



Queensland
Government

Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 10333/17

22 MAY 2017

Mr Andrew Cripps MP
Member for Hinchinbrook
PO Box 1515
INGHAM QLD 4850

Dear Mr Cripps

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Steven Miles MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef dated 13 April 2017 making representation on behalf of the Forrest Beach Surf Life Saving Club concerning crocodile management at Forrest Beach. I am responding to the matters you have raised as they are of an operational nature.

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting public safety when it comes to crocodile management, and has committed funding to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to deliver a range of initiatives to improve crocodile management and promote safe behaviour in crocodile country. This includes the removal of crocodiles in certain circumstances, a revised scientific assessment of crocodile populations and a refreshed approach to its public education and communication to enhance public safety in crocodile habitat areas.

In 2017, the department has received three crocodile sightings for Forrest Beach. In response to the sighting you refer to of 9 April 2017, wildlife officers responded according to the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) Zone D - Transitory Zone protocols for that area, under which crocodiles of two metres or greater in length are encouraged to leave and crocodiles displaying dangerous behaviour are targeted for removal.

According to the QCMP Transitory Zone protocols, the following response is required:

- monitoring all reported large crocodiles and encouraging them to move away from the beach if necessary;
- erecting temporary warning signs on beaches to alert people that a crocodile may be in the area ; and
- where practical, targeting crocodiles displaying dangerous behaviour for removal.

Forrest Beach surf lifesavers reported the animal referred to in your letter to a departmental wildlife officer as swimming slowly past the beach approximately 350 metres offshore, and did not report the animal as approaching the beach, behaving dangerously or presenting a threat to human safety in the area. Surf lifesavers were therefore asked to erect temporary crocodile warning signs on the beach, to provide the CrocWise safety message to people in the area, and to monitor the situation. The lifesavers were also encouraged to call the department back should the crocodile's behaviour change or should it approach the beach so as to threaten public safety.

In response to the most recent crocodile sighting report off Forrest Beach on 27 April 2017 (received by the department on 28 April 2017), I can advise that departmental wildlife officers attended Forrest Beach to undertake a site assessment and to erect recent sighting warning signs on 29 April 2017, however were unable to confirm the presence of a crocodile during the assessment. The wildlife officers also spoke with the surf lifesavers on duty, who agreed to contact the department should there be another sighting.

It is important to highlight that Zone D response protocols do not mandate site attendance by departmental wildlife officers, particularly for an animal reported as being well offshore, moving away and not behaving aggressively. The department's approach is based on site assessment and removal in certain circumstances, considering the risk posed by each reported animal. This is complemented by effective community education and dissemination of the CrocWise messaging, and cooperation with local authorities and surf lifesavers where possible to provide information on crocodile presence and encourage CrocWise behaviour.

As also alluded to in the QCMP, it is very difficult to remove crocodiles from an open water environment, such as offshore from Forrest Beach. Crocodiles are capable of travelling significant distances in a single day, and regularly use coastal waters as a means of transport between river systems.

I hope this information is of assistance when replying to the club. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Mr Lindsay Delzoppo, Director, Wildlife Assessment, Strategic Compliance and Northern Operations on (07) 3330 5393.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General



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Local Call: 1800 810 656

ANDREW CRIPPS MP

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

SHADOW MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES

SHADOW MINISTER FOR NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

13 April 2017

The Hon Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001



Dear Minister,

I am writing to make representations on behalf of the Forrest Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (FBSLC) at Forrest Beach. The Club has contacted me with concerns about the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) application of the new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP). These concerns stem from their experience last weekend, when the QPWS failed to respond to a call from members of the FBSLC in accordance with the Zone D guidelines contained in the QCMP.

On Sunday 9 April 2017, two adult FBSLC members with extensive patrol experience identified and monitored a large crocodile about 100 metres off the beach. These two adult and experienced members estimated the crocodile to be between 3 and 4 metres in length. After monitoring the crocodile for a period of time, they contacted the QPWS to report the continuing presence of a large crocodile just off Forrest Beach. A number of members of the general public were utilising the beach for recreational purposes.

I am advised that the QPWS asked the FBSLC members on patrol to erect a sign to warn the general public of the presence of the large crocodile, but indicated they would not be attending the site to observe the situation themselves. I am not aware of the QPWS attending the site since contact was made by the FBSLC members on Sunday, despite a large crocodile being reported in an area within Zone D of the new QCMP. The FBSLC is concerned about this matter and I share their concerns.

On Page 9 of the new QCMP, a *large crocodile* is defined as a crocodile larger than 2 metres. It explains this criterion is used in the targeted management zone and the transitory zone (Zone D) to determine if a crocodile is a *problem crocodile*. Forrest Beach is within a Zone D area for the purposes of the QCMP (see the Hinchinbrook Shire map attached). The crocodile identified and monitored by the FBSLC members was a large crocodile, given its estimated size.

Page 16 of the same document outlines the management strategies to be employed in Zone D in situations concerning large crocodiles. These include (1) monitoring all reported *large crocodiles* and encouraging them to move away from the beach if

necessary, (2) erecting temporary warning signs on beaches to alert people that a crocodile may be in the area and (3) where practical, targeting *crocodiles displaying dangerous behaviour* for removal. None of these strategies have been applied by QPWS on this occasion at Forrest Beach.

QPWS did not respond to the call from the members of the FBSLC at all. They did not attempt to undertake any monitoring of this large crocodile. They left that to the FBSLC members on patrol. They have not encouraged the crocodile to move away from the beach. In fact, we are unaware of them visiting the site at all since Sunday. They have not erected any signs. Once again, this was left to the FBSLC volunteers on patrol. In summary, QPWS took no action whatsoever. The QCMP appears to be a meaningless document.

