

ORDINARY MEETING 4 NOVEMBER 2014	5.14
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COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS REGARDING CROCODILE MANAGEMENT IN THE DOUGLAS SHIRE

Kerrie Hawkes: Executive officer. (#429445)

Linda Cardew: Chief Executive Officer.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. notes the summary of submissions received from the community regarding crocodile management in the Douglas Shire.**
- 2. proceeds with the final stage of the Notice of Motion as resolved on 15 July 2014.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Notice of Motion presented to Council on 15 July 2014, was unanimously carried by Councillors. Council officers have commenced implementation of the Notice of Motion as resolved.

BACKGROUND:

At the meeting 15 July 2014, a Notice of Motion concerning crocodile management was submitted and the following resolution was adopted by Council.

“That in light of representations received from the Port Douglas Surf Lifesaving Club and the Port Douglas Outrigger Canoe Club expressing concern at the increasing danger posed to swimmers and users of recreational craft in the Douglas Shire:

- 1. That the Council seek to engage the assistance of the Department of Environment & Heritage Protection in developing and commencing a community education program about being ‘Croc Wise’ in Douglas.*
- 2. Concurrently to point one, Council seeks a public viewpoint as to the long-term management of crocodiles in our shire.*
- 3. After collating the public’s viewpoint Council invite the Queensland Minister for the Environment and Heritage Protection, the Hon. Andrew Powell MP, to meet with Council to discuss how to achieve the desired outcomes of the consultation for Crocodile Management issues in the Douglas Shire.”*

The Shire is currently **Zone 3** as per the definition below. The **Zone 2** definition has also been included for comparison.

Zone 3: the objective is to remove crocodiles of concern. A crocodile of concern is a crocodile that:

- has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, a person;
- is determined by the department to pose a potential threat to human safety or wellbeing because of the crocodile's location or behaviour; or
- has passed a crocodile prevention barrier and has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, stock, working dogs or aquaculture fisheries resources.

Zone 2: The objective is to remove any crocodiles two metres (m) or greater in length or a crocodile of any length that displays aggressive behaviour once a sighting is confirmed. At any given point in time, this zone may have undetected large crocodiles in it or large crocodiles that have been sighted but have not yet been removed. This zone has four main types of areas included in it, i.e. open coastal water and their associated beaches, inland water, designated urban areas and around boat ramps. In open coast waters it is not practical to capture animals and the removal technique is generally to encourage their movement out of the zone.

Definitions are provided by the Cairns Regional Council Saltwater Crocodile Management July 2013, Wildlife Conservation, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/pdf/cairns-cmp.pdf>

COMMENT:

In response to the Notice of Motion, Council officers facilitated a crocodile information session on 20 August 2014 at the Port Douglas Community Hall. The session was delivered by a senior ranger from the Wildlife Management Unit, Northern Region of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

On 12 September 2014 Council sought the views of the community as to the long term management of crocodiles in the Shire. The period for lodging submissions closed on Monday 22 September.

At the workshop on 14 October 2014 the results of the consultation from 12 September 2014 to 22 September 2014 were as follows:-

- Total submissions received - 31
- Email submissions – 25
 - Of the 25 email submissions, 16 indicated the area remain as zone 3 and 11 indicated a change to zone 2.
- Facebook comments – 6
 - Of the 6 Facebook comments, 2 were non specific, 2 want to see a cull and 2 want crocodiles to be left alone.

There were instances of multiple emails or Facebook comments from individuals which have been counted as one submission.

While a small number of submissions were received, the majority indicate a need for increased awareness of crocodiles and their behaviour, not for a zone change resulting in removal of all crocodiles over 2 metres

Since the closure of submissions a further 8 have been received. Along with correspondence received from the State Member for Cook confirming *that if the Douglas Shire Council wishes to extend the operation of Zone 2 from Ellis Beach to Wonga Beach (or any other suggested location) there will need to be a formal request in writing from Council.*

The Minister is open to considering options and is happy to discuss the management of crocodiles with Council if requested to do so.

As crocodile management is a State responsibility it is important that Council is able to advocate for the communities of Douglas while collaborating with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to promote crocodile awareness in the region.

PROPOSAL:

Officers are proposing the final stage of the Notice of Motion is implemented.

1. *After collating the public's viewpoint Council invite the Queensland Minister for the Environment and Heritage Protection, the Hon. Andrew Powell MP, to meet with Council to discuss how to achieve the desired outcomes of the consultation for Crocodile Management issues in the Douglas Shire."*

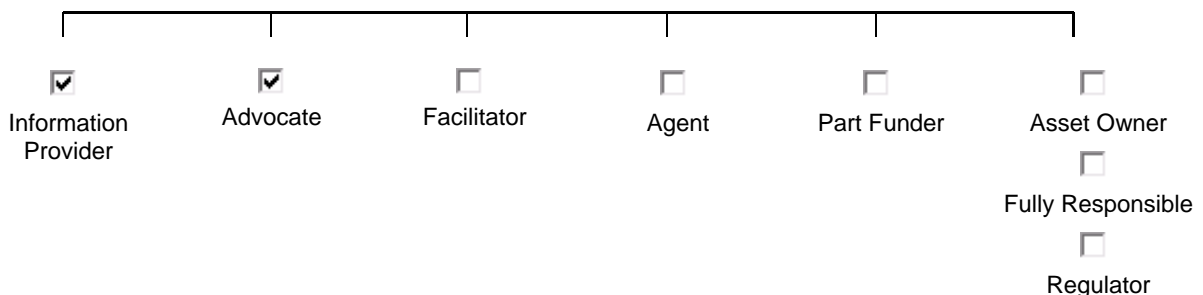
CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE:

Douglas Shire Council Corporate Plan 2014 – 2019
Theme 4 – Engage, Plan, Partner.

COUNCIL'S ROLE:

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:



Information Provider: Providing access to information to assist communities and organisations.

Advocate: Supporting communities and groups by advocating for certain actions from other organisations (usually other levels of government).

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The financial and resource implications of conducting the Information Session have not been allocated for in the 2014 – 2015 budget or Operational Plan; however have been limited to date.

Council has no budget or resource allocation to undertake any aspect of Crocodile Management which is properly a responsibility of the State Government.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

While crocodile management is the responsibility of the State, Council does have a role as advocate for the community and has mitigated some risk by facilitating the information session, including 'croc wise' information on the website and requesting community viewpoint regarding crocodile management in the Shire.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

ECONOMIC: The recommendation will have no economic impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL: The recommendation will have no impact.

