



Speech By


Wayde Chiesa

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

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CROCODILE CONTROL AND CONSERVATION BILL

Second Reading

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025. As the minister has said, we do not believe the proposed bill is an effective way to deliver strong, commonsense, people-first action on crocodiles in North Queensland. Instead, the Crisafulli government's new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan provides the clear direction our communities need.

Having a seat at the government table means being able to deliver tangible outcomes to make our communities safer. That is why, on my very first day in this place, I am proud to share an important win we have delivered for our Ingham community. Following extensive community feedback, we will be upgrading the high-traffic areas of the Tyto Wetlands to an active removal zone. This means the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service specialist staff will conduct regular patrols of the area, with all identified crocodiles to be targeted for removal. That is the kind of specialised local change that comes from having ministers listen directly to our community—something Labor never did. Instead, the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan released by the member for Murrumba back in 2017 classified the Tyto Wetlands as a general management zone. Given how close the Tyto Wetlands are to sporting clubs, the Hinchinbrook Library and high-traffic local areas, any local will tell you that Labor's approach simply did not stack up, and they knew it.

Labor did not publish a new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan in seven years, whilst communities like mine felt as if their views were falling on deaf ears. That is why the core element of our new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan is consultation. For starters, we will be mandating a review of the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan every five years to ensure it remains up to date and fit for purpose. More importantly, we will also be conducting an annual four-week consultation period to provide a forum for regional communities to be heard. All feedback and any proposed changes to zoning or Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service resourcing will be considered on a rolling basis, and changes to that plan can be made if required without having to wait the five years for a full review.

The bill proposed by the member for Hill does not help us listen to locals and take the action communities expect us to. The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report states—

The committee has not been able to ascertain how the QCA would be a marked improvement on the current QCMF. The Member for Hill has not demonstrated how the Bill's proposal would improve operations given it is premised on maintaining existing staffing levels while also limiting their geographic location throughout Croc Country.

Quite simply, the Queensland Crocodile Authority proposed by this bill is nothing more than a reallocation of existing DETSI crocodile workforce, with additional red tape dictating where appointees and the QCA director must live.

The report speaks at length about how some of the bill's more restrictive provisions would only hinder, not help, the ability of specialist crocodile staff to respond quickly and efficiently to any crocodile incidents. Right now, QPWS staff responsible for crocodile management are strategically embedded

across communities in Cairns, Innisfail, Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. In fact, mandating that Queensland Crocodile Authority staff only reside in Cairns would take them further away from all of those other communities, with little increased benefit to the people of the Far North. That is not fair on Hinchinbrook and it is a core reason I cannot support this bill. However, what I am proud to support is the Crisafulli government's new commonsense Crocodile Management Plan, and it is a win for Ingham. We are already doing the work to deliver the fresh start we promised Hinchinbrook, and there is plenty more to come.