In fact, I am advised by the representative of the FBSLC who contacted me that the QPWS officers who took the call last Sunday from the volunteers on patrol were completely disinterested in the situation, despite the new QCMP clearly stating that in Zone D, where a large crocodile is concerned, certain steps ought to be taken to manage the risk to the general public. It is very apparent that the new QCMP has failed its first test in the Hinchinbrook Shire. I call on you to urgently address this matter.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Cripps MP

Member for Hinchinbrook

Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Shadow Minister for Northern Development

Attachment: Hinchinbrook Map

CROCODILE MANAGEMENT ZONES HINCHINBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL

Legend

Council Zoning

Local Government Boundaries

Zone C

Zone D

Zone E

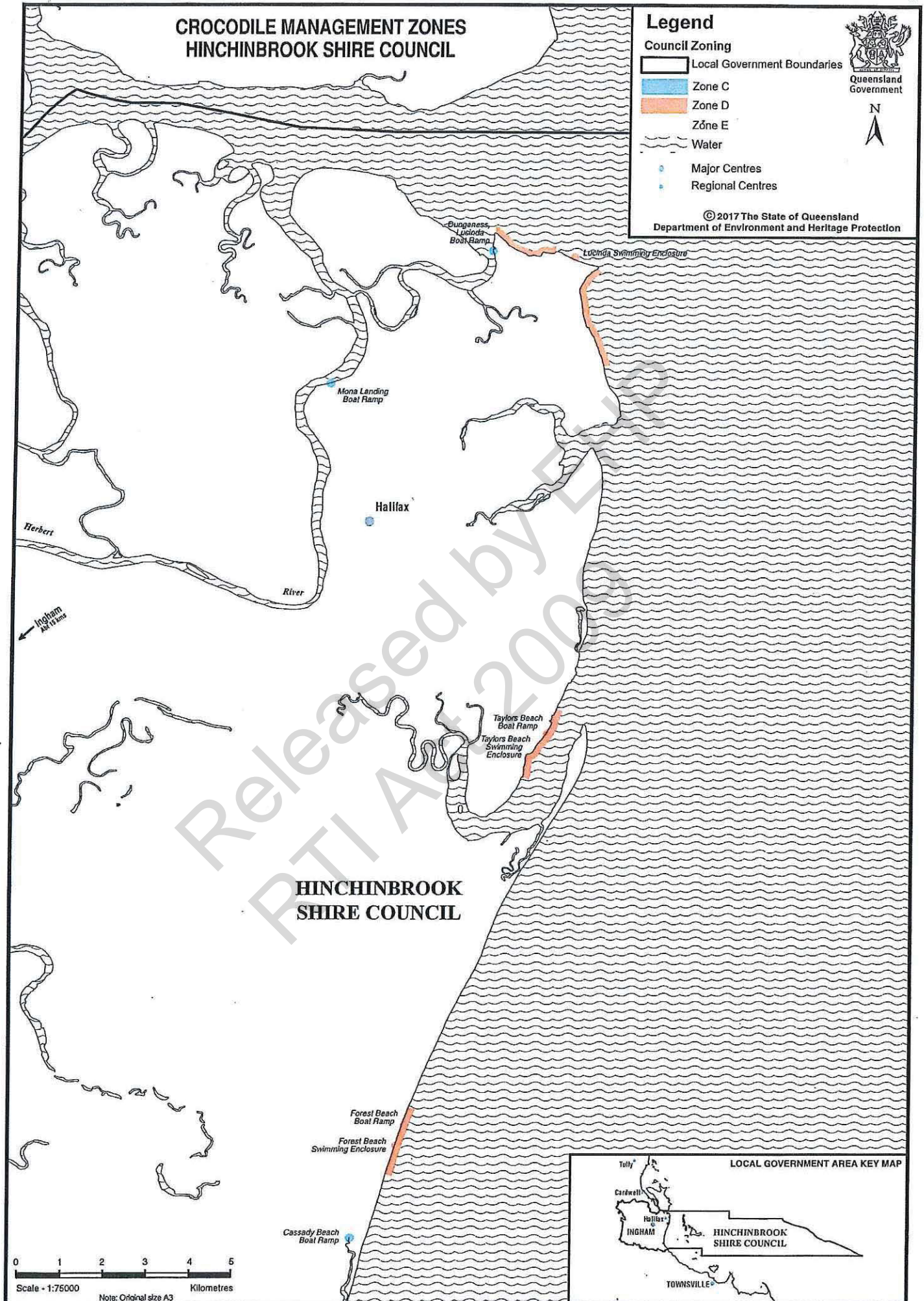
Water

Major Centres

Regional Centres



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Department of Environment and Heritage Protection





Department of
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Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 04923/17

7 MAR 2017

Mr Charles Hammond
Chief Executive Officer
Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 6662
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Dear Mr Hammond

Thank you for your letter dated 24 February 2017 concerning the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation's (CLCAC) application for a Crocodile Management Authority (CMA).

In relation to CLCAC's request for a pre-lodgement meeting regarding commercial activities involving crocodiles, I look forward to receiving CLCAC's application in full regarding the activities proposed including a draft Interaction Plan, and will be in touch regarding a meeting once the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has had an opportunity to consider the application.

In relation to CLCAC's application for a CMA, it is my understanding that Dr Matthew Brien, Acting Manager Northern Operations of the department contacted you on 1 March 2017 regarding the next steps required for the CMA to be granted, including the provision of Crocodile Management training to CLCAC rangers.

Dr Brien has advised that departmental wildlife officers will be travelling to Mornington Island for a period of time, beginning Thursday 2 March, in order to respond to a reported problem crocodile on the island, and will be using this opportunity to undertake Level 1 Crocodile Management Training with your rangers on site.

I understand Dr Brien has also offered other CLCAC rangers further training in Burketown and that he will negotiate future training dates at a time convenient to you.

In the meantime, the department will commence drafting of the CMA, including the provision of a working crocodile trap and signage, as committed to in Dr Brien's conversation with you on 1 March.

