



25 May, 2017

### **Robbie & Shane to introduce Safer Waterways Bill today**

KAP will this morning introduce a private member's bill in a bid to stop people dying from crocodile attacks.

The Safer Waterways Bill 2017 will make it mandatory for rogue crocodiles to be removed from Queensland populated waterways. Rogue crocodiles are crocs that pose a threat to human safety – including crocodiles lurking in urban areas and outback swimming holes. Rogue crocodiles may be killed by an authorised person, or relocated to a crocodile farm. Rogue crocodiles cannot be relocated to another waterway, to eliminate the risk of them attacking people.

KAP State Leader Robbie Katter said the Bill was about much more than killing crocodiles. "It's about saving lives, it's about crocodile management, it's about turning crocodiles into an asset for Queensland and creating an industry out of this currently untapped resource," he said.

KAP Member for Dalrymple said the Bill also empowered Indigenous and other landholders to manage crocodiles on their own land. "Indigenous people should be able to manage their own land, and this bill will mean that when it comes to crocs, they can do just that," Shane said.

The Bill will create a Queensland Crocodile Authority, to be based in Cairns, which is tasked with very specific responsibilities to ensure crocodiles are properly managed in Queensland. The Authority will issue permits for crocodile egg harvesting in Queensland, and to landholders to manage crocodiles on their own land.

"Crocodiles can be a great asset for Queensland, and this bill sets up a way to create a thriving industry for Queensland's economy. Egg harvesting already exists in the Northern Territory and has shown that it doesn't wipe out the croc population. Instead it boosts the economy," Shane said.

"The bill also ensures that any crocs that are killed by the authority are not wasted. As much of the carcass must be used as possible, whether that be selling teeth, meat and skins, or using unsaleable parts of the croc to make blood and bone."

Shane said the Queensland Crocodile Authority will report to the Parliament and receive recommendations from a newly created Board. "The Board will be set up with members who are experts in crocodile management, including from Indigenous communities, conservation backgrounds, and people involved in recreational water sport groups in North Queensland to make sure we have people who know what they are talking about making recommendations to the authority," he said.

While the bill ensures rogue crocodiles be removed, it also has a provision to ensure that no action be taken that could endanger the species' existence in Queensland.

KAP has consulted extensively in the creation of the bill, including public consultation meetings in Burketown, Normanton, Cairns, Mareeba, Innisfail and Port Douglas.

Shane will introduce the bill on behalf of KAP at 11.30am today.

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