

Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025



Queensland

Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

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2025

A Bill

for

An Act to establish the Queensland Crocodile Authority and for related matters

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The P	arlia	ment of Queensland enacts—	1
Part	1	Preliminary	2
1	She	ort title	3
		This Act may be cited as the Crocodile Control and Conservation Act 2025.	4 5
2	Co	mmencement	6
		This Act commences 4 months after the day of assent.	7
3	Def	finitions	8
		The dictionary in schedule 1 defines particular words used in this Act.	9 10
4	Inc	onsistency with other Acts	11
		If there is an inconsistency between this Act and another Act, this Act prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.	12 13
Part	2	Queensland Crocodile Authority	14 15
5		tablishment and control of Queensland Crocodile thority	16 17
	(1)	The Queensland Crocodile Authority is established.	18
	(2)	The authority consists of the director and staff of the authority.	19
	(3)	The director is to control the authority.	20

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6	Loc	cation of authority
	(1)	The business premises of the authority must be located in Cairns.
	(2)	The director and staff of the authority must reside in Cairns.
7	Fui	nctions of authority
		The functions of the authority are—
		(a) to act, as necessary, to assist the director to carry out the director's functions; and
		(b) to perform another function conferred on the authority under this Act or another Act; and
		(c) to perform functions incidental to a function mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).
8	Sta	ıff
		The staff of the authority are employed under the <i>Public Sector Act 2022</i> .
Part	3	Director of Queensland
		Crocodile Authority
9	Ар	pointment of director
	(1)	The authority must have a director.
	(2)	The director is appointed by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on the recommendation of the Minister.
	(3)	However, the Minister must not recommend a person for appointment as director unless the Minister is satisfied the person—
		(a) has qualifications or experience relevant to the appointment; and
		(b) is of good character; and

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		(c)	resides in Cairns.	1
	(4)		director is appointed under this Act, and not under the lic Sector Act 2022.	2 3
	(5)		director must operate primarily from the business nises of the authority.	4 5
10	Fui	nctio	ns of director	6
	(1)		director has the following functions—	7
		(a)	to take measures to minimise injuries and deaths caused by crocodiles in the State;	8 9
		(b)	to authorise persons, in any part of the State, to operate—	10 11
			(i) a crocodile farm; or	12
			(ii) a crocodile sanctuary;	13
		(c)	to decide the number of crocodile eggs that may be harvested each year in any part of the State;	14 15
		(d)	to authorise persons to harvest crocodile eggs in any part of the State;	1 <i>6</i> 1 <i>7</i>
		(e)	to decide the number of crocodiles that may be culled each year in any part of the State;	18 19
		(f)	to authorise persons to carry out the culling of crocodiles in any part of the State;	20 21
		(g)	to authorise persons to, for the prompt management of crocodiles, kill or relocate crocodiles in any part of the State;	22 23 24
			Example—	25
			A person may be authorised to relocate a crocodile from a populated waterway to a crocodile sanctuary.	26 27
		(h)	for Aboriginal land or Torres Strait Islander land—to authorise the owner of the land to—	28 29
			(i) kill crocodiles on the land; or	30

	(ii)	allow other persons to kill crocodiles on the land, for payment of a fee or free of charge; or	1 2
	(iii)	relocate crocodiles on the land to a crocodile sanctuary or crocodile farm; or	3
	(iv)	harvest crocodile eggs on the land; or	5
	(v)	otherwise manage crocodiles on the land;	6
	Note-	_	7
		be section 20 in relation to consultation about Aboriginal addition or Island custom.	8 9
(i)	land	State leasehold land or other land that is not State—to authorise a person to, with the consent of the er of the land, enter the land to—	10 11 12
	(i)	kill crocodiles on the land; or	13
	(ii)	relocate crocodiles on the land to a crocodile sanctuary or crocodile farm; or	14 15
	(iii)	harvest crocodile eggs on the land;	16
(j)		uthorise persons to display, interact with, keep, or crocodiles or crocodile eggs in any part of the State;	17 18
(k)		quested by the owner of land, to authorise a person emove a crocodile from the land;	19 20
(1)	auth	nsure the carcasses of all crocodiles killed under an orisation granted by the director are dealt with so as far as practicable, no part of a carcass is wasted;	21 22 23
(m)		efer the suspected commission of offences relating to odiles or crocodile eggs to the police service;	24 25
(n)	to c of—	oordinate research into, and the routine surveying	26 27
	(i)	crocodile numbers and distribution in the State; and	28 29
	(ii)	crocodile egg numbers and distribution in the State;	30 31