I thank you once again for your letter. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Dr Matthew Brien, Acting Manager Northern Wildlife Operations of the department on telephone 4222 5110.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General

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RTI Act 2009

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ABN 99 121 997 933 - ICN 268

Our Ref:

24 February 2017

Jim Reeves
Director General
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Jim

Issuing of a Crocodile Management Authority by EHP to the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC)

I thank you for your letter of 9 February 2017.

Firstly in relation to the pre-lodgement meeting to discuss commercial activities involving crocodiles I was advised by telephone on the 6th of February 2017, by Mr Tony Frisby, that the Department was not prepared to have a pre-lodgement meeting until we had submitted a full application including a draft Interaction Plan. I was further advised the Department wished to resolve the Crocodile Management Authority (CMA) matter first before engaging in any discussion about commercial activities involving crocodiles.

Notwithstanding this information is contrary to previous advice provided by the Department on the application process we are now preparing a 'full application' for consideration by the Department. This will be forwarded separately to this letter in due course.

In relation to the process for issuing the CLCAC with a CMA I can advise as follows:

1. Below is a list of Rangers the CLCAC wishes to see listed on the CMA:

Terrence Taylor (Burketown)
Brenton Yanner (Burketown)
Murradoo Yanner (Jnr) (Burketown)
Desmond Armstrong (Burketown)
Faren Bynoe (Normanton)
Lance Rapson (Normanton)

2. The CLCAC has the capacity to make their way to Mornington Island when needed to respond to any crocodile management issue far more effectively than State Wildlife Rangers given their close proximity to the island. The CLCAC

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87 Musgrave Street
PO Box 71
Burketown, Qld, 4830
Tel: 07 4745 5132 or 4748 6000
Fax: 07 4745 5204
Free call: 1800 445 115

Normanton Office
11 Wurrup Street
PO Box 464
Normanton, Qld, 4890
Tel: 07 4745 1556
Fax: 07 4745 1569

Cairns Office
Level 1, 104 Mulgrave Road
PO Box 6662
Cairns, Qld, 4870
Tel: 07 4041 3833 or 4034 5500
Fax: 07 4041 3533

owns the following vessels that can either be barged over or driven (weather dependant) to assist with any management response:

- 2 X Mclay 5.0 m (aluminium construction)
- 1 X Stabby Craft 5.8 m (aluminium construction)
- 1 x Poly Craft 4.8 m
- 1 X Pro Punt 5.4 m (aluminium plate construction)

3. The CLCAC welcomes the offer of a functional crocodile trap and crocodile management training as outlined in your letter. As per previous correspondence CLCAC Rangers have undertaken training in population surveys, as well as crocodile capture and relocation. This training was delivered by Dr Adam Britton from Big Gecko Crocodile Research. The CLCAC can advise it has all the relevant equipment to also assist with crocodile management activities including large flatbed trailers needed to transport the trap by barge across to Mornington Island or elsewhere as needed.
4. Finally the requirements for timely information and reporting are satisfactory. As you may or may not be aware the CLCAC is required to report twice yearly on all its Land & Sea activities to both EHP and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Working on Country and Indigenous Protected Area funding programs).

Given the growing concerns about this matter within the community on Mornington Island I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience on the next step.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal informati

Charles Hammond
Chief Executive Officer



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 30804/16

14 DEC 2016

Councillor Bob Manning OAM
Mayor
Cairns Regional Council
PO Box 359
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Dear Councillor Manning

Thank you for your Council's participation in discussions with officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection earlier this year, as part of the consultation conducted on crocodile management.

I am pleased to inform you that as a result of the consultation, the Queensland Government has committed to develop a new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. This approach to crocodile management will continue to provide for public safety, while conserving viable populations of estuarine crocodiles in the wild. It is proposed to release the plan in early 2017.

The Queensland Crocodile Management Plan will largely maintain the current approach to crocodile removal throughout Queensland, including the criteria used to declare a 'crocodile of concern'. It will also consolidate and simplify the existing disparate Crocodile Management Plans and Crocodile Urban Management Areas, as well as other arrangements, into a comprehensive and standardised state-wide framework.

The new plan will more clearly explain different levels of risk from crocodiles in different zones across the state, and how key safety behaviours by the community and crocodile removal both contribute to avoiding attacks in each zone. The plan will also be complemented by an updated 'Crocwise' education program to increase community awareness of how to stay safe in crocodile country.

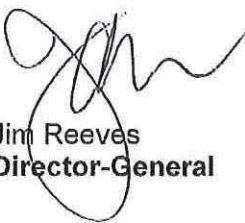
The Queensland Government remains committed to the crocodile survey and monitoring program, which will provide valuable information about crocodile populations across the state. The Queensland Crocodile Management Plan will be sufficiently flexible to allow for the findings from the program to be incorporated at a future time, if required.

Level 32
1 William Street Brisbane
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Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone + 61 7 3330 6297
Website www.ehp.qld.gov.au
ABN 46 640 294 485

During previous consultation, there were requests for more intensive management in a number of areas within your region including Cairns Northern Beaches, Lake Placid in Northern Cairns, and several sections of river near Gordonvale. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will be in contact with officers from the Cairns Regional Council to arrange a time to meet to discuss these matters for consideration in the development of the new plan.

Should your staff have further enquiries, please ask them to contact Mr Andrew Mullens, Manager, of the department on telephone (07) 3330 5018.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General

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Department of
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Ref CTS 30804/16

14 DEC 2016

Councillor Julia Leu
Mayor
Douglas Shire Council
PO Box 723
MOSSMAN QLD 4873

Dear Councillor Leu

Thank you for your Council's participation in discussion with officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection earlier this year, as part of the consultation conducted on crocodile management.

I am pleased to inform you that as a result of the consultation, the Queensland Government has committed to develop a new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. This approach to crocodile management will continue to provide for public safety, while conserving viable populations of estuarine crocodiles in the wild. It is proposed to release the plan in early 2017.