SOCIAL: This issue has the potential to become socially divisive. If unchecked the issues could result in community disagreement regarding the future management of crocodiles.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:**External**

Council facilitated a community information session on 20 August 2014, attended by approximately seventy members of the community. Advertising of this session was promoted on Council's website, Facebook page, Radio Port Douglas, in the Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette for two weeks.

On 12 September 2014, Council sought public viewpoint as to the long term management of crocodiles in the Shire. Advertising of the community consultation was promoted on Council's website, Facebook page, Radio Port Douglas and in the Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette for two weeks.

The submission period closed on Monday 22 September 2014.

Please note to ascertain if submissions were from residents within the Shire those that lodged a submission via email were also asked to provide their postcode. This was not requested of those that made Facebook comments.

Internal

Consultation has taken place with Councillors at a workshop on Tuesday 14 October 2014.

Consultation has also taken place with the Chief Executive Officer, General Manager of Operations, General Manager of Corporate Services and the Manager of Development and Environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Community Engagement – Crocodile Management Plan

Attachment B - Crocodile Management in QLD Presentation # 429712

ATTACHMENT A - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – CROCODILE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Facebook	
<i>Postcode</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	I think it is about time that we all remember that people have a right to their habitat as much as any other animal.
	I think we just want to feel safe at some point. It's a worry. There seems to be a lot of them around. I mean where are we safe to walk beaches or go swimming or fishing? I think it would be a terrible think if someone was hurt or taken by these animals. I think all people, locals, children and tourists should be aware of the extreme caution that needs to be taken in this area.
	I agree it is definitely time to cull them against as there are far too many of them.
	Cull them all as there are too many of them around now.
	Time to thin them out, life around our water ways is getting far too dangerous.
	A 3m croc in Reef Park lake and the holidays about to start. God take care of the kids.
	The world would be a better place with more wild animals in it and fewer people. Let's just leave the crocs alone and stay out of their way.
	Common sense and consideration of ever unique situation would be better than a sweeping policy for all crocs.

Facebook and Email Response	
4877	Leave them alone; just don't be stupid around water.
	Can you please stop removing animals from their natural habitat to placate the concerns of a few people about their introduced pets.

Email	
4873	In response to the crocodile management - Crocodiles that inhabit areas where humans frequent (ie, beaches, boat ramps, drains, creeks/swimming holes) MUST be removed. Not all crocodiles need to be removed, but ones that jeopardise human life need to go. If you are silly enough to swim the Daintree River in the middle of the night then that's your problem but people need to be safe on the beach and in lakes, creeks and dams. Far too many lives have been lost in recent years all over Australia as crocs have lost their fear of man and are venturing closer and closer. I want my kids to be safe!
4873	<p>On behalf of the port Douglas Outriggers we would like to see the following regarding crocodile management in the Douglas Shire:</p> <p>That the current zoning from Wonga beach south to Ellis Beach be changed to Zone 2 - removing any crocodile over 2 metres in length within the said area.</p> <p>After listening to the talk presented by Mr O'Brian – Senior Wildlife Officer, it only reiterated just how dangerous a crocodile can be when they are over 2 meters in size and when they get bigger, obviously they then can catch larger prey including animals and humans.</p> <p>The Douglas Shire Council and local community as a whole has a duty of care - That we should provide a safe as possible environment for tourists, children and the like to be able to visit, play, swim and enjoy our northern public foreshores and waterways.</p> <p>Last week while visiting Rex Smeal Park to watch the sundown there was a group of children playing on the rocks near the water edge.</p>

	<p>I approached the parents and explained to them that it was very dangerous to be playing next the water at this time of day – They responded by saying that they thought that crocs would only live on the other side of Dickson's inlet and were stunned that their kids were in any danger.</p> <p>We have to remind ourselves that our visitors (who we rely on for our income) generally come from places that do not share our dangers and do not have the same education on crocodile safety. We understand that the tourists do come to see crocodiles in the wild, but I think there are many well established and professional operators in the Daintree River and the Wildlife Zoos which cater for this and remember, the Daintree River is not part of the proposed management Plan.</p> <p>We have lived in Port Douglas our entire life, we have seen the huge increase in crocodiles in our waters, both up Dickson's Inlet and off port Douglas Beach over the years and I cannot understand why we as a major Tourist destination, cannot keep our beaches and public areas safe exactly the same as Cairns.</p> <p>If we do not change our zoning to a Zone 2, we believe it will only be a matter of time before another tragedy does occur like the little boy in Daintree who got taken by a crocodile.</p> <p>We think with the right plan we as a world class destination can provide tourist and locals with "Safe Areas" and also "Wild Areas" where all our assets can be enjoyed.</p>
4877	<p>We own and manage Ulysses Getaways here in Port Douglas for nearly 18 years.</p> <p>Our guests are visiting Port Douglas from all around the world to experience our unique & amazing Douglas Shire.</p> <p>Crocodile behaviour has changed drastically which we personally experience on a regular basis.</p> <p>Being on the boat, during our water sports on the water or while swimming on Four Mile Beach.</p> <p>The crocodiles are curious, show no fear and swim right up to you. Gone are the days where they swam away from you – being too shy & frightened.</p> <p>Our son had an encounter with a juvenile crocodile eye to eye last September north of the Sailing Club on Four Mile Beach. It was only a juvenile but it could have been a larger croc. From there the croc swam straight down to the surf club and then headed around the rocks.</p> <p>We know that crocs swim in the ocean during the warmer month and have done so in the past for many years. We teach our children to respect the crocodiles and need to share this part of the world with them.</p> <p>However we need to understand that their numbers are increasing and we need to keep our beaches and public places safe for us, our children and visitors.</p> <p>What would the Douglas Shire do if we would have an accident that involves a human life? What impact would this be for our tourism industry?</p> <p>Please change the Zone to 2 – that is all we are asking, thank you.</p>