	(o)	to promote the farming of crocodiles and the harvesting of crocodile eggs in the State;	1 2
	(p)	to investigate viability of the use of State land to farm crocodiles or as crocodile sanctuaries;	3 4
	(q)	to declare and manage crocodile sanctuaries and populated waterways;	5 6
	(r)	to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly about crocodile management in the State;	7 8
	(s)	to manage the authority's affairs—	9
		(i) under this Act and other relevant laws; and	10
		(ii) having regard to the advisory committee's advice or recommendations;	11 12
	(t)	to otherwise manage the day-to-day operations of the authority.	13 14
(2)	ment reaso popu	director must not, when carrying out a function tioned in subsection (1), do anything the director onably believes will cause, or is likely to cause, the plation size of crocodiles to decline to such an extent that odiles are in danger of extinction.	15 16 17 18 19
(3)	In th	is section—	20
	buy	includes—	21
	(a)	agree or offer to buy; and	22
	(b)	receive or accept under an agreement; and	23
	(c)	agree to receive or accept under an agreement; and	24
	(d)	offer or attempt to receive or accept under an agreement; and	25 26
	(e)	cause or permit to be received or accepted under an agreement; and	27 28
	(f)	acquire by exchange; and	29
	(g)	accept on hire or lease.	30

			lay, in relation to a crocodile or a crocodile egg, includes onstrate the crocodile or egg.	1 2
		inter	ract, with a crocodile, includes—	3
		(a)	approach, pursue or lure a crocodile for the purpose of interacting with or feeding the crocodile; and	4 5
		(b)	gain a benefit from interacting with or feeding the crocodile; and	6 7
		(c)	attempt to do an act mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).	8
		have the u	o, in relation to a crocodile or a crocodile egg, includes in possession, or under control, in any place (whether for use or benefit of the person in relation to whom the term is or another person), even though another person has the all possession or custody of the crocodile or crocodile egg.	9 10 11 12 13
		sell i	includes—	14
		(a)	auction, exchange or supply; and	15
		(b)	keep, expose, supply or receive for sale; and	16
		(c)	send or deliver for sale; and	17
		(d)	dispose of by hire or lease; and	18
		(e)	cause or permit the doing of an act mentioned in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d); and	19 20
		(f)	offer or attempt to do an act mentioned in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d); and	21 22
		(g)	offer or attempt to sell; and	23
		(h)	cause or permit to be sold.	24
		sell,	in relation to a crocodile or a crocodile egg, includes buy, give away, process, move or gain any benefit from the odile or egg.	25 26 27
11	Po	wers	of director	28
	(1)	The Act.	director has the powers given under this Act or another	29 30

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	(2)	Also, the director may do all things necessary or convenient to be done to perform the director's functions.	1 2
12	De	legation	3
		The director may delegate the director's powers under this or another Act to an appropriately qualified member of the authority's staff.	4 5 6
13	Tei	rms and ending of appointment	7
	(1)	For matters not provided for under this Act, a person is appointed as director on the terms of appointment decided by the Minister.	8 9 10
	(2)	Except as decided by the Minister, the person is not entitled to receive any payment, interest in property or other valuable consideration or benefit—	11 12 13
		(a) by way of remuneration as director; or	14
		(b) in connection with retirement as director or any other ending of the appointment.	15 16
	(3)	The Minister may terminate the appointment of the director if the director—	17 18
		(a) becomes mentally or physically incapable of satisfactorily performing the functions of director; or	19 20
		(b) is convicted of an indictable offence (whether in Queensland or elsewhere); or	21 22
		(c) is guilty of misconduct of a kind that would warrant dismissal from the public service.	23 24
	(4)	Subsection (3) does not otherwise limit the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1954</i> , section 25.	25 26
	(5)	In this section—	27
		<i>indictable offence</i> includes an indictable offence dealt with summarily, whether or not the Criminal Code, section 659 applies in relation to the indictable offence.	28 29 30