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The Queensland Government remains committed to the crocodile survey and monitoring program which will provide valuable information about crocodile populations across the state. The Queensland Crocodile Management Plan will be sufficiently flexible to allow for the findings from the program to be incorporated at a future time, if required.

During previous consultation, stakeholders, including the Council, requested more intensive management in a number of areas within the Douglas region e.g. Four Mile Beach, Lake Saint Crispin and the ferry stop at the Daintree River. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will be in contact with officers from the Douglas Shire Council to arrange a time to meet to discuss these matters for consideration in the development of the new plan.

Should your staff have further enquiries, please ask that they contact Mr Andrew Mullens, Manager, of the department on telephone (07) 3330 5018.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim Reeves', written over a circular stamp.

Jim Reeves
Director-General

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Ref CTS 30804/16

14 DEC 2016

Councillor Bill Ludwig
Mayor
Livingstone Shire Council
PO Box 2292
YEPPOON QLD 4703

bill.ludwig@livingstone.qld.gov.au

Dear Councillor Ludwig

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection undertook consultation between May and July 2016 on crocodile management to examine the effectiveness of existing programs and to determine how they can be improved. The consultation included face-to-face meetings and an online public survey.

In response to stakeholder support to maintain the existing crocodile management arrangements, the Queensland Government has committed to develop a Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. This approach to crocodile management will continue to provide for public safety, while conserving viable populations of estuarine crocodiles in the wild. It is proposed to release the plan in early 2017.

The Queensland Crocodile Management Plan will largely maintain the current approach to crocodile removal throughout Queensland, including the criteria used to declare a 'crocodile of concern'. As such, the new plan will not change the current zoning for crocodile management in your local government area. However, the plan will consolidate and simplify the existing disparate Crocodile Management Plans and Crocodile Urban Management Areas, as well as other arrangements, into a comprehensive and standardised state-wide framework.

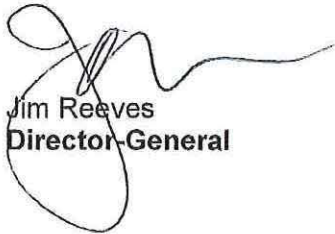
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Should your staff have any further enquiries, please ask that they contact Mr Andrew Mullens, Manager, of the department on telephone (07) 3330 5018.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General

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Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 30804/16

14 DEC 2016

Councillor Matt Burnett
Mayor
Gladstone Regional Council
PO Box 29
GLADSTONE QLD 4680

mayor@gladstone.qld.gov.au

Dear Councillor Burnett

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection undertook consultation between May and July 2016 on crocodile management to examine the effectiveness of existing programs and to determine how they can be improved. The consultation included face-to-face meetings and an online public survey.

In response to stakeholder support to maintain the existing crocodile management arrangements, the Queensland Government has committed to develop a Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. This approach to crocodile management will continue to provide for public safety, while conserving viable populations of estuarine crocodiles in the wild. It is proposed to release the plan in early 2017.

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Should your staff have any further enquiries, please ask that they contact Mr Andrew Mullens, Manager, of the department on telephone (07) 3330 5018.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General

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Department of
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Ref CTS 30804/16

14 DEC 2016

Councillor Greg Williamson
Mayor
Mackay Regional Council
PO Box 41
MACKAY QLD 4740

greg.williamson@mackay.qld.gov.au

Dear Councillor Williamson

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection undertook consultation between May and July 2016 on crocodile management to examine the effectiveness of existing programs and to determine how they can be improved. The consultation included face-to-face meetings and an online public survey.

In response to stakeholder support to maintain the existing crocodile management arrangements, the Queensland Government has committed to develop a Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. This approach to crocodile management will continue to provide for public safety, while conserving viable populations of estuarine crocodiles in the wild. It is proposed to release the plan in early 2017.

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Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General



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Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 30804/16

1 1/2 DEC 2016

Councillor Ramon Jayo
Mayor
Hinchinbrook Shire Council
PO Box 366
INGHAM QLD 4850

mayor@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au

Dear Councillor Jayo

Thank you for your Council's participation in discussion with officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection earlier this year, as part of the consultation conducted on crocodile management.

I am pleased to inform you that as a result of the consultation, the Queensland Government has committed to develop a new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. This approach to crocodile management will continue to provide for public safety, while conserving viable populations of estuarine crocodiles in the wild. It is proposed to release the plan in early 2017.

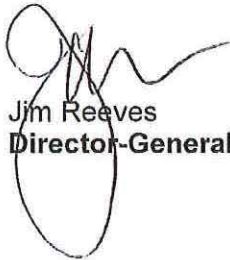
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Should your staff have any further enquiries, please ask them to contact Mr Andrew Mullens, Manager, of the department on telephone (07) 3330 5018.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General



Department of
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Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 30804/16

14 DEC 2016

Councillor Jenny Hill
Mayor
Townsville City Council
PO Box 1268
TOWNSVILLE CITY QLD 4810

mayor@townsville.qld.gov.au

Dear Councillor Hill

Thank you for your Council's participation in discussion with officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection earlier this year, as part of the consultation conducted on crocodile management.

I am pleased to inform you that as a result of the consultation, the Queensland Government has committed to develop a new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. This approach to crocodile management will continue to provide for public safety, while conserving viable populations of estuarine crocodiles in the wild. It is proposed to release the plan in early 2017.

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Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General



Department of
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Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 30804/16

14 DEC 2016

Councillor John Kremastos
Mayor
Cassowary Coast Regional Council
PO Box 887
INNISFAIL QLD 4860

mayor@ccrc.qld.gov.au

Dear Councillor Kremastos

Thank you for your Council's participation in discussion with officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection earlier this year, as part of the consultation conducted on crocodile management.

I am pleased to inform you that as a result of the consultation, the Queensland Government has committed to develop a new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. This approach to crocodile management will continue to provide for public safety, while conserving viable populations of estuarine crocodiles in the wild. It is proposed to release the plan in early 2017.

