the House to learn that crocodile is in fact very, very popular in Mount Ommaney. With the many Vietnamese restaurants that I have in my electorate, it is on just about every menu of every restaurant in Darra. I can tell you that salt and pepper crocodile is absolutely my daughter's favourite dish. It has a beautiful tenderness to it that is not dissimilar to barramundi. In my household we do enjoy eating some of the delicious crocodile that I am sure comes from up your way, member for Hill, and I encourage all members of the House to give it a try.

Nonetheless, I have some serious concerns about the bill that has been presented by my esteemed colleagues on the crossbenches. My concerns are mainly around public safety, because I think it is really concerning to suggest that we allow members of the public to hunt and kill crocodiles. This would obviously run contrary to the Commonwealth's approval of the Queensland Wildlife Trade Management Plan, as the Australian government would need to be satisfied that the take of the species is not detrimental to its conservation and that the animal is killed in a merciful way. We have heard about how those animals might be killed. It is certainly very concerning to think about people going out with guns or goodness knows what in order to kill these animals—legally, apparently. That is incredibly concerning to me. I dread to think how people might go about carrying out that kind of activity.

I note the question from my esteemed colleagues the members for Hill and Hinchinbrook as to whether I would swim in the Tully River. No, I would not swim in the Tully River, but my electorate of Mount Ommaney abuts the Brisbane River and I would not swim in that either, because my stretch of the Brisbane River is home to about 500 bull sharks. I do not know how many bull sharks you would have to catch for me to feel comfortable that there are none left.