

**Question on Notice
No. 865
Asked on 6 June 2007**

QUESTION:

MRS MENKENS asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

With reference to the reporting, assessing and removal of problem crocodiles for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07—

Will she supply details for (a) the number of reports received about problem crocodiles from members of the public and or other sources, (b) their locations, (c) how many of these reports were investigated by officers on the scene, (d) the outcomes of any assessment processes, (e) how many crocodiles have actually been captured and removed, (f) where they have been relocated to and (g) who carried out the capture and relocations?

ANSWER:

With reference to the reporting, assessing and removal of problem crocodiles for 2004-05, a summary of the information for that period is as follows:

- (a) The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) received 207 crocodile sighting reports.
- (b) The locations of the sighting reports were various, encompassing the natural range of the species in Queensland from Rockhampton to the Northern Territory border.
- (c) All sighting reports were investigated by QPWS staff.
- (d) Many of the sighting reports were monitored but no further action was required. Where a designated problem crocodile was identified, the animal was targeted for removal.
- (e) Twenty-one problem crocodiles were removed. Fourteen of those were relocated to appropriately licensed zoos or wildlife facilities, and seven animals identified as 'non-target' crocodiles (i.e. not targeted for removal) were released back to the wild with the permission of the local council and local traditional owner group where appropriate.
- (f) One animal was relocated to Hartley's Creek Crocodile Farm; nine went to Melaleuca Crocodile Farm; two went to Cairns Crocodile Farm and two went to Australia Zoo.

The non-targeted animals were released at the following locations:

- 28/10/04: 2.2m - caught in Skeleton Creek, Edmonton and released in Trinity Inlet, Cairns.

- 01/12/04: 1.4m - caught in Saltwater Creek, Mossman and released at the same site.
- 11/01/05: 1.4m - caught in a stinger net at South Mission Beach and released in the Hull River National Park.
- 31/01/05: 1.8m - caught in Centenary Lakes, Cairns, and released in Trinity Inlet, Cairns.
- 23/03/05: 1.5m - caught near Palm Cove and released in Trinity Inlet, Cairns.
- 15/04/05: 1.3m - caught in Hills Creek, Cairns, and released at the same location.
- 18/04/05: 1.6m - caught at a factory in Cairns and released in Trinity Inlet, Cairns.

(g) All crocodiles were caught by QPWS staff except for one animal captured by Australia Zoo under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Environmental Protection Agency and Australia Zoo.

With reference to the reporting, assessing and removal of problem crocodiles for 2005-06, a summary of the information for that period is as follows:

- (a) The QPWS received 101 crocodile sighting reports.
- (b) The locations of the sighting reports were various, encompassing the natural range of the species in Queensland from Rockhampton to the Northern Territory border.
- (c) All sighting reports were investigated by QPWS staff.
- (d) Many of the sighting reports were monitored but no further action was required. Where a designated problem crocodile was identified, the animal was targeted for removal.
- (e) Eleven crocodiles were removed and relocated to appropriately licensed zoos or wildlife facilities.
- (f) Three crocodiles were relocated to Melaleuca Crocodile Farm; seven went to Cairns Crocodile Farm and one went to Australia Zoo.
- (g) All crocodiles were caught by QPWS staff except for one animal captured by Australia Zoo under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Environmental Protection Agency and Australia Zoo.

With reference to the reporting, assessing and removal of problem crocodiles for 2006-07, a summary of the information for that period is as follows:

- (a) The QPWS received 122 crocodile sighting reports.
- (b) The locations of the sighting reports were various, encompassing the natural range of the species in Queensland from Rockhampton to the Northern Territory border.

- (c) All sighting reports were investigated by QPWS staff.
- (d) Many of the sighting reports were monitored but no further action was required. Where a designated problem crocodile was identified, the animal was targeted for removal.
- (e) Twelve crocodiles were removed. Eleven of those were relocated to appropriately licensed zoos or wildlife facilities and one animal identified as a 'non-target' crocodile was released back to the wild with the permission of the local council and local traditional owner group.
- (f) Five crocodiles were relocated to Johnstone River Crocodile Farm, two went to Melaleuca Crocodile Farm and four went to Cairns Crocodile Farm.

The non-targeted animal was released at the following location:

- 06/04/07: 1.5m - caught in the Upper Mulgrave River and released in Trinity Inlet, Cairns.
- (g) All crocodiles were caught by QPWS staff except for one animal captured under a damage mitigation permit issued to the Cairns Crocodile Farm.