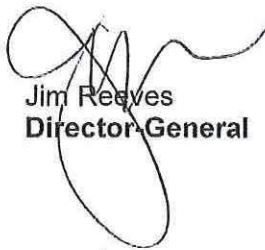
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The new plan will more clearly explain different levels of risk from crocodiles in different zones across the state, and how key safety behaviours by the community and crocodile removal both contribute to avoiding attacks in each zone. The plan will also be complemented by an updated 'Crocodile' education program to increase community awareness of how to stay safe in crocodile country.

The Queensland Government remains committed to the crocodile survey and monitoring program which will provide valuable information about crocodile populations across the state. The Queensland Crocodile Management Plan will be sufficiently flexible to allow for the findings from the program to be incorporated at a future time, if required.

Should your staff have any further enquiries, please ask them to contact Mr Andrew Mullens, Manager, of the department on telephone (07) 3330 5018.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director General



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 28655/16

28 NOV 2016

Mr Charles Hammond
Chief Executive Officer
Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 6662
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Dear Mr Hammond

Thank you for your letter dated 2 November 2016 regarding your corporation's concerns about public safety and the management of crocodiles on Mornington Island.

As outlined in my previous letter to you, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the department) has been working directly with the Mornington Shire Council on the management of crocodiles on Mornington Island for some time. The Manager of Wildlife Operations for Northern Region, Mr Michael Joyce, has been in regular contact with Mr Frank Mills, Chief Executive Officer, Mornington Shire Council, including as recently as 10 November 2016, regarding crocodile management on the island. On the whole, Mr Mills has indicated that he is satisfied with and the current level of crocodile safety on Mornington Island as well as the cooperative approach agreed to between the department and Council on crocodile management.

During the most recent phone call, Mr Mills advised that there had been no recent reports of problem crocodiles on Mornington behaving in a way that posed an imminent threat to public safety. However, he agreed to contact the department as soon as Council heard of any further reports of problem crocodiles on the island.

The most recent crocodile sighting report received by the department from Mornington Island was on 16 September 2016. In response to this sighting, Mr Steve Coulson, Senior Wildlife Officer of the department visited the island and undertook an assessment of crocodile behaviour from 23- 26 September 2016. Mr Coulson conducted crocodile surveys, liaised with Council representatives and Traditional Owners, and undertook public 'CrocWise' education activities with local residents. However, no crocodiles were found to be 'crocodiles of concern' to be targeted for removal from the wild at that time.

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ABN 46 640 294 485

On 10 November, Mr Mills also discussed the department's offer to provide crocodile capture and management training to a Council officer in early December 2016, noting that this training may now have to be delayed until early in the New Year due to the closure of Mornington Island Airport. Mr Mills indicated this minor delay in providing the agreed training would not be of concern to Mornington Shire Council.

Once the proposed training had been completed and the Council officer could demonstrate the skills and expertise needed to safely handle 'crocodiles of concern', the department would issue a Crocodile Management Authority to Council under the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007, allowing the officer to capture and deal with crocodiles using the methods in which he has been trained. Under the authority, the officer would be approved to respond to any crocodile on the Island which the department determined to be a 'crocodile of concern'.

Your letter also refers to crocodile management training provided to Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation officers by Dr Adam Britton of Big Gecko Crocodilian Research. Unfortunately, that training is not directly recognised by the department as meeting the requirements for safe capture and removal of problem crocodiles from the wild under the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007. However, the department would be willing to consider the training program provided by Dr Britton and to, in effect, give recognition of prior learning where sections of the department's training had clearly already been covered in Dr Britton's course.

In relation to my previous offer to provide a crocodile trap to your corporation as part of a proposed cooperative arrangement, the department could only responsibly supply the trap if it believed it could be used safely and effectively. The department would be best able to satisfy itself on this point by observing individual's skills and demonstrated abilities during their participation in the department's crocodile training, including in the use of the crocodile trap that would be provided to your organisation.

In closing, I would reiterate that should you or any members of the Mornington Island community have significant concerns about the behaviour of a particular crocodile, this animal should be reported immediately to the department via the department's crocodile contact number, 1800 130 372. The department would then assess the information provided and decide on an appropriate course of action, which could lead to the declaration of the animal as a 'crocodile of concern' and the targeting of that animal for removal from the wild.

Should you or your staff have any further enquiries, please ask them to contact Mr Lindsay Delzoppo, Director Wildlife Management of the department on telephone 3330 5393.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ABN 99 121 997 933 - ICN 268

Our Ref:

2 November 2016

Jim Reeves
Director General
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Jim

Issuing of a Crocodile Management Authority by EHP to the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC)

I refer to your letter of 28 October 2016. I also refer to the email from Lindsay Delzoppo of your Department received 21 October 2016.

Whilst I appreciate that both you and your Department are making an attempt to resolve the issues we have raised, I remain concerned that we are not dealing with the most urgent problem. I reiterate that the crocodile in question is perceived both by the Mornington Island community and our Rangers as posing an imminent and direct threat to life. I cannot find any comfort in your correspondence in this regard. We are advised that an Authority has been issued to Mornington Shire Council, however, no detail is provided as to when and how the crocodile will be removed.

I am further advised that the Mornington Island community does not believe that Departmental Officers have adequately assessed the situation, having only undertaken one brief visit to the area. These concerns were raised again last week at a Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) Directors meeting. I understand that the GRAC Chairperson has written to you to raising concerns about the danger posed by the crocodile. Further, and as previously communicated to your Department, CLCAC is firmly of the view that the Mornington Shire Council does not have the capacity to deal with this crocodile and nor will it any time soon.