4877	<p>On behalf of windsurfers, kite surfers and SUP paddle boarders, I would like to see that:</p> <p>The current zoning from Wonga Beach south to Ellis Beach be changed to Zone 2 – removing any crocodile over 2m in length within the mentioned area. Last year, my daughter, my nephew (then 6 and 7 years old) and my partner were swimming off the beach near the sailing club on Four Mile beach, when a 2m crocodile surfaced only 3m away from them (it was reported to the Croc Watch hotline & an article was published in the Gazette paper later). The crocodile might have been disturbed while fishing but we also had our little fox terrier swimming with us, so it could have had an eye for her instead. This crocodile will grow and has learnt where a reliable food source is available. As a windsurfer and now beginner kite surfer (beginners are mainly in the water) I have become aware of the increase of crocodile sightings on Four Mile Beach and think twice now before launching. Please keep our beaches safe so that we can practice our water sport activities, swim and enjoy the public foreshores in the Port Douglas area. Time has come to make necessary changes to ensure public safety. Or do we prefer closing our beaches and foreshores to make room for the crocodiles? Douglas Shire: the Gateway to crocodile country, the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree rainforest. I assure you, that most tourists would choose visiting the Northern Beaches of Cairns.</p>
4877	<p>I would like to comment independently from the Port Douglas Outrigger's response.</p> <p>I am a life member the club and have paddled in Dickson's Inlet for over 20 years sometimes up to 5-6 times a week. I was President and/or Secretary for the past 15 years and have stepped down recently. I was the main driving force behind building the outrigger pavilion in 2002.</p> <p>It has saddened me to see my club move from our beautiful unique outrigger facility to the Four Mile Beach site because of fear of crocodiles. I have accepted the concerns of paddlers and I reluctantly supported the club's decision to move for the sake of my sport and the future of outrigger canoeing in the region. It is sad that the crocodiles have won and forced the Club to make this momentous decision. But now it seems paddlers will still feel threatened and anxious about paddling off Four Mile Beach with the recent sighting of a crocodile at the Surf Club. Everyone is becoming paranoid.</p> <p>I am concerned for the club as the move has been disruptive and has destroyed the nucleus, vitality and energy that previously existed. We have lost our home and ideal sporting facility. It will take a long time to get it all back.</p> <p>Maybe if there had been an effective Crocodile Management Plan in place the club would still be thriving and paddling in the inlet without fear.</p> <p>I still currently paddle from the club pavilion and launch my OC1 canoe from the Yacht Club ramp as it is very convenient and I love paddling up the inlet out to the open water. I don't quite share the same fear as other paddlers regarding crocodiles but I also don't want to be the first statistic!</p> <p>I remain very alert when putting my canoe in the water and have only experienced a couple of crocodile sightings over the years. I am also aware that we are once again coming into the warmer season when crocodiles are more active and I am starting to get nervous.</p>

	<p>I would like to see the current zone for Crocodile Management from Wonga Beach to Ellis Beach changed to Zone 2 and the removal of crocodiles over 2 metres. The area in Dickson's Inlet from the Yacht Club ramp north and Four Mile Beach should be regarded 'safe areas'.</p> <p>I would also like to see cleaning of fish and leaving remains anywhere along Dickson's Inlet banned. There should be no encouragement for crocodiles.</p> <p>Port Douglas is a world class destination and to have crocodile signs along our famous Four Mile Beach is ridiculous. We want to attract tourists we don't want to scare them away. We should be able to provide 'safe areas' and 'wild areas' where tourists can still see crocodiles in the wild. We should not have to share our beaches and public areas with crocodiles.</p>
4877	<p>I have just finished reading two items in the Gazette on recent crocodile sightings on Port Douglas beach. I also attended the recent Crocodile Info night in Port Douglas and would like to register my feelings on the problem.</p> <p>Douglas Shire must be seen to be doing something about the growing menace to locals and tourists and whilst we don't want to scare people away I feel it is absolutely essential that we upgrade to Zone 2 immediately.</p> <p>If someone is taken in the area, tourism will certainly suffer.</p>
4877	<p>Thank you for your email of today's date.</p> <p>The Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club advocates Crocodile Management by the extension of Zone 2 to our region.</p> <p>A good case in point for the argument to extend Zone 2 to our region appeared in the Gazette on 28 August 2014 where mention was made of a group of kids fishing close to the water's edge at the Cooya Creek in the vicinity of the known location of a 3.6m Crocodile.</p> <p>Then again last week in the Gazette on 4 September 2014 was a further report of a Crocodile in the lake at Reef Park. This is also a location where children fish.</p> <p>While there will be those who may advocate education and more signage, the fact is that children will go and fish or play where it suits them. Furthermore tourist and locals will swim/wade at any place along the length of Four Mile beach and our other beaches.</p> <p>What is known is that any Crocodile over 3 meters in length will consider a child fair game. We also know that there are many crocodiles over 3 meters in length in our waterways.</p> <p>It is only a matter of time before a child gets taken by a large Crocodile either in the estuarine areas or from the local beaches. For this reason it is vital that the Council be proactive and takes a stance similar to that of the Cairns Regional Council by extending Zone 2 into Douglas.</p> <p>Thanks for taking an interest in the Croc sighting last Saturday. Given the characteristics observed in the water with the Croc being very large and it having a massive tail description was apt for the croc named "Clive" resident in Dickson's inlet.</p> <p>I have attached a photo of 'Clive' taken at 10.30am the following Wednesday 17 Sept 2014 in the inlet up past Marino's fuel depot.</p> <p>The size is estimated at more than 4 metres.</p> <p>The PODOLSK requests that it be removed from the area. It has been sighted in the bathing reserve and it is of particularly dangerous size.</p>

4877	<p>Due to recent reports of crocodile attacking household's pets, this issue must be dealt with soon. This is because of the negative impact it has on the social and the economic aspects of tourism in Port Douglas. The long-term management plan for the Crocodile in Port Douglas could be a solution to this life-threatening issue, therefore I agree upon this engagement.</p>
4877	<p>I am writing to Council to express my extreme concern regarding the situation with large crocodiles in our Port Douglas area.</p> <p>I know most of the arguments have been made for and against further controls, particularly with regard to points made by park management bodies on crocodile's habits, habitat and interaction with people. I also understand the importance of keeping top predators in the system and the role that large crocs play in our waterways. Crocodiles are an important part of our tourism industry as well.</p> <p>Having lived in Port Douglas for 40 years and used the water all that time, I have not seen the brazen behaviour of large crocs the way we have seen over the last 2 years. I use the Four Mile Beach area most mornings (paddling) and see many sea creatures. While it's rare to see a croc, the fact that this latest sighting was right where our main beach swimming takes place is utterly frightening. I understand they rarely attack in the water however it is not unheard of. I have personally snorkelled with a large croc and it was one of the scariest things I've seen to witness just how fast they are.</p> <p>I truly fear that traumatic event will occur and with it, not only is there likely to be loss of life but a tourism crisis that will tar this destination for many years</p> <p>I implore Council to upgrade our Zone to a management protocol of removing crocs over 2 metres.</p>
4873	<p>I would like to add my comments to the crocodile management plan proposal. I have lived in the Douglas Shire since 1988 and have fond memories of swimming confidently at Newell Beach during the non-stinger season over many many years. However in the past 2 years I have become quite fearful about entering the water because of the threat of crocodiles. WE also enjoy walking our dog along the beach but have to be very cautious around the waters edge because of crocodiles. Also my teenage son really enjoys fishing at the beach and the heads and I am fearful of the crocodiles particularly at the Newell Beach boat ramp. We LOVE being in the outdoors and enjoy the lifestyle of the north BUT I believe the crocodiles should be removed from residential areas for the safety of the people who live here. The presence of crocodiles at our beaches also deters tourists and holiday makers and I believe 2 families recently left their Newell Beach accommodation when told there have been crocodiles sighted here. Please ensure our safety by regularly and consistently removing crocodiles from residential areas before any tragedies occur.</p>
4873	<p>I am concerned about the increasing crocodile numbers and frequency of sightings at Newell Beach.</p> <p>I regularly launch my boat at Newell Beach boat ramp and have seen large crocodiles near the launching area. This is a safety hazard because you can't launch your boat without entering the water. I feel concerned when kids swim at the beach as they could be attacked. I believe that all crocodiles over 1.5metres should be culled or removed. We should feel safe when we walk our dog, launch our boat or simply enjoy the beach.</p>