Part	4			Advisory Committee	1
14	Est	ablis	hme	nt and membership	2
	(1)	advi		etor must establish an advisory committee to give ad make recommendations to the director about the	3 4 5
		(a)		performance of the director's functions and the reise of the director's powers;	6 7
		(b)		strategies and the operational and administrative cies to be followed by the director and the authority;	8 9
		(c)	the g	goals and objectives of the director and the authority.	10
	(2)			sory committee is to consist of at least 7 persons I by the Minister.	11 12
	(3)	The least	-	ons appointed under subsection (2) must include at	13 14
		(a)	1 m	ember who—	15
			(i)	is an Aboriginal person, or a Torres Strait Islander person; and	16 17
			(ii)	has experience with crocodiles; and	18
		(b)		nember who has worked in the crocodile farming ustry; and	19 20
		(c)	1 m	ember who—	21
			(i)	resides in the State in, or north of, Mackay; and	22
			(ii)	has experience in wildlife conservation; and	23
		(d)	1 m	ember who—	24
			(i)	resides in the State in, or north of, Mackay; and	25
			(ii)	is involved in 1 or more community organisations with an interest in recreational activities associated with waterways.	26 27 28

		Examples of recreational activities associated with waterways—	1 2
		fishing, kayaking, powerboating, sailing	3
	(4)	The remaining members must be persons who have appropriate experience or qualifications to contribute to the management of crocodiles in the State.	4 5 6
	(5)	The Minister must appoint 1 of the members of the advisory committee as chairperson.	7 8
	(6)	Subsections (7) and (8) apply in relation to a person's appointment as a member of the advisory committee or the chairperson.	9 10 11
	(7)	For matters not provided for under this Act, the person holds office on the terms of appointment decided by the Minister.	12 13
	(8)	Except as decided by the Minister, the person is not entitled to receive any payment, interest in property or other valuable consideration or benefit—	14 15 16
		(a) by way of remuneration as holder of the office; or	17
		(b) in connection with retirement from the office or any other ending of the office.	18 19
15	Co	nduct of business	20
		The advisory committee may conduct its business, including its meetings, in the way the advisory committee considers appropriate.	21 22 23
Part	5	Administration	24
16	Anı	nual report	25
	(1)	The director must, not later than 4 months after the end of each financial year, prepare and give to the Minister a report about the authority's operations during the year.	26 27 28

(2)		nout limiting subsection (1), the annual report must ade the following matters—	1 2
	(a)	an outline of the authority's goals and objectives;	3
	(b)	an outline of the authority's financial performance and financial position;	4 5
	(c)	the number of licences, permits and other authorities issued by the director during the year, organised by type and location;	6 7 8
	(d)	particulars of each crocodile lawfully killed in the State during the year of which the authority is aware, including how the crocodile was killed and how the carcass was dealt with;	9 10 11 12
	(e)	the number and location of crocodile eggs harvested in the State during the year;	13 14
	(f)	the number and location of crocodile eggs authorised to be harvested in the State at the time of the report;	15 16
	(g)	the number and location of each crocodile sanctuary or populated waterway declared during the year;	17 18
	(h)	particulars of each crocodile in the State that was relocated during the year, including—	19 20
		(i) where the crocodile was relocated from; and	21
		(ii) where the crocodile was relocated to; and	22
		(iii) the reason for the relocation;	23
	(i)	particulars of each crocodile attack on a person in the State during the year of which the authority is aware;	24 25
	(j)	particulars of any injuries incurred by persons lawfully dealing with crocodiles in the State during the year of which the authority is aware;	26 27 28
	(k)	a list of persons authorised to operate a crocodile farm or crocodile sanctuary;	29 30
	(1)	other particulars of the authority's principal activities for the year:	31

		(m)	an outline of the authority's organisational structure and resources.	1 2
	(3)		Minister must table the report in the Legislative embly within 14 days after the Minister receives the rt.	3 4 5
	(4)		Minister must cause a copy of the report to be published ne department's website.	6 7
	(5)		section does not affect the operation of the <i>Financial</i> ountability Act 2009 in relation to the department.	8 9
17	Qu	arterl	ly reports	10
	(1)	repo	director must publish, on the department's website, a rt on the authority's operations for each quarter (each a rterly report).	11 12 13
	(2)	_	parterly report must be published within 4 weeks after the of the quarter.	14 15
	(3)	A qu	narterly report must include the following matters—	16
		(a)	the number of licences, permits and other authorities issued by the director during the quarter, organised by type and location;	17 18 19
		(b)	the particulars of each crocodile lawfully killed in the State during the quarter of which the authority is aware, including how the crocodile was killed and how the carcass was dealt with;	20 21 22 23
		(c)	the number and location of crocodile eggs harvested in the State during the quarter;	24 25
		(d)	the number and location of crocodile eggs authorised to be harvested in the State at the time of the report;	26 27
		(e)	the number and location of each crocodile sanctuary or populated waterway declared during the quarter;	28 29
		(f)	particulars of each crocodile in the State that was relocated during the quarter, including—	30 31
			(i) where the crocodile was relocated from; and	32

			(ii) where the crocodile was relocated to; and	1
			(iii) the reason for the relocation;	2
		(g)	particulars of each crocodile attack on a person in the State during the quarter of which the authority is aware;	3 4
		(h)	particulars of any injuries incurred by persons lawfully dealing with crocodiles in the State during the quarter of which the authority is aware;	5 6 7
		(i)	a list of persons authorised to operate a crocodile farm or crocodile sanctuary;	8 9
	(4)		s section does not affect the operation of the <i>Financial</i> ountability Act 2009 in relation to the department.	10 11
	(5)	In th	nis section—	12
		quar	rter, in a year, means the following periods in the year—	13
		(a)	1 January to 31 March;	14
		(b)	1 April to 30 June;	15
		(c)	1 July to 30 September;	16
		(d)	1 October to 31 December.	17
Part	6		Crocodile sanctuaries and populated waterways	18 19
18	Dec	clarat	tion of crocodile sanctuaries	20
	(1)	land	director may, by gazette notice, declare a stated area of as a crocodile sanctuary for the purpose of protecting icular crocodiles in, or relocated to, the sanctuary.	21 22 23
	(2)	not i	vever, if a person has an interest in land, the director must include the land within a crocodile sanctuary unless the con consents to the declaration of the land as a crocodile ctuary.	24 25 26 27
	(3)	The	notice must state the duration of the declaration.	28

19	Dec	claration of populated waterways	1
	(1)	The director may, by gazette notice, declare a stated waterway as a populated waterway for the purposes of—	2 3
		(a) protecting members of the public from the risk of harm from crocodiles; and	4 5
		(b) allowing a person authorised to kill or remove a crocodile to—	6 7
		(i) kill the crocodile; or	8
		(ii) relocate the crocodile to—	9
		(A) a crocodile sanctuary; or	10
		(B) an area used for the purpose of farming crocodiles operated by a person authorised to farm crocodiles.	11 12 13
	(2)	In deciding to make the declaration the director must have regard to the public's recreational or commercial use and enjoyment of the waterway.	14 15 16
	(3)	The notice must state the duration of the declaration.	17
Part	7	Other matters	18
20	Abo	original tradition and Island custom	19
	(1)	This section applies if, in performing a function or exercising a power under this Act, the director considers the performance of the function or the excise of the power may affect—	20 21 22
		(a) Aboriginal land or Torres Strait Islander land; or	23
		(b) Aboriginal tradition or Island custom.	24
	(2)	The director must, in considering whether to perform the function or exercise the power, consult with—	25 26
		(a) for Aboriginal land or Torres Strait Islander land—the owner of the land; or	27 28

		(b)	for other land—the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples responsible for the Aboriginal tradition or Island custom in relation to the land.	1 2 3
	(3)		nout limiting subsection (2), the consultation must have ard to—	4 5
		(a)	the cultural sensitivities of the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and	6 7
		(b)	potential economic or social benefits for the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples if the function is performed or the power is exercised.	8 9 10
21	Re	view	of Queensland Crocodile Management Plan	11
	(1)	revi	director must, within 6 months after the commencement, ew the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan for the cose of establishing a zero-tolerance zone in the Plan.	12 13 14
	(2)	The	zero-tolerance zone must—	15
		(a)	include and identify each populated waterway; and	16
		(b)	provide for the killing or removal of a crocodile under section 19.	17 18
22	Re	gulat	ion-making power	19
		The Act.	Governor in Council may make regulations under this	20 21
Part	8		Transitional provision	22
23	lmp	oleme	enting action to achieve policy objectives	23
	(1)		Minister must, within 2 months after the commencement, e in the Legislative Assembly a document containing—	24 25
		(a)	proposed subordinate legislation implementing action to achieve the objectives stated in subsection (2); and	26 27

	(b)	prop	posed dates for—	1
		(i)	the making of subordinate legislation substantially in accordance with the draft proposed legislation; and	2 3 4
		(ii)	the proposed commencement of the subordinate legislation.	5 6
(2)	Fors	subse	ction (1)(a), the objectives are the following—	7
	(a)	the	viding for licences, permits or other authorities under <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> , relating to crocodiles rocodile eggs, to be—	8 9 10
		(i)	issued, cancelled, suspended and amended by the director; and	11 12
		(ii)	subject to conditions imposed on the licence, permit or other authority by the director;	13 14
	(b)	com	bling the director to authorise an adult, who has appleted a crocodile egg harvesting safety course roved by the authority, to harvest crocodile eggs in part of the State;	15 16 17 18
	(c)	dire	bling the director to authorise an adult, who the ctor reasonably believes has the skills and training afely kill crocodiles, to kill—	19 20 21
		(i)	particular crocodiles identified by the director; or	22
		(ii)	crocodiles generally;	23
	(d)	zero dire	ne authority is notified of a crocodile located in a p-tolerance zone, ensuring action is taken by the ctor to manage any risk associated with the codile within 48 hours;	24 25 26 27
	(e)		aring each crocodile located in a populated erway is dealt with by either—	28 29
		(i)	killing the crocodile; or	30
		(ii)	relocating the crocodile to—	31
			(A) a crocodile sanctuary; or	32

		(B) if a person, authorised by the director to operate a crocodile farm, requests that the crocodile be relocated to the person's crocodile farm—the crocodile farm;	1 2 3 4
(f)	directo c	oling the director to authorise an adult, whom the extor reasonably believes has the skills and training all crocodiles safely, to carry out the culling of odiles in any part of the State;	5 6 7 8
(g)	land	Aboriginal land or Torres Strait Islander—enabling the director to authorise an owner of the to—	9 10 11
	(i)	kill crocodiles on the land; or	12
	(ii)	allow other persons to kill crocodiles on the land, for payment of a fee or free of charge; or	13 14
	(iii)	harvest crocodile eggs on the land; or	15
	(iv)	otherwise manage crocodiles on the land;	16
(h)	land	State leasehold land or other land that is not State—enabling the director to authorise a person to, the consent of the owner of land, enter the land	17 18 19 20
	(i)	kill crocodiles on the land; or	21
	(ii)	harvest crocodile eggs on the land; or	22
	(iii)	relocate crocodiles on the land to a crocodile farm or crocodile sanctuary;	23 24
(i)		iring crocodiles mentioned in paragraphs (c), (e)(i), (g)(i) or (ii) or (h)(i) to be killed only by—	25 26
	(i)	shooting or harpooning the crocodiles; or	27
	(ii)	if the person authorised to kill the crocodile is an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander person—the use of a traditional practice;	28 29 30
(j)	auth	orisation granted by the director are dealt with so	31 32

	(k)	ensuring authorities to farm crocodiles, issued after the commencement, are issued only to Australian entities;	1 2
	(1)	otherwise ensuring the director and the authority can carry out their respective functions.	3
(3)	In th	is section—	5
	Aust	<i>tralian entity</i> means—	6
	(a)	an individual who is an Australian citizen or a permanent resident; or	7 8
	(b)	a listed corporation; or	9
	(c)	another corporation in which all the shares in the corporation are directly or ultimately owned, other than as a trustee, by an Australian entity; or	10 11 12
	(d)	the trustee of a listed unit trust; or	13
	(e)	the trustee of another trust in which all of the trust interests in the trust are directly or ultimately owned, other than as a trustee, by an Australian entity.	14 15 16
		<i>tralian Securities Exchange</i> means ASX Limited (ACN 624 691).	17 18
	the s	d corporation means a corporation in which a majority of hares are quoted on the market operated by the Australian critics Exchange.	19 20 21
	units	d unit trust means a unit trust in which a majority of the are quoted on the market operated by the Australian critics Exchange.	22 23 24
	Islan	itional practice, for an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait der person, means the practice for killing crocodiles ed out under the person's Aboriginal tradition or Island om.	25 26 27 28
		nately owned means owned through a series of entities ing shares in corporations or trust interests in trusts, or a	29 30
	com	bination of any of them.	31

section 3

Schedule 1 Dictionary

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	3cotion o	2
held the b	riginal land or Torres Strait Islander land means land under any of the following Acts by, or on behalf of or for benefit of, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander inhabitants arposes—	3 4 5 6
(a)	the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013;	7 8
(b)	the Aboriginal Land Act 1991;	9
(c)	the Land Act 1994;	10
(d)	the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991.	11
<i>advi</i> : estat	sory committee means the advisory committee blished under section 14.	12 13
auth	orise—	14
(a)	means authorise by issuing a licence, permit or other authority under—	15 16
	(i) the Nature Conservation Act 1992; or	17
	(ii) another Act prescribed by regulation; and	18
(b)	includes cancelling, suspending, amending and imposing conditions on the licence, permit or other authority.	19 20 21
	<i>tority</i> means the Queensland Crocodile Authority blished under section 5.	22 23
carc	ass, of a crocodile, includes—	24
(a)	its flesh, organs or body fluids; and	25
(b)	its skin and scales; and	26
(c)	its bones and teeth.	27
croc	odile means an animal of the species Crocodylus porosus.	28

<i>crocodile farm</i> means a farm operated by a person authorised by the director, for the purposes of this Act, to operate the farm.	1 2 3
crocodile sanctuary means a crocodile sanctuary declared under section 18.	4 5
<i>director</i> means the director of the authority appointed under section 9.	6 7
owner, of State leasehold land, includes the lessee of the land.	8
<i>populated waterway</i> means a populated waterway declared under section 19.	9 10
Queensland Crocodile Management Plan means the document of that name made by the chief executive and published on the department's website.	11 12 13
State land means land in Queensland that is not freehold land as defined under the <i>Land Act 1994</i> , schedule 6.	14 15
State leasehold land means land leased under the Land Act 1994.	16 17
zero-tolerance zone means a zone identified as a zero-tolerance zone in the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan	18 19 20