In relation to the offer to provide EHP Crocodile Management training to the Gangalidda and Garawa rangers on the mainland, there appears to be some confusion in the Department between our rangers and perhaps the Kowanyama Rangers. I understand that the Kowanyama Rangers have undertaken training in nest management and egg retrieval for crocodile framing related activities. The Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers have undertaken training in population surveys, as well as crocodile capture and relocation. This training was delivered by Dr Adam Britton from Big Gecko Crocodile Research. Please find attached a copy of the training outcomes report from Dr Britton. I also note that the Gangalidda and Garawa

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Burketown, Qld, 4830
Tel: 07 4745 5132 or 4748 6000
Fax: 07 4745 5204
Free call: 1800 445 115

Normanton Office

11 Wurrup Street
PO Box 464
Normanton, Qld, 4890
Tel: 07 4745 1556
Fax: 07 4745 1569

Cairns Office

Level 1, 104 Mulgrave Road
PO Box 6662
Cairns, Qld, 4870
Tel: 07 4041 3833 or 4034 5500
Fax: 07 4041 3533

Rec'd - ODG

People traditionally hunt and kill crocodile. To that end, they are familiar with crocodile behaviour and have traditionally managed rogue crocodiles.

CLCAC does not believe that your Department has adequately addressed the most pressing issue here, that being the presence of a large, aggressive crocodile inhabiting an environment in which crocodiles are not usually found, close to a community with no understanding of crocodile behaviour. The community is so concerned about this matter that the Wellesley Island Indigenous Protected Area Rangers have erected additional warning signs on Mornington Island. CLCAC needs to respond to community concerns in this regard. I welcome your advice on this issue as a matter of urgency.

Please also let me have the Department's views on the training carried out by Dr Britton.

I look forward to your response. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Charles Hammond
Chief Executive Officer



Dr Adam R.C. Britton

<http://big-gecko.com> | <http://crocodilian.com>

PO Box 353, Humpty Doo, NT 0836, Australia

ABN: 12 297 609 479

Tel. 61 (0)407 185182

Gangalidda-Garawa Rangers - Cert II in Remote Crocodile Management

Training Outcomes - Workshops 1 and 2 (19 October to 6 November 2015)

Workshop 1 - Population surveys

Eight rangers took part in Workshop 1: Terrance Taylor, Brenton Yanner, David Johnson, Murrandoo Yanner, Desmond Armstrong, Billy Jackson, Lance Rapson (Normanton), Farron Bynoe (Normanton). Attendance was generally excellent, the only absence was one night of field work due to a hospital appointment, and I was satisfied that this was not detrimental. Punctuality was always good.

All participants were attentive during daytime classes where we discussed theory, and all displayed quick learning of both general concepts and key facts. Two open multiple choice / written assessments were undertaken, and I was satisfied that all rangers understood the core concepts of the workshop; all assessments were completed satisfactorily.

Preparation, organisation and teamwork was excellent, with forward planning evident and a strong understanding of the requirements of the field operations. All individuals during the night field work showed initiative, and the ability to work well together as a team. Improvement was evident from the first to the last night as mistakes were corrected. Two field assessments were conducted, where the participants were instructed to form two teams and plan and execute a population survey at night with no instructor intervention. In both cases, a debriefing of all positive and negative points was carried out the following day in class which proved successful in identifying strengths and weaknesses. The first assessment was acceptable with gradual improvement noted over previous surveys. The subsequent second assessment showed excellent improvement from both teams. One team conducted what I would have considered a professional-level survey, the other was not far behind and were showing the capability to reach such a level. I was also impressed by the level of record keeping and archiving carried out.

I was satisfied that all participants completed Workshop 1 to a high standard.

Workshop 2 - Crocodile capture and relocation

Eight rangers took part in Workshop 2: Terrance Taylor, Brenton Yanner, David Johnson, Murrandoo Yanner, Desmond Armstrong, Billy Jackson, Lance Rapson (Normanton), Farron Bynoe (Normanton). Attendance was excellent with no absence recorded. Punctuality was always good.

All participants were attentive during daytime classes where we discussed theory, and all displayed quick learning of both general concepts and key facts. A single, in-depth multiple choice / written assessment was undertaken, and I was satisfied that all rangers understood the core concepts of the workshop; all assessments were completed satisfactorily.

As with Workshop 1, field operations were carried out to a high standard, showing the same preparation, organisation and teamwork, plus attention to team safety and also the welfare of crocodiles being handled. Teams were able to build upon their experience from Workshop 1, and were successful in capturing, transporting, maintaining and safely releasing several crocodiles over the course of the workshop.

Crocodile transport and welfare maintenance was also tested during an opening ceremony for the Burketown Pontoon, and all rangers showed self-reliance on looking after two crocodiles and showed awareness for safety involving visitors. Transport, handling and community awareness was further tested during a presentation about ranger activities at the Burketown Primary School, which also involved safe interaction with two small crocodiles.

A field assessment was undertaken on the final night of the Workshop, in which the rangers were tasked with the successful and safe capture, measurement and release of a wild adult saltwater crocodile. The rangers divided into two teams, and were eventually successful. A debriefing of the assessment was conducted the following day to identify positive and negative aspects, including identifying the particular strengths of each individual ranger. I was impressed by the rapid improvement shown during the two week workshop in the capture skills of the rangers during field operations.

I was satisfied that all participants completed Workshop 2 to a high standard.

Dr Adam Britton

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Instructor

6 November 2015



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 27582/16

10 NOV 2016

Mr Thomas Wilson
Chairperson
Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GRAC)

Email: TWilson@clcac.com.au

Dear Mr Wilson

Thank you for your letter dated 25 October 2016 concerning crocodile management and public safety on Mornington Island.

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting public safety in crocodile country. I understand your concerns regarding the presence of crocodiles on Mornington Island, particularly given the potential interaction of local people with these animals on a regular basis.

I can advise you that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been working directly with the Mornington Shire Council on the management of crocodiles on Mornington Island for some time and will continue to do so until the situation is resolved. At this stage, the department has not, however, issued Council with a Crocodile Management Authority which would enable it to undertake management of these animals under certain conditions.

In response to community concerns regarding the behaviour of a number of crocodiles on Mornington Island in September 2016, Mr Steve Coulson, a Senior Wildlife Officer of the department, visited the island and undertook an assessment of crocodile behaviour from 23- 26 September 2016. Mr Coulson conducted crocodile surveys, liaised with Council representatives and Traditional Owners, including council's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Frank Mills, and undertook public 'CrocWise' education activities with local residents. However, no crocodiles were assessed as being 'crocodiles of concern' to be targeted for removal from the wild.

The department and Council have arranged for a Council officer to complete crocodile management training in Cairns in early December 2016, after which the department would be in a position to issue a Crocodile Management Authority to Council under the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007.

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The Authority would include the name of the officer covered by the Authority, include specific operating and reporting conditions and set out the locations to which the Authority applied. The Authority would be likely to be issued for 12 months.

Your letter also refers to the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and its desire to play a role in crocodile management on Cape York Peninsula and in the Gulf of Carpentaria. I recently replied to a letter from Mr Charles Hammond, the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer, on this subject, offering a way forward for its Indigenous Rangers to receive crocodile management training and for the Corporation to attain its own Crocodile Management Authority.

I trust you find the proposed cooperative arrangements between Council and the department satisfactorily address your concerns regarding crocodile management on Mornington Island. Should you have any further queries please contact Mr Lindsay Delzoppo, A/Director Wildlife Management of the department on telephone 3330 5393.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General

**GULF REGION
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC
(GRAC)**
ICN - 7139

25 October 2016

Jim Reeves
Director General
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Sir,

Rogue Crocodile Mornington Island – Urgent Measures Required

I am the Chairperson of Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation (GADC), the registered native title body corporate which manages the native title rights and interests of the Lardil, Yangkaal, Kaiadilt and Gangalidda Peoples in the Wellesley Islands. I live in the township of Gununa on Mornington Island.

I am also the Chairperson of the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC) and I am aware that CLCAC has been in contact with you and your Department regarding concerns about crocodiles on Mornington Island. I understand that contrary to advice from CLCAC, your Department recently issued Mornington Shire Council (MSC) with an Authority *Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007* that provides it with the power to capture and deal with crocodiles.

I write to you both as the Director General of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and as the Government Champion of Mornington Island.

You will be aware that there are community concerns regarding the presence of a large, aggressive, rogue crocodile on Mornington Island. It is my firmly held view that there is a strong likelihood that the rogue crocodile will attack. It has recently been seen living in a small creek close to the Gununa settlement and adjacent to an area used by residents for recreational activities. Our people are not crocodile aware. Crocodiles have not traditionally inhabited the Wellesley Islands and we have no history of a culture that understands crocodile behaviour. We do, however, make frequent use of the ocean and creeks for hunting and fishing. On Mornington Island, people go hunting and fishing in the ocean and along the estuarine areas on a daily basis. These two factors make the possibility of a crocodile attack very real.

I am receiving daily complaints from residents asking me to do something about the crocodile. Traditional Owners are concerned that a child will be taken.

With respect, I do not believe the Department is taking this issue seriously enough and that it is failing to provide the urgent measures required to deal with the threat. I do not expect MSC to be in a position to remove the crocodile any time soon. As far as I am aware, there is no person on staff at MSC that is trained to remove a crocodile. I would like to hear your views in this regard.

27582/16

**GULF REGION
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC
(GRAC)**

ICN - 7139

I look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency. I can be contacted on telephone [sch4p4(6) Personal info]

Yours faithfully

[sch4p4(6) Personal inform
[Redacted Signature]

Thomas Wilson
Chairperson

Released by EHP
RTI Act 2009

GEORGA Margaret

From: POPE Karen on behalf of REEVES Jim
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2016 9:18 AM
To: Corro EHP DG
Subject: FW: Rogue Crocodile at Mornington Island (CTS27583/16)
Attachments: Letter GRAC to DG.docx

From: Thomas Wilson [mailto:TWilson@clcac.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2016 4:44 PM
To: REEVES Jim
Subject: Rogue Crocodile at Mornington Island

Released by EHP
RTI Act 2009



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 26897/16

20 OCT 2016

Mr Charles Hammond
Chief Executive Officer
Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 6662
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Dear Mr Hammond *Charles*

Thank you for your letter dated 19 October 2016 concerning your organisation's wish to be issued a Crocodile Management Authority by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the department).

It is my understanding that Mr Lindsay Delzoppo, Director Wildlife Management of the department contacted you by phone and followed up with email on 21 October 2016 proposing a way forward on this issue on behalf of the department. (Please refer to the attachment to this letter.)

As outlined in that email, the department is offering a way for Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to pursue a Crocodile Management Authority under the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007 (the Plan).

The department recognises that the Corporation's rangers have been trained in remote crocodile management with a focus on crocodile nest management and assessment. However, it does not appear that the training focussed on the skills and expertise needed to safely capture and remove 'crocodiles of concern', as is required under the Plan.

The department would be willing to provide formal crocodile management training to a number of your rangers at no cost, so that they could then demonstrate having the skills and expertise needed to safely handle 'crocodiles of concern'.

Under the department's offer, once ranger training was completed, the department would be in a position to consider issuing a Crocodile Management Authority to the Corporation, listing specific operating conditions, including the names of the rangers included, the methods authorised under the Authority for the capturing and handling of crocodiles and where the permit applies. There are reporting requirements associated with the authority.

If the Corporation accepts the department's proposal, the department would also be happy to supply a working crocodile trap similar to that used in the training, as well as an agreed level of technical support for the duration of the Authority.

Unfortunately, the department's offer does not apply to management of the current problem crocodiles causing concern to some members of the community on Mornington Island. The department has been working with the Mornington Shire Council directly on the management of these animals for some weeks now and will continue to do so until the situation is resolved.

I look forward to your response to the department's proposal. Should you or your staff have any further enquiries, please ask them to contact Mr Lindsay Delzoppo, Director Wildlife Management, of the department on telephone 3330 5393.

Yours sincerely



Jim Reeves
Director-General
Att

Released by EHP
RTI Act 2009

Attachment 1

From: DELZOPPO Lindsay <Lindsay.Delzoppo@ehp.qld.gov.au>

Date: 21 October 2016 at 4:57:42 PM AEST

To: Charles Hammond <CHammond@clcac.com.au>

Cc: MOHR Maria <Maria.Mohr@ehp.qld.gov.au>, REEVES Jim
<Jim.Reeves@ehp.qld.gov.au>, "WILLIAMS Rebecca (EHP)"
<Rebecca.Williams@ehp.qld.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Contact Details

Hello Charles,

- Briefly, the offer from EHP to CLCAC is to pursue CLCAC having a crocodile management authority under the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007.
- I appreciate some of your Rangers have training in remote crocodile management with a focus on crocodile nest management and assessment, but this would not appear to equip them to be an approved person having the 'skills and training to catch a problem crocodile safely'. We would be happy to review that training if you believe otherwise.
- We are offering to provide EHP Crocodile Management training to a number of your Rangers so that they could demonstrate they had the skills and training necessary to catch a problem crocodile safely.
- EHP would then issue a crocodile management authority to CLCAC, listing the Rangers covered by the authority and authorising them to capture and deal with crocodiles in specified ways (e.g. trapping) they had been trained. The authority would also specify agreed ways in which captured animals could be despatched.
- The authority would also be likely to specify an operating area covered by the authority.
- We could also discuss whether 'hazing' could be included in the authority if some of the Rangers held suitable firearms qualifications. Hazing is a widely-used wildlife management where an animal is deliberately disturbed to make it leave a particular location or to discourage the animal from approaching humans. For crocodiles hazing involves the use of a firearm to shoot the targeted animal around the tail or flank with rubber pellets.
- If your organisation accepts EHP's offer, we would also supply a working crocodile trap similar to that used in the training. We would also provide some form of agreed ongoing technical support for the duration of the authority.
- Once the authority was in place, CLCAC Rangers would just need to provide sufficient information about each problem crocodile they observed for EHP to be able to issue a Notice allowing the Rangers to target that problem crocodile for removal or hazing.
- The authority would also be likely to contain reporting requirements which would have to be met in order for the powers provided under the authority to remain in place.

- The crocodile management authority would be issued for a year in the first instance and would be likely to be subject to a review by both parties towards the end of that year.
- Thanks for agreeing to take my offer to the CLCAC and I look forward to discussing it with you further.
- This offer does not apply to management of the current crocodile(s) on Mornington Island – EHP has been working with the Mornington Shire Council directly on the management of those animals.

Kind Regards,

Lindsay Delzoppo

Director, Wildlife Management

Conservation and Sustainability Services

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

P: 07 3330 5393 M: sch4p4(6) Person E: Lindsay.delzoppo@ehp.qld.gov.au

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

GPO Box 2454, Brisbane, QLD 4001

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ABN 99 121 997 933 - ICN 268

Our Ref:

19 October 2016

Jim Reeves
Director General
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Jim,

Issuing of a Crocodile Management Authority by EHP to the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC)

I refer to the meeting in Brisbane on 7 September 2016 with Minister Miles and to the meeting between CLCAC staff and Deputy Director General Maria Mohr in Cairns on 30 September 2016. I refer also to the background information provided to Ms Mohr prior to the Cairns meeting, in which I set a number of issues relating to CLCAC's future direction and operational matters, including the Department's handling of permit applications.

At the Cairns meeting, a range of issues were discussed with Ms Mohr, including the issue of crocodile management on Mornington Island. A firm verbal commitment was made by Ms Mohr that CLCAC would be issued with a Crocodile Management Authority to remove the rogue crocodile that is causing concern. Ms Mohr specifically asked us for the relevant email and contact details for the issuing of the Authority.

Please note that the crocodile is perceived both by the community and our Rangers as posing an imminent and direct threat to life. We have explained to the Department that crocodiles were not known to inhabit the Wellesley Island pre-contact and that we are concerned that the community, particularly the children, are not aware of crocodile behaviour. Crocodiles will start nesting in the region between November and February and this is when they are at their most aggressive and territorial.

CLCAC understands that following the Cairns meeting the Department issued an Authority to the Mornington Shire Council (MSC). This is contrary to what was agreed with Ms Mohr and concerning for several reasons.

It is our understanding that MSC does not employ anyone with training or experience in crocodile management. As you are aware, CLCAC's Burketown Rangers have undertaken crocodile handling training and are able and willing to remove the

Gulf Office

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Free call: 1800 445 115

Normanton Office

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Fax: 07 4745 1569

Cairns Office

Level 1, 104 Mulgrave Road
PO Box 6662
Cairns, Qld, 4870
Tel: 07 4041 3833 or 4034 5500
Fax: 07 4041 3533

crocodile immediately. The rogue crocodile needs to be removed as a matter of priority and the community should not have to wait for MSC to develop the required expertise or enter into contracting arrangements. We are also concerned that MSC does not have expertise in the long term management of crocodiles. CLCAC's Rangers are able to provide follow up surveys, if required, to monitor breeding and potential relocation or removal of other large crocodiles that may now inhabit the Wellesley Islands.

Finally, I am disappointed that you appear to have removed the opportunity for CLCAC to provide valuable training to the newly established Wellesley Islands Ranger group which is based on Mornington Island. Although this group is funded by the Commonwealth Government, I am sure you understand the benefit that may be realised with this group being involved in the management of crocodiles in their traditional country.

Please confirm as a matter of urgency that the Crocodile Management Authority will be re-issued to the CLCAC as agreed with Ms Mohr.

CLCAC is very concerned at the risk posed to the community while this matter remains unresolved.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Charles Hammond
Chief Executive Officer