4873	<p>I do not support the extension of Zone 2 management area into the Douglas Shire, which would see that any crocodile 2m in length or over being removed from our rivers and creeks.</p> <p>Saltwater crocodiles are apex predators and an important part of the ecosystem. Removing them from our waterways could have an adverse effect on the ecology and biodiversity of the area. They (saltwater crocodiles) are also of significant importance to our local eco-tourism industry.</p> <p>I do not believe that there is evidence to suggest that crocodile numbers have increased significantly over the past 3 to 4 years, nor is there any evidence to suggest that they have become any more dangerous than they have ever been.</p> <p>With a view to the long-term management of crocodiles, I believe that the Croc Wise program should be continued and built upon. Education and learning to co-exist with our wildlife is my preferred approach.</p> <p>I also believe that this is the majority viewpoint amongst people who regularly use our waterways for recreational purposes. At the recent Crocodile Information Session held in Port Douglas, I believe that the predominant view was in support of the current zoning arrangements with increased education to visitors and residents, especially new residents to the area. I have also enquired amongst some of my friends who have been involved in the Surf Life Saving Club for many years, and I have been told that whilst members are divided on the topic, the majority would prefer to co-exist with crocodiles in the safest possible way and that more education on crocodile behaviour and safety, especially with patrol members, would be an important strategy. One member commented that crocodiles were just one of many marine risks that they encountered.</p> <p>Whilst I acknowledge that crocodiles are extremely dangerous and that there have been fatalities in the Shire from crocodile attack, I am not of the view that changing the zoning will reduce the risk from crocodile attack. It is well documented that crocodiles are territorial and if a crocodile is removed another may well replace it. The removal of crocodiles could potentially lead to an increase in risk as there may be a false sense of security felt by people swimming or using recreational craft in known crocodile habitat. Additionally, the current zoning is still under a trial period and I feel that it would be premature to change the zoning in Douglas until there is information available as to the effect on crocodile numbers and subsequent safety levels in areas under different zoning.</p> <p>Finally, I support a continuation of the status quo for the zoning of the Douglas Shire as a crocodile management area. Douglas is currently a "Zone 3" management area where the objective is to remove crocodiles of concern. A crocodile of concern is a saltwater crocodile that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, a person - is determined by the department to pose a potential threat to human safety or wellbeing because of the crocodile's location or behaviour; or - has passed a crocodile prevention barrier and has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, stock, working dogs or aquaculture fisheries resources. <p>A zone 3 management area already allows for the removal of crocodiles and given the recent removal of the 2.5m crocodile from Cree's Lake in Reef Park it would appear that a "crocodile of concern" might include one that is suspected of having taken 3 pets and an egret. If the parameters for labelling a crocodile to be one of concern are so wide, I do not see the need for changing our zoning at this time.</p>
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4877	<p>The DSSG supports a continuation of the status quo for the zoning of the Douglas Shire as a crocodile management area. Douglas is currently a "Zone 3" management area where the objective is to remove crocodiles of concern. A crocodile of concern is a saltwater crocodile that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, a person - is determined by the department to pose a potential threat to human safety or wellbeing because of the crocodile's location or behaviour; or - has passed a crocodile prevention barrier and has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, stock, working dogs or aquaculture fisheries resources. <p>With a view to the long-term management of crocodiles, the DSSG believes that the Croc Wise program should be continued and built upon. For example, an information brochure (made available by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection) should be prominently displayed and available in all accommodation houses, especially beach or river front holiday let homes. Similarly such a brochure could be mailed out with rate notices for new residents to the area, or with rental information via the real estate agents. Groups such as Surf Life Saving and Coast Guard could be encouraged to promote safe swimming/fishing/boating practices in water close to crocodile habitat.</p> <p>The issue of safer fishing practises i.e. keeping a safe distance from waters edge and the proper removal of fish carcasses from boat ramps was discussed at the recent crocodile information session and this is something that could be addressed by better signage and/or the provision of bins to dispose of such waste.</p> <p>Whilst the DSSG acknowledges that crocodiles are extremely dangerous and that there have been fatalities in the Shire from crocodile attack, it is not of the view that changing the zoning will reduce the risk from crocodile attack. It is well documented that crocodiles are territorial and if a crocodile is removed another may well replace it. The removal of crocodiles could potentially lead to an increase in risk as there may be a false sense of security felt by people swimming or using recreational craft in known crocodile habitat. Additionally the current zoning is still under a trial period and the DSSG feels that it would be premature to change the zoning in Douglas until there is information available as to the effect on crocodile numbers and subsequent safety levels in areas under different zoning.</p> <p>Saltwater crocodiles are apex predators and an important part of the ecosystem. Removing them from our waterways may have adverse effect on the overall ecology and biodiversity of the area. They are also of significant importance to our local eco-tourism industry.</p> <p>The DSSG understands that there is no evidence to suggest that crocodile numbers have increased significantly over the past 3 to 4 years, nor is there any evidence to suggest that they have become any more dangerous than they have ever been</p>
4877	<p>The population of Douglas has two identities:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those born here into established families and other long term residents who choose to relocate here for the lifestyle. 2. Transients here, for various reasons, for a few days or months and others who come to take advantage of a perceived commercial opportunity. <p>Generally speaking, but naturally with exceptions on both sides, the first group has learned to accept the climate and environment and organise their lives accordingly. The second group tends, at first, to try to tame their surrounds to resemble their imported perceptions of 'normal'. The division has a lot to do with the current discussion around crocodile management.</p> <p>Science and community experience tells us:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crocodiles are territorial; removing a crocodile only creates a vacancy for another one looking for a habitat and fosters, potentially, false sense of security. 2. Crocodiles belong to a balanced ecosystem, meddling with this balance only exacerbates the problem and creates new ones.

	<p>3. Choosing to earn our livings from the environment obviously requires us to tend that environment both for tourism and agriculture. Tourists expect to see, in situ, the environment we boast about, not in a manicured theme park.</p> <p>4. Money would be better spent removing the hazardous, decaying boat wrecks from Dickson's Inlet rather than removing crocodiles. Our existing management zoning adequately takes care of deviant crocodiles.</p> <p>Rather than make a potentially disastrous change to the zoning, I urge Council to increase the level of education at every opportunity, with special attention to new residents and owners of investment properties, to instil a culture that accepts responsibility for nurturing our environmental assets, even if it is at times uncomfortable - paradise has its price! In the long run, lowering our all-over footprint will greatly enhance our living and lifestyle and also the respect of our increasingly well educated visitors.</p>
?	<p>As a resident of Far North Queensland, I am appalled at the current environmental vandalism happening to our wildlife and environment. We live in the tropics and we have to co-exist with our wildlife. Tourist come to FNQ (1 in 5) to view our unique wildlife. Our economy relies on our wildlife and Eco-tourism experiences. Mo at Mowbray river is famous and every tourist gets a buzz seeing him at low tide sunning himself on the banks of the Mowbray River.</p> <p>The biggest problem is education. When educated you cannot fear. Education not relocation! Relocating crocodiles will have a dangerous effect on the ecosystem. Man is constantly messing with the balance of nature.</p> <p>I have visited Africa many times... the wildlife in abundant and mixing with tourist. The Nile crocodiles laze on the banks of the Zambezi River and tourist are all around. Tourists flock to see what they cannot in the concrete jungles of the cities. They understand why tourists come; the locals appreciate and respect their wildlife. There are signs, and education. We need to do the same.</p> <p>Therefore, I as a ratepayer would like to see education, signage and not eradication of an iconic apex species that has been a vital part of the ecosystem for millions of years. We need to learn respect and learn to co-exist. Man is not above nature... we are part of it and should start appreciating the understanding this.</p>
4873	<p>I am writing to convey my strong support in developing and commencing a community education program about being 'Croc Wise' in Douglas appreciate the Council's position on consulting with the public and not culling these beautiful creatures in this area.</p> <p>I have already made a submission once supporting a stronger education of people/croc interaction, but after seeing the Gazette today I would like to add the following comments:-</p> <p>This is crocodile country. People are or should be aware of this before they move here. We shouldn't be culling the wildlife just to suit our lifestyle. Some people live here because of our amazing wildlife.</p> <p>Parents should be supervising their kids around water, crocodile hot spots and any other dangerous environments. The same goes for pet owners. I have 2 dogs and would be devastated if anything happened to them; however as I am aware of the crocs, if anything happened to my pets, it would be my fault, not the crocodile.</p> <p>People don't let their kids/pets play on busy roads, main intersections etc because they know of the speeding cars, so the same should apply for our waterways.</p> <p>You know the crocodiles are in the waterways, so if you choose to participate in a sporting/recreational activity in the water, you know the risk you are taking. People will go in the water regardless, even in stinger season where there is more of a risk of being stung, which can be fatal. You are more likely to be injured by a drunk driver up in these parts as well.</p> <p>I've seen the absolutely stupid things people do around the water, including leaving gutted fish near boat ramps for goodness sake!</p>

	<p>I really hope a cull is not implemented (and a croc removal is as good as a cull because most of the crocs caught will most likely die in their new surroundings because they will have to fight to survive in another's territory). I have also seen this first hand.</p> <p>In summary, I would rather have a "People Management Programme" implemented and remove the troublesome ones!</p>
4870	<p>The current state of our environment is appalling to begin with and then you want to remove the apex predator from the Eco system. What is wrong with your fundamental understanding of how nature works? Now I do realise for the uneducated a crocodile is a big scary beast, but the croc has a purpose to maintain balance in its environment by taking out the weak and sick animals. Unfortunately for humans, of who are not properly educated to not appear as easy prey, get injured or killed. You only have to look at North America to see what a long history of destroying predators has done to ecosystems. Amazingly enough, the once endangered grey wolf, as an example, is making a comeback. Likewise after years of "culling" crocs throughout their endemic areas has put a strain on ecosystems here as well. And after years of re-establishing hierarchies, certain governments seek to restart this vivacious cycle all over again. The only thing that predates on small aggressive crocs is the bigger crocs that some would seek to remove. Doesn't really make too much sense does it? As a fisherman instead of know that there is a big croc in the waterway I'm fishing I have to be on ever higher alert for smaller more aggressive crocs trying to establish themselves in a given territory. The fact that I'm aware of crocs and how to be safe in THEIR habitat is a testament to what a bit of education can do. No I'm not a born and bred local. I'm a contributing member of our community that moved to far North Queensland because of the natural beauty that abounds. As much as our community depends on tourism we should be even more vigilant in keeping our ecosystems stable and educating our popular and tourists alike on how to be croc wise. Thank you for your time and consideration on the very important matter.</p>
4877	<p>I am of the view that the existing management regime is sufficient and adequate.</p> <p>We choose to live work and play on an area of outstanding natural beauty and we much learn to co-exist with native creatures who share the environment. It is necessary to have a system to identify and remove crocodiles that pose a risk due to behaviour (as is the current management situation). However it is not necessary or desirable to have a more aggressive management strategy. Crocodiles are an attraction for visitors, and we do not want to see more signs going up at beaches and lake etc without necessity - the current regime works.</p> <p>As I understand the statistics, there has been no increase in threat of harm or actual harm from crocodiles to justify any changed approach.</p> <p>It would be a positive environmental impact to reduce/ control the numbers of domestic and feral cats and dogs in the Shire area.</p>
4873	<p>I have lived at Newell Beach was nestled between the Mossman River mount and Salty River mount for 26 years. During this time I have walked the beach regularly to both ends. During this time I have only even seen 1 crocodile off the beach. I have not heard any direct stories of any dogs going missing due to crocodile attack.</p>

	<p>I believe that educating the public to be wary in crocodile habitat is essential. I strongly oppose crocodiles being removed when not threatening the public. This is their environment and we must treat it with respect. If crocodiles need to be removed I think it is appalling to put them in a crocodile farm. To take a wild animal that has not harmed but is merely in "our" space and send it to a caged enclosure to not the answer.</p> <p>Many people make a living from safely viewing crocodile in their natural habitat in both the Dickson Inlet and the Daintree River and I believe they should be allowed to continue to do so. Removing crocodiles from these river systems will not be a long term solution to this problem.</p> <p>I support the DSSG submission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I support continuation of the status quo for the zoning of the Douglas Shire as a crocodile management area. Douglas is currently a "Zone 3" management area where the objective is to remove crocodiles of concern. A crocodile of concern is a saltwater crocodile that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, a person - is determined by the department to pose a potential threat to human safety or wellbeing because of the crocodile's location or behaviour; or - has passed a crocodile prevention barrier and has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, stock, working dogs or aquaculture fisheries resources. <p>With a view to the long-term management of crocodiles, I believe that the Croc Wise program should be continued and built upon. Education and learning to co-exist with our wildlife is my preferred approach.</p> <p>Whilst I acknowledge that crocodiles are extremely dangerous and that there have been fatalities in the Shire from Crocodile attack, I am not of the view that changing the zoning will reduce the risk from crocodile attack. It is well documented that crocodiles are territorial and if a crocodile is removed another may well replace it. The removal of crocodiles could potentially lead to an increase in risk as there may be a false sense of security felt by people swimming or using recreational craft in known crocodile habitat. Additionally, the current zoning is still under a trial period and I feel that it would be premature to change the zoning in Douglas until there is information available as to the effect on crocodile numbers and subsequent safety levels in the area under different zoning.</p> <p>Saltwater crocodiles are apex predators and an important part of the ecosystem. Removing them from our waterways could have an adverse effect on the ecology and biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>Saltwater crocodile area of significant importance to our local eco-tourism industry. I do not believe that there is evidence to suggest that crocodile numbers have increased significantly over the past 3 to 4 years, nor is there any evidence to suggest that they have become any more dangerous than they have ever been.</p>
4873	<p>In response to the community status report, I disagree with the management plan proposed for crocodiles in the Douglas Shire. More economical and environmental initiatives may be employed, such as educating the public in crocodile safety. Ultimately, this plan is suitable for extreme circumstances; however, in our local community, it is not necessary. I suggest we should focus on keeping our landscape pristine rather than controlled - the way it has always been.</p>

4873	<p>I am a Douglas Shire resident (of 16 yrs), a recreational boater and fisherwoman and a resident reliant on the tourism industry for a living.</p> <p>I firmly believe that the current Zone 3 crocodile management practise is sufficient and is working well in our region and the recent removal of a 2.5m croc from St Crispin's is proof of the plan in action. No matter how many crocs are targeted and removed our ocean and waterways will never be croc free. A belief that attempting to remove all crocs 2m+ (and smaller in urban areas) will ensure the safety of swimmers on beaches and fishermen in the rivers and creeks can only lead to public complacency and a false sense of security and safety. The Port Douglas urban area is too small and too remote for a Proactive Removal Zone to have significant impact on crocodile populations.</p> <p>Being 'Croc Wise' wherever you are in North QLD is the safest way to live as there can never be 100% eradication as some groups are advocating. Crocs use waterways and oceans, not only as homes, but as thoroughfares and highways and always will, no matter which croc management plan is put in place. We need to learn to share our environment and have a healthy does of respect for how and where they live.</p> <p>As a resident that speaks to sometimes hundreds of tourists a day I also believe that crocodiles are a massive drawcard for our tourism industry and a zone 2 management plan would impact on that.</p> <p>Thank you for giving the community a chance to respond to local issues.</p>
4873	<p>I have several concerns relating to the push to make the Douglas Shire a Zone Two region in relation to crocodile management.</p> <p>Crocodiles are a fundamental to the connectivity between the land and marine ecosystems and their ultimate effect on the reef and our image as a destination of distinction as a source of outstanding environmental values for both residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>The hubris that has surrounded one incident off 4 mile is both alarmist and detrimental to many stakeholders.</p> <p>The notion that you set a size limit on what we will accept I find puerile. A 2.4 metre croc can still kill you.</p> <p>Removal of the larger crocs only encourages others to move in but, more importantly, distresses the inshore ecosystem for other species.</p> <p>Education is the only answer and that responsibility not only lies with Council but also anyone who provides services to our visitors.</p> <p>Indigenous habitats have adapted to this over eons and we need to take their lead.</p> <p>Maintain the status quo.</p>
4873	<p>We respect the views of minority groups such as PD Outriggers and PDSLSA on this matter but do not believe that zone 2 management is any solution what to ever. In fact it has the chance of increasing the dangers to humans by creating complacency. This is born through comments such as those of Mr Bolt in last week's Gazette suggesting Four Mile Beach would be made "safe" through zone 2 management. Safety is staying out of the water. Mr Bolt should be wiser than this narrow view, amazing.</p> <p>We need to continue to accept risk that although on occasions may be reduced it could be replaced in an instance as quickly as it was reduced and therefore really remains a constant.</p>

	<p>Mossman Gorge statistically has caused greater deaths through drowning but it is not lobbied to be closed.</p> <p>Safety comes through human management not that of wildlife and through education (the area that should be concentrated on).</p> <p>Complacency potentially creates "it is safe/safe enough because the authorities have removed all the crocodiles". The simple truth is that most of the waterways are connected; crocodiles live in water, crocodiles on occasions move incredible distances. As such removing only paves the way for replacement. Removal does not make it safer. Do not forget we have a marine park out to sea (crocs go there too) and a huge crocodile habitat being the Daintree River just 15km away from Port Douglas. Daintree River despite most locals' ignorance is a marine park for the first 15km too and NO crocs will be zone 2'd there because of its ecological significance/classification and economic/tourist interests! This will always endanger Four Mile Beach, especially with nothing but wild rivers for the next 3000-4000km of coastline, around the Cape and top end to WA.</p> <p>Instead Mr Bolt as an example should be educated to only kayak after 9am when life guards are patrolling.</p> <p>The wildlife has far greater right than humans and we should respect that. Do not upset the food chain, especially at its commencement or end.</p> <p>In terms of a minority group, my family is very much a minority being one of only two? Directly affected by crocodile/human fatality. We lost Jeremy in 2009. He loved wildlife. He was doing something he should not have been doing (which, sorry but reading a newspaper will not have told you the truthful details of his actions on that ill-fated day, he was not swimming in the river or a creek). He was doing something quite low risk and he still lost his life. We were complacent if it has to be categorized. We were also unlucky and we are devastated and our lives will never be happy or fulfilled now. But victimizing the wildlife is not the solution.</p> <p>Education, education, education and managing and monitoring humans is the solution. The risk will always be there and PDO & PDSLSA need to modify their behaviour.</p> <p>Removing crocodiles is the same as culling them. They only get put in a farm (not a public zoo like Hartley's to be made entertainment objects - thank god in some respects!). The farms do not want males, only females. The funds raised amount to hundreds of dollars, not even thousands that perhaps could help fund education and monitoring of human behaviour which is what is really required. And a crocodile removed is only an opportunity for another to replace it; they didn't last this long through being stupid!</p> <p>No ZONE 2.</p>
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4873	<p>I support continuation of the status quo for the zoning of the Douglas Shire as a crocodile management area. Douglas is currently a “Zone 3” management area where the objective is to remove crocodiles of concern. A crocodile of concern is a saltwater crocodile that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, a person · is determined by the department to pose a potential threat to human safety or wellbeing because of the crocodile's location or behaviour; or · has passed a crocodile prevention barrier and has attacked, or is about to attack, or is behaving aggressively towards, stock, working dogs or aquaculture fisheries resources. <p>I have grown up around Newell beach and spent a significant amount of time walking the beach and around both river mouths as well as other areas that crocodiles inhabit and I strongly believe it all comes down be vigilant and acting with common sense. We are all aware of the areas where there are crocodiles and we need to give them the respect that they command instead of removing them because they are a "problem" when it is more that we, the people, are the problem encroaching on their habitat.</p> <p>With a view to the long-term management of crocodiles, I believe that the Croc Wise program should be continued and built upon. Education and learning to co-exist with our wildlife is my preferred approach.</p> <p>Whilst I acknowledge that crocodiles are extremely dangerous and that there have been fatalities in the Shire from crocodile attack, I am not of the view that changing the zoning will reduce the risk from crocodile attack. It is well documented that crocodiles are territorial and if a crocodile is removed another may well replace it. The removal of crocodiles could potentially lead to an increase in risk as there may be a false sense of security felt by people swimming or using recreational craft in known crocodile habitat. Additionally, the current zoning is still under a trial period and I feel that it would be premature to change the zoning in Douglas until there is information available as to the effect on crocodile numbers and subsequent safety levels in areas under different zoning.</p> <p>Saltwater crocodiles are apex predators and an important part of the ecosystem. Removing them from our waterways could have an adverse effect on the ecology and biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>Saltwater crocodiles are of significant importance to our local eco-tourism industry.</p> <p>I do not believe that there is evidence to suggest that crocodile numbers have increased significantly over the past 3 to 4 years, nor is there any evidence to suggest that they have become any more dangerous than they have ever been.</p>
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SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM 21 OCTOBER

4873	<p>I am frowning increasingly concerned for the safety of my family dur to the recent crocodile sightings at Four Mile Beach. As a resident of the Douglas Shire I wish to be afforded the same protection as those people living in the Cairns region. I would like to see the implementation of a Zone 2 crocodile management plan here in the Douglas Shire. Without this zoning our beaches will soon be unusable, jelly-fish during summer and crocodiles year round... not particularly attractive for tourists or residents.</p> <p>I urge you to take action on this matter before a tragedy occurs.</p>
4877	<p>A volunteer lifeguard and Age Manager at Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club. Last Sunday, we all had what I would describe as a WARNING, from the Large Reptiles that now frequently, swim past our SAFE swimming and Patrolled area. After two of our Patrol groups had a training swim (out and around the swim cans), and two of our new 13yr old patrol members caught a few waves, and I was sitting out there on my board on my own for a while, we witnessed a very frightening sight. The very large brown mass that was sitting apex 20 metres out from a swimmer, straight our from the lifeguard hut, surfaced! The conditions were very rough, and hard to spot much, lots of weed and wind swept waves, I thought it was a tree trunk, you often see them floating after the creeks have been flushed. But we've had no rain. It was very large and swimming against the sweep, a massive crocodile. We got everyone out of the water and closed the beach. (This is our Policy). Put the croc sign up. I went home shaken, and in disbelief that this creature has more rights than we do. How can we fly our red and yellow flags and say this is a safe place. How can we put our volunteer lifeguards and our Children at risk? WHY IS NOTHING BEING DONE!!! Man, what a law suit that would be for council after so many warnings of this danger.!! One person taken, there goes your precious tourist industry!! We are not paid for what we do, we teach children how to be safe and how to save others, and give our time and knowledge to help keep all people who use the beach safe. The time to act is now before we lose someone!!</p>
4877	<p>I would like to submit my opinion that a zone 2 management plan be implemented in the Douglas Shire.</p>
4877	<p>The management of crocodiles in the shire should be made an immediate priority. It is only a matter of time before someone is attacked and possibly killed. A large predator is frequenting the patrolled area of the beach and this cannot be allowed to continue, particularly because tourists swim there thinking they are safe. My nine year old daughter does nippers and I am seriously considering pulling her out of next year's season. As a local, I have the benefit of knowing there is a crocodile problem. Many parents take their children to swim at the beach completely ignorant of the potential danger and this is reprehensible.</p> <p>Further to the north of Queensland, in the Northern Territory and in the north of Western Australia, it is not possible to swim in the ocean due to the presence of crocodiles. Most of us cannot remember a time when there were crocodiles in our area in large enough numbers to be a problem. We are kidding ourselves if we think we can do nothing to control the crocodile population without risking the lives of people who frequent our beautiful beaches. A crocodile management plan such as that utilised in Cairns should be adopted as far north as Wonga at least.</p>

	<p>From a purely selfish perspective, I love going to the beach and swimming in the ocean as do the rest of my family. I am prepared to accept that there are dangers doing this but the increasing risk from large crocodiles is becoming unacceptable.</p> <p>You have a clear duty of care to ensure the public, life guards and surf lifesavers, can use the beach safely. You are well aware there are large crocodiles frequenting the swimming area so you need to implement a management plan immediately.</p>
4877	<p>As a new resident and business owner in the tourism sector, the management of crocodiles is extremely important in respect of everyone's safety and naturally the broader perception that existing and potential visitors will have of our region. It is therefore extremely concerning that the sightings of crocodiles is seemingly increasing with no plans to manage the situation. This places everyone at a much higher risk physically. It is also a higher risk to business in the region long term with potentially negative perceptions of visitor safety.</p> <p>Therefore I would strongly recommend that a management system be put in place similar to that of the Cairns Region.</p>
4873	<p>As a resident of over 20 years to the region with a young family I have grave concerns another life will needlessly be taken by a crocodile if we do not act now.</p> <p>I know friends and many people I meet express similar concerns regarding the brazen behaviour towards humans by the ever increasing crocodile population.</p> <p>Why should we not have the same protection as our neighbours in Cairns?!</p>
4877	<p>Please can I voice my concern with the current situation regarding the recent sightings of crocodiles on Four Mile beach. As a business owner I feel this has potential to be bad for business, as a father I feel this could be a threat to my children and as a volunteer coach and age manager of under 8 and under 9 kids at the surf club I feel it could present a risk to those local kids I take responsibility for putting in the water every Sunday morning throughout the season.</p> <p>Please know you will have my full support if you choose to push to have the current situation regarding removal of problem crocodiles, changed.</p>
	<p>I am writing to express my concern about the large crocodile which has been sighted recently in the vicinity of the flags at Four Mile Beach.</p> <p>Although I am pro conservation of these amazing animals and their habitat, in this case I feel that the croc should be removed. I believe that the Four Mile Beach area near the life saving club should be designated Zone 2 in the Crocodile management plan.</p>

ATTACHMENT B – CROCODILE MANAGEMENT IN QUEENSLAND PRESENTATION

Department of Environment
and Heritage Protection

Crocodile Management in QLD

- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- To report crocodiles of concern or any native wildlife related issues: **1300 130 372**
- For more information visit our Website:
www.ehp.qld.gov.au



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Background

Crocodilian Research and Management

- University of Queensland
- University of Florida and Florida Wildlife Commission
- Wildlife Management International
- Charles Darwin University

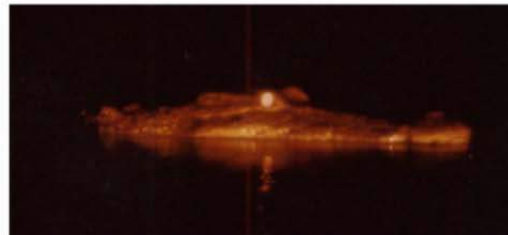


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Crocodile Anatomy

- Heavily armoured
- 'Minimum exposure'
- Sensory organs
- Salt glands
- Powerful jaws and tail
- Gastroliths



Ecology and behaviour

- Semi-aquatic
- Opportunistic/generalist predator
- Thermoregulation
- Anaerobic metabolism
- Diving
- Complex behavioural repertoire



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Reproduction

- Sexual dimorphism
- Nest material and defence
- Incubation
- Parental care



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Signs of a crocodile



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Australian crocodiles

- The Estuarine crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*).
- Australian Freshwater crocodile (*C. johnstoni*).
- Differences: size, teeth, skull, behaviour, habitat, nesting.
- Management in QLD focused on Estuarine crocodile.



Crocodile Management in north QLD

Four trial crocodile management plans

- Cairns
- Cassowary Coast
- Hinchinbrook Shire
- Townsville

Three different management zones

- **Zone 1:** No tolerance, all crocodiles, physical barriers (weirs, rock walls), seasonal.
- **Zone 2:** All crocodiles ≥ 2 m and any crocodile displaying aggressive behaviour.
- **Zone 3:** Removal of 'crocodiles of concern'.
- Regardless of Zone – 'crocodiles of concern' are targeted for removal.

Port Douglas = Zone 3



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Management considerations

- **Concerning behaviour:** crocodiles that approach people or that behave aggressively towards people are considered 'crocodiles of concern'.
- **Feeding:** crocodiles will often display these behaviours as a result of being fed by people, as they then associate people with food.
- **Large crocodiles:** crocodiles over 2m have the potential to injure or kill pets, children or adults.



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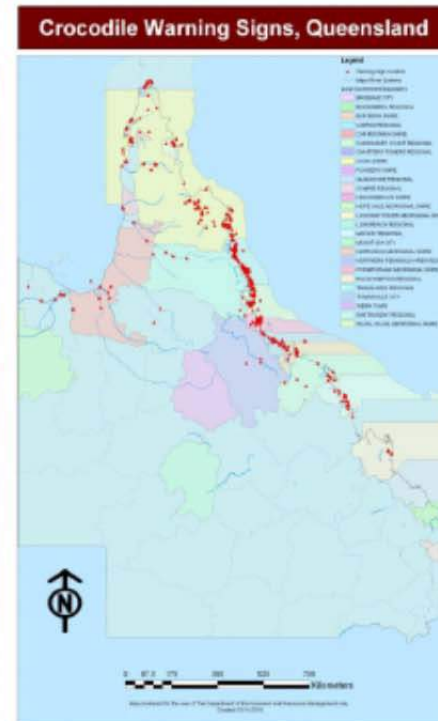
Circumstances under which crocodiles may injure people

1. **Predation:** estuarine crocodiles are instinctive and opportunistic predators that hunt at the water's edge.
2. **Self defence:** with no option for escape, crocodiles will attack.
3. **Nest defence:** female estuarine crocodiles are known to fiercely defend their nest.
4. **When handled:** people can get injured attempting to handle crocodiles.



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- **Permanent Warnings signs** can be found at sites of high public use such as boat ramps, river crossings and camping grounds in close proximity to waterways
- **Recent Crocodile Warning signs** are put up when there has been a report of a recent sighting of a crocodile of concern. The sign remains in the area for 7 days.
- EHP staff work with local council groups and property owners to ensure adequate signage is in place



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Public education: Croc Wise behaviour

- **Crocodile signs:** if present do not enter water.
- **Fishing:** always stand a few metres back from the water's edge.
- **Fish cleaning and scraps:** never clean or discard fish scraps near the water's edge
- **Approach or harass:** do not approach or harass crocodiles
- **Overhanging:** never dangle your arms or legs over the side of a boat or sit in tree overhanging water.
- **Feeding:** never feed crocodiles.
- **Camp:** at least 2m above the high water mark and at least 50m from the water's edge.
- **Food preparation:** never prepare food, wash dishes or pursue any other activities near the water's edge.



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Reporting 'crocodiles of concern'

- To report crocodiles of concern or any native wildlife related issues:
1300 130 372.
- For more information visit our Website:

www.ehp.qld.gov.au

<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/crocodiles>



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