



Speech By  
**Terry James**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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## **CROCODILE CONTROL AND CONSERVATION BILL**

### **Second Reading**

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (5.28 pm): I rise today to speak on the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025 introduced by the member for Hill. This bill proposes significant changes to the way we manage crocodile populations in Queensland, including the establishment of a Queensland crocodile authority, the legalisation of untrained individuals killing crocodiles, trophy hunting and new restrictions on crocodile farming licences. Let me be clear: while the safety and wellbeing of our communities must always remain our top priority, this bill creates more problems than it solves. It introduces unnecessary red tape and fails to take a sensible, balanced approach—one that genuinely puts Queenslanders first.

The bill damages Queensland's reputation for sustainable wildlife management and could cost vital export markets, harming regional jobs and economic growth. Restricting crocodile farming licences to Australian owned entities may deter investment and threaten regional livelihoods. On top of this, the bill sidesteps established governance and accountability frameworks. This opens the door to financial mismanagement and unresolved conflicts with our state's conservation and animal welfare laws.

The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee reviewed the bill and tabled its report on 25 July 2025. The committee recommended that the bill not be passed, citing significant risks to public safety, conservation and the future of Queensland's crocodile farming and tourism industries. The committee found that our current framework provides the right balance between public safety, conservation and sustainable industry practices.

The government fully supports six recommendations from the committee. We have already begun implementing operational improvements through the recently revised Queensland Crocodile Management Plan, the QCMP. The Crisafulli government has delivered the most significant update to crocodile management in almost a decade. Developed with input from communities in Far North Queensland, the new QCMP puts human safety first and ensures local voices are heard. Key changes include: upgrading three high-use recreational waterholes on the Mulgrave River to targeted crocodile removal zones; elevating the Barron River near Mareeba and the Southedge Dam to reportable removal zones where any reported crocodile can be targeted for removal; expanding zone F in the Mareeba Shire for the automatic removal of crocodiles in atypical habitats; installing permanent educational signage at high-risk locations, developing targeted marketing campaigns and producing educational materials in traditional and common tourist languages; and enhancing engagement with Indigenous communities and enabling real-time crocodile sighting reporting through the QWildlife app.

Listening to local communities underpins our approach. The new QCMP includes a mandatory five-year review and crucially an annual four-week consultation period that will give local communities the chance to have their voices heard. Feedback and proposed changes to zonings will be considered on a rolling basis. This empowers local communities to provide feedback and propose changes, ensuring the plan remains responsive and effective without waiting years for a full review.

Queenslanders deserve a crocodile management system that is practical, evidence based and community focused. The bill before us falls short on every count. Let us continue to strengthen our approach, protect our people and our environment and support the industries that underpin our regional economies. For these reasons, I strongly urge the House to reject the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025 and, instead, support the ongoing improvements and engagement embedded in the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan.