

Our Ref: BNE31189-1  
BNE2007/5682  
E/07/01265  
Your Ref: 801-07

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2007 concerning the petition received by the House on 17 April 2007 seeking changes to the crocodile conservation plan to allow for the immediate removal of crocodiles identified near public facilities and populated areas in the interests of public safety.

There is already provision, under the existing legislation, to remove crocodiles from the wild that are assessed as being "problem crocodiles". The Queensland Government is strongly committed to maintaining public safety, and any crocodile assessed as posing a risk to members of the public is targeted for removal. The new draft estuarine crocodile conservation plan, recently released for public comment, has proposed that this practice continue.

It is important to note that it is simply not possible to guarantee any area within the distribution of crocodiles as being "crocodile free", even if animals are removed as they are sighted. Crocodiles are highly mobile animals, capable of moving large distances undetected, and any animal removed from a stretch of river can be quickly replaced by another individual moving in to occupy the vacant territory. It is on this basis that the Environmental Protection Agency has pursued a management strategy incorporating removal of problem crocodiles together with public education to encourage "croc wise" behaviour by the community and visitors.

The public notice period for the draft conservation plan has now closed and the submissions received are being analysed. The petition, number 801-07, will be given consideration in the preparation of the final conservation plan.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

**Lindy Nelson-Carr MP**  
**Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism**