

13//03/2017

RE: Chief Executive decision regarding 'Problem Crocodiles'

For the purposes of the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007, and with reference to the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan, I consider the following crocodiles to be 'problem crocodiles'—

- All estuarine crocodiles in a 'barrier and removal zone' (zone A)
- All estuarine crocodiles in an 'active removal zone' (zone B)
- All estuarine crocodiles in an 'atypical habitat zone' (zone F)
- Estuarine crocodiles greater than 2 metres in a 'targeted management zone' (zone C)

N.B. Other estuarine crocodiles may also be considered 'problem crocodiles' for the purposes of the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007. These would be the subject of a separate consideration and decision by the Chief Executive or a delegated officer.

Bec Williams
Executive Director

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: Crocodile Management Issues raised by Cassowary Coast and Douglas councils

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Minister's Signature: _____ Date/...../..... Comments: _____
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Action Required by: Tuesday 25 April, prior to the Minister's proposed meeting with relevant councils.

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended the Minister:
 - **note** the issues raised by local councils in Far North Queensland about crocodile management, and the proposed response to these issues
 - **note** the processes required to allow local councils to remove crocodiles.

ISSUES

2. The Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) was developed with significant input from local councils between Townsville and Douglas Shire, as well as a number of other key stakeholders. During the formal consultation on the QCMP:
 - a. Douglas Shire Council made a formal submission that addressed a number of implementation and education issues but did not ask for any changes to removal zones or criteria (Attachment 1). Face to face discussions indicated that the Council did not support changes to removal zones and criteria.
 - b. The Mayor and staff of Cassowary Coast met with officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and indicated a strong level of support for the existing management arrangements, including removal zones and criteria. The council subsequently requested a small extension of the removal zone on the section of the upper Tully River used by tourism operators which was granted.
3. The QCMP did not alter the removal criteria or zone boundaries in the Douglas and Cassowary Coast council areas, other than the small extension to the area on the upper Tully River.
4. Since the release of the QCMP Douglas Shire Council has written to the Minister (and made public comment) requesting specific areas on the QCMP maps be changed from Zone E to Zone C (Attachment 2).
5. Cassowary Coast Regional Council has also written to the Minister requesting changes to implementation of the QCMP, particularly about crocodiles being targeted for removal more quickly and based directly on sightings from the public (Attachment 3).
6. The Mareeba Shire Council has contacted the Minister's office and asked that all crocodiles are removed. Attachment 4 provides options on regulatory options to meet this request.
7. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection receives sighting reports from a range of sources and follows a standard procedure for collecting information, determining if a crocodile should be removed, and providing information to the public about responses as outlined in the Attachment 5.
8. The Department of Environment and Heritage has already commenced discussions at officer level with both Councils about their requests. Potential responses are outlined in Attachments 6 & 7.
9. Local councils could be authorised to remove crocodiles by issuing Crocodile Management Authorities (CMAs) once the appropriate training had been completed. The CMA could be supported by changes to the processes for declaring problem crocodiles to allow councils to act more independently in some areas (in line with existing QCMP criteria). Further details are outlined in Attachment 8.

BACKGROUND

10. The QCMP was released on March 2017 to create a state-wide framework to manage public safety issues associated with crocodiles and details the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's management response based on six management zones.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. Councils that remove crocodiles under a CMA will take responsibility for all the costs associated with crocodile removal, as well as housing of crocodiles before they are distributed to licensed farms.
12. The potential costs to councils to purchase appropriate boats, traps and other equipment; establish holding facilities and to ensure that staff are properly trained are outlined in Attachment 7.

RISKS

13. If there is an increase in the number of crocodiles removed from the wild and provided to farms there may be implications for Queensland's Crocodile Farming Wildlife Trade Management Plan. See Attachment 9.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1.	Douglas Shire Council submission to crocodile management review
Attachment 2.	Letter to Minister from Douglas Shire requesting areas be changed from Zone E to Zone C
Attachment 3.	Letter to Minister from Cassowary Coast Council requesting changes to QCMP
Attachment 4.	Regulatory options to remove all crocodiles in Mareeba Shire Council area
Attachment 5.	Standard procedure for recording sighting information, determining removal, and providing public information
Attachment 6.	Potential responses to Douglas Shire Council's requests for changes to QCMP
Attachment 7.	Potential response to issues raised by Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Attachment 8.	Details processes for authorising councils to remove problem crocodiles
Attachment 9.	Costs associated with councils establishing the capacity to
Attachment 10.	Implications for council removal of crocodiles on Queensland Crocodile Farming Wildlife Trade Management Plan

Author	Branch Endorsement	Division Endorsement	Director-General Endorsement
Name: [Insert name] Position: [Insert position] Tel No: [Insert telephone no] Date Drafted: [Insert date]	Name: [Insert name] Position: [Insert position] Tel No: [Insert telephone no] Date Endorsed: [Insert date]	Name: [Insert name] Position: [Insert position] Tel No: [Insert telephone no] Date Endorsed: [Insert date]	Name: Jim Reeves, DG, EHP Tel No: 3330 6298 Signed Date/...../....

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

YOUR REF
OUR REF: 780655

9 August 2016

Catherine George

Team Leader Business Reform, Nature Conservation Services
Division
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454 BRISBANE 4001
Email: catherine.george@ehp.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms George

RE: Crocodile Management Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding Crocodile Management in the Douglas Shire.

As the Mayor and Councillors of Douglas Shire, where the Rainforest meets the Reef, we consider these exceptional world heritage listed environments as central to our communities' and our visitors' social, environmental and financial wellbeing.

Being a tourist destination that is famous for its diversity of flora and fauna, we have to ensure those that visit and live in our Shire are aware of the beauty, as well as the possible dangers, that they may face. One of those possible dangers is crocodile attack if people do not exercise common sense around known crocodile habitats.

As all are aware from our discussion on 29 June 2016, crocodiles play a very important role in the Douglas environment and the economy, with many tourists visiting the area to see a 'croc'.

While Council is supportive of crocodiles remaining in their natural habitat, we also have to ensure we are conscious of the potential danger crocodiles pose to both tourists and our local communities if locals and visitors don't become "croc wise in croc country".

In previous communications with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection in April 2015 and its officers, Council:

- Requested the development of a 'Service Charter' that states approximate response times and the process of responding to calls from the community.
- Considered that clarification regarding terminology would be beneficial as the communities' interpretation can be significantly different to the true meaning. An example of this is 'crocodiles of concern'.
- Considered it would be valuable to promote the actions taken and the education programs that are in place such as the survey of crocodiles in Dickson Inlet, school visits and community information sessions to improve the communities' confidence in the Department and the crocodile management plan.

At the meeting held with Officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on Wednesday 29 June 2016 and a Councillor workshop held on 7 July 2016, the following were identified as useful actions:

- Signage - A comprehensive audit of signage throughout the Douglas Shire needs to be undertaken. The text on the signage should be reviewed to include the term "saltwater" crocodile along with estuarine. The signage message should be clear to non-English speakers. Suggested inclusions on signage are:
 - Image of a crocodile
 - Universal danger symbol
- Improved education programs – We recommend these be tailored to tourists and to permanent residents as two distinct groups with differing levels of understanding. As discussed on 29 June 2016, a large number of local residents are taking risks in known crocodile areas.
- Survey of popular freshwater creeks – There are a number of freshwater swimming areas that need to be included in the survey areas. These include:
 - The Mossman River from Foxtan Bridge to Anich's Bridge
 - The Mossman River from South Mossman Bridge to Shannonvale Causeway
 - Spring Creek
- The possible installation of barriers in areas of high pedestrian traffic such as immediately adjacent to the north and south Daintree Ferry landings (subject to consultation with the Ferry operator).
- Authorised Local Officers – It has also been suggested that local officers be fully trained in hazing and are then authorised to conduct 'hazing' activities in identified areas.

We have been advised that the 'hazing' that was scheduled concerning a crocodile that is presenting an issue near the Daintree Ferry was not successful due to the crocodile of concern not being present.

Having local officers, trained and authorised to conduct this activity would ensure they are available when the crocodile of concern is present.

Since we met in late June there have been a number of concerns raised regarding crocodiles in public spaces. This includes the pathway along St Crispins Avenue, Port Douglas near the body of water, crocodiles sunning themselves on the lawn of a resident's waterfront property and individuals paddling in the Dickson's Inlet in an inflatable canoe. Local residents are also fishing in close proximity to crocodiles near Cooya Beach.

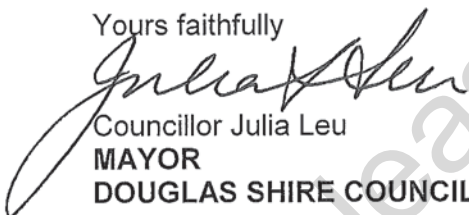
While we can not control the actions of people who chose to take these risks or ignore the possible implications, we can make every effort to ensure the message is widely distributed and locals and tourist alike are aware of the possible dangers. Our non-English speaking tourists must be catered for with appropriate signage as mentioned above.

To assist with this Council has created a flyer to be distributed at the Daintree Ferry and Council buildings such as the Mossman Administration Building, the Mossman Library and the Port Douglas Customer Service Hub.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the progression of our identified solutions and any alternatives you or Departmental officers may suggest.

Please do not hesitate to contact Kerrie Hawkes at any time on 0740 999 411 or Kerrie.hawkes@douglas.qld.gov.au

Yours faithfully



Councillor Julia Leu
MAYOR
DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

Office of the Mayor

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The Honourable Dr Steven Miles
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001
E-mail: environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

28 March 2017

Dear Minister Miles

I refer to previous communications in relation to crocodile management in the Douglas Shire and in particular, to the recently released Queensland Crocodile Management.

I wish to advise that at an Ordinary Meeting held on 28 March 2017, the Council resolved to request that:-

- a) *Four Mile Beach in Port Douglas, Newell Beach, Wonga Beach, Cooya Beach and Oak Beach be rezoned from "Monitoring and Education" (Zone E) to "Targeted Management Zone" (Zone C);*
- b) *The Ferndale Lake in Port Douglas, the boat ramps located at Newell Beach and Rocky Point and unofficial boat launching sites at Wonga Beach and Cape Tribulation be rezoned from "Monitoring and Education" (Zone E) to "Targeted Management Zone" (Zone C)*
- c) *The following freshwater creeks within Douglas Shire be rezoned from "Monitoring and Education" (Zone E) to "Targeted Management Zone" (Zone C):-*
 - i. *Upstream from Foxton Bridge, Mossman;*
 - ii. *Upstream from Shannonvale Causeway, Shannonvale; and*
 - iii. *Upstream from Spring Creek Crossing, Mowbray.*

The rezoning of the abovementioned beaches, specified boat ramps and freshwater creeks is requested with the objective of targeting for removal (following a confirmed sighting) all large crocodiles and any crocodile displaying dangerous behaviour. Zone C is requested due to these areas requiring protection from the moderate to high likelihood of crocodile presence.

...2/.

Since the Council's previous submission in August 2016, there have been more frequent sightings of crocodiles in a number of Douglas Shire beaches and at boat ramps. Douglas Shire residents and the tourism sector have therefore become increasingly concerned by the potential impact on the safety of residents and visitors as well as our tourism industry as a whole.

The weekend before last, three dogs suffered attacks by crocodiles at three separate beaches – Cow Bay, Rocky Point and Four Mile Beach. The attack at Cow Bay was fatal. This has only heightened community concern and a greater level of protection is being voiced by residents.

The perceived increasing risk from large mature crocodiles and the consequent reduced safety of our beaches poses a potentially devastating impact on the Douglas tourism industry through lost visitation and reduced length of stay.

As you would be aware, Four Mile Beach is an iconic part of the Douglas Shire and an integral part of our tourism sector as a significant drawcard for those wishing to relax and enjoy our beach lifestyle.

Residents who previously enjoyed the beaches and boat ramps within the Douglas Shire are now feeling under threat and concerned about the unprecedented number of crocodile sightings in recent times. Newell Beach, Cooya Beach, Wonga Beach and Oak Beach are also popular with tourists as well as locals, with caravan parks and holiday rentals in these locations.

It is understood that emergency services, when asked to undertake rescues, will now consider the safety of their Officers in river systems where crocodiles are known to be present.

Council is very proud of our diverse range of tourism experiences showcasing our spectacular natural environment, including the opportunity to view saltwater crocodiles in their natural habitat, particularly in the Daintree River and along the Daintree Coast.

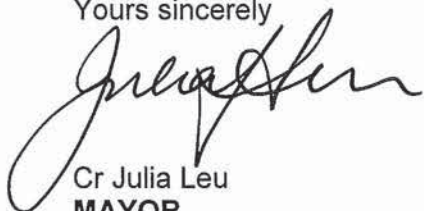
It is therefore crucial that we continue to monitor the circumstances and ensure that we balance the danger of crocodiles with the implementation of adequate action to minimise the potential for tragedy. It is for these reasons that Council is now requesting the Zone C classification for the areas listed in a) b) and c) above.

Please find attached for your reference the Crocodile Management Submission of 9 August 2016.

...3/.

Minister I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and the concerns outlined above. Please do not do not hesitate to contact me directly at any time on mobile number 0488 987 066 or alternatively via e-mail Julia.Leu@douglas.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Cr Julia Leu
MAYOR
DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

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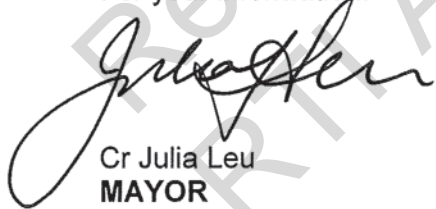
COPY TO:

Mr Jim Reeves
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A/Director
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For your information.



Cr Julia Leu
MAYOR
DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

PLEASE QUOTE

YOUR REFERENCE:

OUR REFERENCE: DS:lb LB-JG:dmb:201703291157

ENQUIRIES TO: Parks, Open Spaces & Natural Environment Technical Officer 4043 9176



3 April 2017

Dr Stephen Miles
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001



Dear Minister

Crocodile Management in the Cassowary Coast Local Government Area

I am to express herein Council's most serious and elevating concern in respect of increasing numbers of crocodile sightings in this region and adjacent areas.

Reference to social media, the press and general community dialogue demonstrates alarm, if not fear, on the part of the public as a response to sightings of several and large animals moving in populated areas and even historically well used recreational areas.

Recent incidents have reinforced what would appear to be the overwhelming view of the public that real danger is associated with the use of aquatic and marine facilities and that tragedy is entirely foreseeable. Council shares this view with quite some gravity.

At its last meeting, Council had regard for the new Crocodile Management Plan and endorsed the following recommendations for either increased action or new initiatives:

1. Take further measures to *implement fully* the current Crocodile Management Plan approach for the region (in nominated areas any crocodile over two metres or of any size displaying aggressive behaviour is targeted for removal). The existing Zone C management area on the Johnstone River, the popular swimming beaches of Etty Bay and Greater Mission Beach should be the focus for increased management activities;
2. Increased education and media alerts on current high risk sites or animals that are being targeted for removal to increase community awareness of risk and seasonal movements or variations in behaviour as they occur;
3. Direct notification to Cassowary Coast Regional Council of current issues and actions that are being undertaken by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. There is also potential for Council to assist with first response and sighting confirmation or alert community through its media networks. (This partnership has been previously outlined and supported by Council through a Memorandum of Understanding developed in 2013, which remains outstanding).

sch4p4(6) Personal information

.../2..

4. Undertake a survey on crocodile numbers in the extended Johnstone River region as a matter of priority, and before further removal operations commence, to enable population trends to be analysed and clear information provided for management and community.

It is strongly recommended that a person or persons with significant experience and who has/have independence from government might be engaged for this purpose. This suggestion is made in light of credibility issues associated with previous surveys.

5. Awareness and promotion of the 'Croc Wise' message in crocodile country and increased promotion of nominated safe swimming areas to provide the public a safer alternative.
6. The potential for a hazing programme in the lower Johnstone River where local water sports activities occur and there is increased concern for public safety in these Areas due to recent sightings.
7. Potential tracking systems employed for large crocodiles in our region to further understand their biology and movement, and to provide a potential notification system as is currently used worldwide for shark management purposes. (This is based on the understanding that a single large crocodile can not only move a large distance overnight but also control numbers of smaller and potentially less wary crocodiles in certain areas, and could be used as a monitored management tool in certain instances).

Further, Council is troubled that the current Queensland Crocodile Management Plan is inconsistent in its treatment of sighting reports from Zone B and C, such that in Zone B a sighting is deemed factual if it is received from a member of the public and within Zone C a report is not a "confirmed sighting". Recent sightings in late February were reported on state government website as "unconfirmed" even in light of a wealth of video and photographic evidence confirming presence and size.

Apropos of the above Council requests consideration of the region's removal from Classification at Zone C and its subsequent inclusion in Zone B.

I look forward to receiving your comments with regard to the above and thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours faithfully,

sch4p4(6) Personal information

James Gott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

sch4p4(6) Perso

Draft Media release

Deadline		Briefing officer
Media Services contact	Maria Spackman	Phone
Media Services phone	3339 5853	DDG:
Approved		Phone
Geographical area/s of interest		

Date: Sunday 30 October 2016

Crocodile consultation report reveals mixed attitudes in North Queensland

The Queensland Government's review of crocodile management in North Queensland has passed another milestone with the first results of a consultation process provided to Councils this week.

Environment Minister Dr Steven Miles said the findings in the consultation report would now form the basis for further discussions with councils before any changes were made to current crocodile management arrangements.

"The report which has been delivered to councils this week contains the results of a public survey in relation to crocodile management and also the findings of the extensive direct discussions between the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and key stakeholders," Dr Miles said.

"It's clear that there is a wide range of views on crocodile management within the community and also among local authorities, Surf Life Saving Queensland, tourism operators and conservation groups.

"This is not surprising given the complexity of the issue and I'm determined that all views will be considered before any changes are made to the current policy in 2017."

The results of the consultation indicated widespread support for the current crocodile management arrangements, with some local governments requesting minor variations to management zone boundaries.

Respondents also suggested improvements in the way information about crocodile management is communicated to the public and key stakeholders.

Other results of the direct consultation with key stakeholders indicated:

- concerns that crocodile removal creates an unrealistic expectation of safety in some parts of the community
- requests for more comprehensive information to be supplied to councils and Surf Life Saving Queensland groups about the presence of crocodiles and how they are being managed, and
- that crocodiles are highly valued as an attraction for tourists, but that tourists are also at significant risk.

The results of the survey of the general community indicated:

- Half of respondents support the notion that crocodile management must be a balance of conservation and public safety.
- Support amongst residents in northern Queensland for removal of aggressive and dangerous crocodiles around urban areas was 76% and support for removal of larger crocodiles around urban areas was 47%.
- Across Queensland, 40% of respondents did not support the removal of aggressive crocodiles around urban areas, and 32% believed that crocodile management should be based heavily on conservation, indicating a preference for removal of fewer crocodiles.
- Approximately 15% of respondents support the widespread removal of crocodiles around urban areas.
- Respondents living near crocodiles had a relatively good knowledge of how to keep themselves safe from crocodiles.

Dr Miles said further consultation to discuss the detail of the findings would begin immediately, with EHP wildlife officers due to attend a meeting with Douglas Shire Council on Wednesday, 2 November.

"I welcome the discussion among North Queensland communities about public safety and crocodiles and I want to make sure that community views are properly considered during this review process," he said.

"We are determined to achieve a balanced approach between public safety and conservation of the species, while acknowledging that tourism-related factors also need to be considered.

Dr Miles said he was pleased to see strong support from stakeholders for the crocodile survey monitoring program which will establish better information on crocodile numbers and inform future management and conservation approaches.

"There are anecdotal reports that crocodile numbers are on the increase, but we need to know whether that's actually the case, which is why the population study is so important," he said.

Dr Miles said EHP was also reviewing education and signage to see whether improvements could be made to the current CrocWise approach.

"Both the stakeholder consultation and the online public survey found a good level of awareness of the CrocWise safety messages but there's always room for improvement," he said.

"EHP has been liaising with its colleagues in the Northern Territory and is exploring some possible new approaches which could be incorporated into our messaging.

"Public education will always be paramount and, regardless of any future changes to crocodile management policy, the key message will always be that no waterway should ever be considered to be free of crocodiles in croc country.

Members of the public are urged to be CrocWise. In particular:

- Obey croc warning signs
- Don't swim or let domestic pets swim in waters where crocs may live

- Be aware that crocodiles also swim in the ocean
- Stand back from the water when fishing or cast netting
- Never provoke, harass or feed crocs
- Never leave food, fish scraps or bait near the water, a camp site or boat ramp
- Never interfere with or fish or boat near crocodile traps, and
- Always supervise children
- Remember, you are responsible for your own safety in croc country.

Further information on being CrocWise is available at http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/crocodiles/crocodiles_be_croc_wise.html.

Crocodile sightings can be reported to EHP on 1300 130 372 and the department investigates all crocodile reports it receives.

The *Consultation report on crocodile management arrangements in North Queensland* can be viewed on the EHP website at www.ehp.qld.gov.au [please advise if deep link preferred]

ENDS

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: QUEENSLAND CROCODILE MANAGEMENT PLAN

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Minister's Signature: _____ Date/...../..... Comments: _____
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Action Required by: 24 February 2016, to meet the timeframes approved under sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter -

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended the Minister:
 - **approve** the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) and associated maps (Attachments 1 and 2).
 - **note** that while the QCMP retains key components of the existing crocodile management framework, a number of changes have been made, as summarised (Attachment 3).
 - **note** that, pending your approval, the QCMP will be published on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website and relevant local governments will be notified.

ISSUES

2. The purpose of the QCMP is to outline:
 - a. a consistent approach to crocodile management across Queensland
 - b. the risks posed by crocodiles in Queensland in each of the crocodile management zones
 - c. how the Queensland Government responds to and manages crocodiles in each crocodile management zone
 - d. the knowledge and behaviours that can help minimise risks of crocodile attacks in each crocodile management zone.
3. It is proposed that all zone names provide an explicit, 'plain English' description of the purpose of the zone and its proposed management approach, e.g. the current Zone 1 is proposed to be renamed Barrier and Removal Zone (Zone A).
4. Following consultation with Cairns Regional Council, the Ross and Locke Reserve is proposed to be rezoned as a Targeted Management Zone (Zone C), so that in addition to removing any dangerous crocodiles, large crocodiles (>2m in length) would now also be targeted for removal.
5. The plan also includes an extension of the Targeted Management Zone near the Tully Gorge Bridge as requested by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.
6. No other changes to the geographic extent of existing zones are proposed although a number of other refinements to operational guidelines have been made to improve the clarity of management intent.

BACKGROUND

7. sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

RISKS

8. Although the urban area of Cairns is the subject of the greatest focus on crocodile removal in Queensland, Cairns Regional Council has expressed, and may further express, some disappointment that the Queensland government is not proposing to provide more intensive crocodile management.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The changes included in the QCMP are not expected to create additional costs for the Queensland government.

CONSULTATION

10. Initial stakeholder consultation was conducted by the department between May and July 2016. This included face-to-face consultation with relevant stakeholders and an online public survey (see CTS 22029/16).
11. During development of the QCMP, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection further consulted with Cairns Regional Council, Douglas Shire Council and Cassowary Coast Regional Council about management in specific areas.

COMMUNICATION

12. A draft media release announcing the release of the QCMP has been prepared.
13. Relevant local governments will be advised of the release of the QCMP.

ATTACHMENT/S

Attachment 1. Queensland Crocodile Management Plan
Attachment 2. Crocodile management zone maps
Attachment 3. Summary of changes between current approach and new approach under QCMP

Author	Branch Endorsement	Division Endorsement	Director-General Endorsement
Name: David Compton Position: Program Coordinator Tel No: 3330 5501 Date Drafted: 2 February 2016	Name: Nick Weinert Position: ED, Conservation & Sustainability Policy Tel No: 3330 5818 Date Endorsed: 10 February 2017	Name: Maria Mohr Position: DDG, Conservation & Sustainability Services Tel No: 3330 5017 Date Endorsed: 13 February 2017	Name: Jim Reeves, DG, EHP Tel No: 3330 6298 Signed  Date 4/2/17

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Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: Consultation on Crocodile Management Arrangements in Queensland

- ☐ Approved
☐ Not Approved
☐ Noted
☐ Further information required (see comments)

Minister's Signature:

Date/...../.....

Comments:

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended the Minister:

- **Note** the results of consultation on crocodile management summarised in the consultation report (Attachment 1).
- **Note** the options and recommendations for changes to crocodile management arrangements arising from the consultation (Attachment 2)
- sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

ISSUES

2. sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

3. There is not strong support amongst the community in Far North Queensland to revert to the crocodile removal arrangements in place under the previous Labor government.
4. Consultations suggests that there is strong support for the current arrangements in place under the Crocodile Management Plans, with some minor variations to zone boundaries and improvements in the way information about crocodile management is communicated to the public and key stakeholders.
5. The consultation results also indicated that there is a significant opportunity to improve communication and education programs, particularly signage.

6. sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

BACKGROUND

7. The Government has committed to establishing a long term crocodile monitoring program to allow the management of crocodiles to be based on sound science. The results of this monitoring program will take 3-5 years to produce useful results.

8. sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

CONSULTATION

9. The results of direct consultation with key stakeholders indicated:

- A strong overall level of support for the current Crocodile Management Plans already in place.
- Some specific request for expansion of crocodile removal zones in the Cairns and Port Douglas area
- Concerns that crocodile removal creates an unrealistic expectation of safety in some parts of the community.
- Requests for more comprehensive information to be supplied to councils and surf lifesaving groups about the presence of crocodiles and how they are being managed.
- That crocodiles have significant value as an attraction for tourists, but that tourists are also at significant risk.

10. The results of the survey of the general community indicated:

- Strong agreement with the notion that crocodile management must be a balance of conservation and public safety.
- Some support (approximately 15%) for much stronger crocodile management measures, including population culling
- Some support for removing fewer crocodiles for conservation and animal welfare reasons.
- That respondents living near crocodiles had a relatively good knowledge of how to keep themselves safe from crocodiles.

COMMUNICATION

11. sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

12.

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ATTACHMENT/S [Delete if N/A]

Attachment 1.

Attachment 1 – Consultation report

Attachment 2.

Attachment 2 – Options and Recommendations for Crocodile Management Arrangements

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Options for Crocodile Management Arrangements in Queensland

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Introduction

As part of progressing the Government's election commitment on Crocodile Management Plans the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection consulted with a range of stakeholders.

This paper describes the options identified for progressing this election commitment. Full details of the consultation process, and the results presented can be found in a separate consultation report prepared by the Department.

Options for Crocodile Management Arrangements

1. Remove Crocodile Management Plans and revert to arrangements in place prior to the LNP government. (election commitment)
2. Maintain existing Crocodile Management Plans and Crocodile Urban Management Areas and await results of Crocodile Survey Program to inform refinements to management (status Quo)
3. Combine existing Crocodile Management Plans and Crocodile Urban Management Areas and other arrangements into a single Queensland Crocodile Management Plan that will more clearly explain different management arrangements across different levels of risk. (Queensland Crocodile Management Plan)
4. Create Queensland Crocodile Management Plan and provide for more intensive management in selected area in line with some stakeholder requests. (More Intensive Queensland Crocodile Management Plan) (preferred option)

Option 1. – Revert to previous Crocodile Management Arrangements

Under this approach Crocodile Management Plans would be removed, and replaced with the previous Crocodile Urban Management Areas that were in place prior to the LNP government.

Under this arrangement fewer crocodiles would be removed around Far North Queensland urban areas. The biggest change would be the ceasing of proactive removal of crocodiles within urban areas of Cairns, and the exclusion of Townsville and North Cairns beaches from prescribed removal zones. Larger crocodiles (above 2m) would still be removed from urban creeks and boat ramps, as would crocodiles displaying dangerous and aggressive behaviour around people.

This option is consistent with the election commitment on crocodile management in Far North Queensland. However the consultation process has shown that there is not strong support for this approach.

Local councils and local organisations expressed very strong support for the current arrangements provided under the Crocodile Management Plans. No conservation groups indicated concerns over the current level of Crocodile removal having impacts on the conservation of crocodile species and no stakeholders voiced specific support for reverting to previous arrangements.

The online survey results did not reveal a strong urge to reduce crocodile removals. A large proportion of respondents, particularly in North Queensland favoured a crocodile management approach which is a balance between public safety and conservation.

Option 2. – Maintain existing Crocodile Management Arrangements

Under this approach all crocodile management arrangements throughout the State would remain the same.

Many stakeholders expressed strong support for the existing Crocodile Management Plans and felt that they helped to improve public safety, and to allow the community to use local waterways more safely. Other stakeholders believe better education and awareness should form the core tool for public safety, however they did not voice a direct opposition to the level of crocodile removal currently occurring under the Crocodile Management Plans.

As mentioned previously, online consultation indicated a strong support for a balanced approach between crocodile conservation and public safety, and many respondents recognised a role for crocodile removal as part of a broader management approach.

Option 3. – Creation of a Queensland Crocodile Management Plan

Under this approach existing crocodile management arrangements would remain the same, but would be combined into a single Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. This would allow a clearer explanation of the risks posed by crocodiles in each zone, how the Government's management approaches are designed to minimise them, and how

the community can minimise risks in each zone.

Under this option all zone boundaries would remain the same but zone descriptions of each zone would be more consistent across the state (between North Queensland and Central Queensland), and better explanations of each zone would be provided to ensure that the community clearly understands the risks of crocodile attack in each zone.

This option allows the Government to maintain the current crocodile removal arrangements which are popular in Far North Queensland Communities. It also provides an opportunity to reframe crocodile removal arrangements throughout the state into a broader context that emphasises the cooperative role of crocodile monitoring and removal activities by The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection with awareness and safe behaviours of the community. This would allow the new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan to avoid the potential false sense of security that may be created by the current arrangements.

Option 4. – (Preferred Option) Create Queensland Crocodile Management Plan and explore the additional of more intensive management zones in selected areas in line with stakeholder requests.

This option is similar to Option 3, to create a single Queensland Crocodile Management Plan, but with the addition of exploring the creation of new Zone B, Zone C and D areas in Cairns Regional Council and Douglas Shire Council in line with concerns raised by the councils and Surf Lifesaving Queensland.

These groups identified specific areas which they believe warranted higher levels of management. Some are supported while other are not.

Areas recommended to have more intensive management

Four Mile Beach and Port Douglas

Four Mile beach is a surf beach at the town of Port Douglas. The town has several international resorts, golf courses and other tourist activities. The inlets and wetland systems directly to the north and south of Port Douglas are high quality crocodile habitat are regularly inhabited by large crocodiles. Crocodiles are regularly seen within the golf courses, and several constructed lakes in residential areas. The area is currently in Zone 3 of the Crocodile Management Plan which means only crocodiles displaying dangerous/aggressive behaviour are targeted for removal.

Douglas Shire Council has raised concerns about crocodiles in residential areas of Port Douglas while Surf Lifesaving Queensland has raised concerns about crocodiles near Four Mile beach itself. Surf Lifesaving Queensland has specifically requested that Four Mile Beach be upgraded to a zone 2 beach, which is the same zone assigned to other popular swimming beaches in Cairns and Townsville.

It recommended that EHP begin working with Douglas Shire Council, Surf Lifesaving Queensland and local businesses and residents to determine a combination of education, fencing and crocodile removal that can reduce the current level of risks in this area. Any changes to crocodile removal arrangements would be reflected in the zoning included in the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan.

“Ross and Locke” near Gordonvale, Cairns Regional Council.

This a popular swimming and recreational area along the Mulgrave River near the town of Gordonvale south of Cairns. This area is currently in Zone 3 which means crocodiles are only targeted for removal if they display aggressive or dangerous behaviour. EHP is not aware of any incidents occurring at this site.

The council has requested that this site be upgraded to a zone 2 under the Crocodile Management Plan (Zone C under the proposed structure of the Qld Crocodile Management Plan) so that all crocodiles greater than two meters will be targeted for removal as well as those showing aggressive or dangerous behaviour.

This change is recommended for Ross and Locke. This would be consistent with zone 2 status of a number of similar popular reaches of rivers across the Crocodile Management Plans. This change won't result in significantly more crocodile removal workload for EHP staff as larger crocodiles occur in this reach relatively rarely.

Other areas proposed for more intensive management that are not recommended

Green Patch near Gordonvale, Cairns Regional Council.

This is a reach of river along the Mulgrave River close to the town of Gordonvale south of Cairns. This area is currently in Zone 3 which means crocodiles are only targeted for removal if they display aggressive or dangerous behaviour.

This reach of river is regularly occupied by large crocodiles and there are a number of permanent signs advising people against swimming in this reach.

This change requested by council at Greenpatch is not supported. This area is much high quality crocodile habitat and is regularly occupied by large crocodiles. It is not considered a safe place for people to be swimming. Designating the site as a zone 2 area and removing large crocodiles would not be able to make the area any safer for swimming, as more crocodiles would continuously enter the area.

Boat ramps In Cairns Regional Council Area

Cairns Regional Council has requested that all areas around Boat Ramps in the council area be zoned as Zone 2 (or Zone C under the proposed Queensland Crocodile Management Plan). In this zone crocodiles are targeted for removal if they are bigger than 2m or are displaying aggressive or dangerous behaviours. Currently only selected higher risk boat ramps in Cairns Regional Council are Zoned as Zone 2.

Remaining boat ramps are in Zone 3, which means that crocodiles are only targeted for removal if they are displaying aggressive or dangerous behaviours. This would include crocodiles that begin regularly feeding close to boat ramps or approach boats etc. EHP is not aware of any specific incidents around boat ramps in Cairns.

The change is not recommended. Crocodile safety issues around most boat ramps can be managed effectively in Zone 3, in which any crocodile can be removed if it displays dangerous or aggressive behaviour.

Lake Placid and “Freshwater” swimming area in Northern Cairns, Cairns Regional Council

These are popular swimming locations in Northern Cairns. Lake Placid in particular is very popular for swimming and outdoor recreation with both tourists and locals. These areas are currently in the pro-active zone 2 area of the Cairns Crocodile Management Plan. This means that crocodiles are proactively removed on a regular basis, but more crocodiles are free to move in at any time. Lake Placid has had a crocodile living in the lake for some time which has evaded capture. There is a corresponding warning sign.

Cairns regional council has made a formal submission asking for EHP to explore erecting permanent barriers to exclude crocodiles from these two areas, and to upgrading the areas to Zone 1 under the Crocodile Management Plan. This would require the construction of a barrier to stop crocodiles entering the two water bodies. This would give the public confidence that the areas would be crocodile free when they go to swim there.

This change is not supported. A number of feasibility studies have already been carried out by the Cairns Regional Council into the construction of crocodile barriers for these areas. These studies were not able to identify a practical method for constructing a barrier due to various engineering and hydrological issues. A further study into this matter by EHP is not likely to identify any new solutions for constructing a barrier to crocodile entry.

Cairns Regional Council is free to conduct further investigations at any time on this matter. If a barrier can be constructed then then discussions could occur about the option managing these areas as crocodile exclusion zones.

Removal of all Crocodiles in Zone 2 Beaches

The current Crocodile Management Plans list certain popular beaches as Zone 2 which means crocodiles are targeted for removal/management if they are over 2m in size, or are displaying aggressive and dangerous behaviour.

Surf LifeSaving Queensland has requested that removal criteria for crocodiles in Zone 2 beaches be adjusted so that all crocodiles that are sighted near beaches are removed.

Crocodiles are often found swimming in open water as they move from one creek system to another looking for new feeding habitat and mating opportunities. Occasionally these crocodiles move close to beaches.

These crocodiles rarely spend much time at any one location when they are in open water or beach environments and move on quickly. As a result crocodiles of concern around beaches often move on soon after they are detected, and when they are managed it is normally by trying to force them to move away from the beach rather than through relocation.

When a crocodiles starts to persistently spend time around beaches in close proximity to humans, this is normally regarded as dangerous behaviour, regardless of the size, and those crocodiles would be regarded as crocodile of concern and targeted for removal/management under the existing zone 2 arrangements.

The criteria proposed by Surf LifeSaving Queensland are likely to create false expectations about how crocodiles can be managed in these zones, and how safe the beach can be made for swimming. If EHP was to move to an approach where all crocodiles located near beaches are targeted for removal, the majority of those crocodiles would not be removed, and would move away from the beach of their own volition before EHP staff could be deployed to manage them. The rate of removal/management of crocodiles around beach environments also does

nothing to prevent further crocodiles (of any size) from moving in close to beaches without warning. As result amending these criteria is likely to create a false sense of security for locals and tourists who might enter the water, but do very little to make people using beach any safer.

This proposed change is not recommended. The proposed creation of the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan will create more clear expectations for how crocodiles will be managed around popular beaches, and the role that EHP, Surf Lifesaving and the community can play to minimise risks.

Queensland Crocodile Management Plan

Under the Estuarine Crocodile Conservation Plan a Crocodile can be removed and relocated to a crocodile farm if it is considered a crocodile of concern.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection currently uses a range of different instruments to set out definitions and rules for when a particular crocodile may be considered a crocodile of concern.

Four Crocodile Management Plans are in force across Far North Queensland Regional Council areas (Douglas/Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Hinchinbrook and Townsville). These plans define various zones with different removal rules in each. There are also Three Crocodile Urban Management Areas (CUMA's) in Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone. Outside of these specific areas different operational rules apply to the removal of crocodiles, depending on whether the areas is regarded as being in Croc country or not. This creates a complex picture for the community as a whole to understand why some crocodiles are removed, and other aren't.

An opportunity has been identified to develop more simple and comprehensive Crocodile Management Plan for all of Queensland which would set out various criteria for when a crocodile would be considered a Crocodile of Concern and targeted for removal.

This plan would still use the zone approach used in various plans now. The proposed zones would be as follow:

Zone A – Crocodiles are physically prevented from entering this zone, and targeted for removal immediately if they do enter

This Zone would equate directly the current Zone 1 used in the Crocodile Management Plans. This zone is applied to areas where their effective barriers that make it practical to make certain urban waterways free of crocodiles.

This Zone currently only applies to the Ross River Weir in Townsville, where the weir already provides a sound physical barrier to crocodiles moving upstream during the dry season.

Zone B – All Crocodiles are proactively targeted for removal

This zone equates directly to zone 2A used in the current Crocodile Management Plans. This zone would be applied to coastal creeks and wetlands where there are frequently crocodiles in close proximity to large urban populations. This zone is applied to help reduce the total number, and particularly the number of large crocodiles living in close proximity to dense urban areas and therefore to significantly reduce the risks of attacks on humans.

This zone currently only applies to certain waterways in the urbanised areas of Cairns.

Zone C – All crocodiles above 2m in length, and crocodiles displaying aggressive/dangerous behaviour are targeted for removal

This zone equates directly to Zone 2 in the existing Crocodile Management Plans as well as to the criteria set in the Crocodile Urban Management Areas.

This zone would applied in areas that can be used are frequently by crocodiles and that are popular swimming areas, boat ramps, or relatively dense urban populations. This zone is designed to reduce the chance of a large or aggressive crocodile being close to urbanised areas, or areas where people are near the water.

This zone applies to large parts of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone as well as specific reaches of rivers near smaller towns, and around non-urban boat ramps in areas with denser crocodile populations.

Zone D– (Popular Beaches) All crocodiles above 2m in length, and crocodiles displaying aggressive/dangerous behaviour are monitored and encouraged to move away.

This zone equates directly to the Zone 2 beach areas in the existing Crocodile Management Plans.

This zone would be applied to popular surf beaches in areas where crocodiles are relatively common.

Crocodiles rarely remain near beaches for long, and are very difficult to catch in this environment. The description of this zone would emphasise that crocodiles regularly migrate through open waters, and normally move on quickly from any particular location.

The response to a confirmed sighting of a crocodile 2m or greater or any crocodile displaying aggressive behaviour will be to encourage the crocodile (where possible) to move outside the zone and monitor its activity.

Zone E – Crocodiles displaying aggressive/dangerous behaviour are targeted for removal

This zone is directly equivalent the arrangements in place for zone 3 in the current crocodile management plans, as well as the arrangements across the majority of Croc country.

This zone would continue to be applied to the balance of Croc country that is not part of Zone A through D.

Zone F – All crocodiles detected south of the Boyne River are targeted for removal.

This zone is directly equivalent to the arrangements already in place, whereby EHP attempts to remove all crocodiles south of the Boyne River after a confirmed siting.

Crocodiles do not occur regularly south of the Boyne River, and as a result the community frequently use beaches and waterways without considering the possibility of crocodiles being present. For this reason Crocodiles pose a specific threat when they are present South of the Boyne River.

Other Measures Identified As a Result of Consultation

Improved Information Sharing

Several stakeholders including Local Councils and Surf Lifesaving Queensland raised concerns about communication and information sharing with EHP. These groups all requested that systems and processes be improved to provide for quicker and more complete sharing of information held by EHP about crocodile sightings. There is a perception expressed that these organisations are not made aware of crocodile sightings and how they are being responded to in a timely manner.

As a result EHP will work closely with Local Councils and Surf Life Saving Queensland to develop protocols and tools to ensure that local organisations have the information they need to work cooperatively to manage crocodiles in their areas. This will include enhancing the way that information is provided on the EHP website and creating systems for automatic alerts for certain key information. These new systems and protocols would be described in the proposed Queensland Crocodile Conservation Plan to ensure that they are well understood.

Crocodile Consultation Committee

EHP local staff, and head office staff are in regular contact with local councils in throughout areas where crocodiles live. There was a proposal to establish a regular consultation group between local EHP staff and local groups in Far North Queensland, including councils and surf lifesaving.

This proposal is not supported. EHP does not believe that a formal consultative group would offer any benefits for communication and cooperation between EHP and councils above the direct regular contact which already occurs.

Enhancing “Crocwise” education programs and signage.

EHP’s response to crocodile safety has long focused on the usage of signage as well as education programs. These programs are designed to ensure that people living, or visiting areas with crocodile habitat are aware of risks associated with crocodiles, and the steps they can take to reduce those risks.

EHP has already commenced a process to review and refresh its signage and education programs to provide more targeted and relevant messages through a range of media types including signage, written material, social media, email and SMS alerts.

The process will also include close cooperation with Local Councils and Surf Lifesaving Queensland and tourism operators to ensure that messages are consistent, and meeting the needs of each community.

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: Results of consultation on Crocodile Management Arrangements In Queensland

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Minister's Signature:  Comments:	Date: 13.10.16
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Action Required by: There is no specific timeframe required

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended the Minister:
 - Note** the results of consultation on crocodile management summarised in the consultation report (Attachment 1);
 - Note** the options and recommendations for changes to crocodile management arrangements arising from the consultation (Attachment 2);
 - sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

ISSUES

- The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) has conducted stakeholder consultation and a survey of the general community with regard to community views on crocodile management in Far North Queensland.
- The consultation results indicate there is not strong support amongst the community to revert to the crocodile removal arrangements in place under the previous Labor government.
- There is strong support for the current arrangements in place under the Crocodile Management Plans, with some minor variations to zone boundaries and improvements in the way information about crocodile management is communicated to the public and key stakeholders.
- The consultation results also indicate that there is a significant opportunity to improve communication and education programs, particularly signage.
- sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

BACKGROUND

- The Government has committed to establishing a long term crocodile monitoring program to allow the management of crocodiles to be based on sound science. It is expected this monitoring program will take three to five years to produce useful results.
- sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

CONSULTATION

- Detail provided in the attached consultation report (Attachment 1).

COMMUNICATION

- sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

Rec'd - ODG

16 SEP 2016

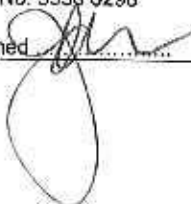
ATTACHMENT/S

Attachment 1.

Attachment 1 – Consultation report

Attachment 2.

Attachment 2 – Options and Recommendations for Crocodile Management Arrangements

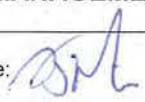
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Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: QUEENSLAND CROCODILE MANAGEMENT PLAN

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Minister's Signature:  Date: 22 / 2 / 17 Comments:
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Action Required by: sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended the Minister:
 - approve** the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) and associated maps (Attachments 1 and 2).
 - note** that while the QCMP retains key components of the existing crocodile management framework, a number of changes have been made, as summarised (Attachment 3).
 - note** that, pending your approval, the QCMP will be published on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website and relevant local governments will be notified.

ISSUES

- The purpose of the QCMP is to outline:
 - a consistent approach to crocodile management across Queensland
 - the risks posed by crocodiles in Queensland in each of the crocodile management zones
 - how the Queensland Government responds to and manages crocodiles in each crocodile management zone
 - the knowledge and behaviours that can help minimise risks of crocodile attacks in each crocodile management zone.
- It is proposed that all zone names provide an explicit, 'plain English' description of the purpose of the zone and its proposed management approach, e.g. the current Zone 1 is proposed to be renamed Barrier and Removal Zone (Zone A).
- Following consultation with Cairns Regional Council, the Ross and Locke Reserve is proposed to be rezoned as a Targeted Management Zone (Zone C), so that in addition to removing any dangerous crocodiles, large crocodiles (>2m in length) would now also be targeted for removal.
- The plan also includes an extension of the Targeted Management Zone near the Tully Gorge Bridge as requested by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.
- No other changes to the geographic extent of existing zones are proposed although a number of other refinements to operational guidelines have been made to improve the clarity of management intent.

BACKGROUND

- sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

RISKS

- Although the urban area of Cairns is the subject of the greatest focus on crocodile removal in Queensland, Cairns Regional Council has expressed, and may further express, some disappointment that the Queensland government is not proposing to provide more intensive crocodile management.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The changes included in the QCMP are not expected to create additional costs for the Queensland government.

CONSULTATION

- Initial stakeholder consultation was conducted by the department between May and July 2016. This included face-to-face consultation with relevant stakeholders and an online public survey (see CTS 22029/16).
- During development of the QCMP, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection further consulted with Cairns Regional Council, Douglas Shire Council and Cassowary Coast Regional Council about management in specific areas.

COMMUNICATION

- A draft media release announcing the release of the QCMP has been prepared.
- Relevant local governments will be advised of the release of the QCMP.

ATTACHMENT/S

Attachment 1. Queensland Crocodile Management Plan
Attachment 2. Crocodile management zone maps
Attachment 3. Summary of changes between current approach and new approach under QCMP

Author Name: David Compton Position: Program Coordinator Tel No: 3330 5501 Date Drafted: 2 February 2016	Branch Endorsement Name: Nick Weinert Position: ED, Conservation & Sustainability Policy Tel No: 3330 5818 Date Endorsed: 10 February 2017	Division Endorsement Name: Maria Mohr Position: DDG, Conservation & Sustainability Services Tel No: 3330 5017 Date Endorsed: 13 February 2017	Director-General Endorsement Name: Jim Reeves, DG, EHP Tel No: 3330 6298 Signed  Date 4/2/17
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Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: QUEENSLAND CROCODILE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- ☐ Approved
☐ Not Approved
☐ Noted
☐ Further information required (see comments)

Minister's Signature:

Date/...../.....

Comments:

Action Required by: 24 February 2016, to meet the timeframes approved under sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended the Minister:
 - **approve** the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) and associated maps (Attachments 1 and 2).
 - **note** that while the QCMP retains key components of the existing crocodile management framework, a number of changes have been made, as summarised (Attachment 3).
 - **note** that, pending your approval, the QCMP will be published on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website and relevant local governments will be notified.

ISSUES

2. The purpose of the QCMP is to outline:
 - a. a consistent approach to crocodile management across Queensland
 - b. the risks posed by crocodiles in Queensland in each of the crocodile management zones
 - c. how the Queensland Government responds to and manages crocodiles in each crocodile management zone
 - d. the knowledge and behaviours that can help minimise risks of crocodile attacks in each crocodile management zone.
3. It is proposed that all zone names provide an explicit, 'plain English' description of the purpose of the zone and its proposed management approach, e.g. the current Zone 1 is proposed to be renamed Barrier and Removal Zone (Zone A).
4. Following consultation with Cairns Regional Council, the Ross and Locke Reserve is proposed to be rezoned as a Targeted Management Zone (Zone C), so that in addition to removing any dangerous crocodiles, large crocodiles (>2m in length) would now also be targeted for removal.
5. The plan also includes an extension of the Targeted Management Zone near the Tully Gorge Bridge as requested by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.
6. No other changes to the geographic extent of existing zones are proposed although a number of other refinements to operational guidelines have been made to improve the clarity of management intent.

BACKGROUND

7. sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

RISKS

8. Although the urban area of Cairns is the subject of the greatest focus on crocodile removal in Queensland, Cairns Regional Council has expressed, and may further express, some disappointment that the Queensland government is not proposing to provide more intensive crocodile management.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The changes included in the QCMP are not expected to create additional costs for the Queensland government.

CONSULTATION

10. Initial stakeholder consultation was conducted by the department between May and July 2016. This included face-to-face consultation with relevant stakeholders and an online public survey (see CTS 22029/16).
11. During development of the QCMP, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection further consulted with Cairns Regional Council, Douglas Shire Council and Cassowary Coast Regional Council about management in specific areas.

COMMUNICATION

12. A draft media release announcing the release of the QCMP has been prepared.
13. Relevant local governments will be advised of the release of the QCMP.

ATTACHMENT/S

Attachment 1. Queensland Crocodile Management Plan
Attachment 2. Crocodile management zone maps
Attachment 3. Summary of changes between current approach and new approach under QCMP

Author	Branch Endorsement	Division Endorsement	Director-General Endorsement
Name: David Compton Position: Program Coordinator Tel No: 3330 5501 Date Drafted: 2 February 2016	Name: Nick Weinert Position: ED, Conservation & Sustainability Policy Tel No: 3330 5818 Date Endorsed: 10 February 2017	Name: Maria Mohr Position: DDG, Conservation & Sustainability Services Tel No: 3330 5017 Date Endorsed: 13 February 2017	Name: Jim Reeves, DG, EHP Tel No: 3330 6298 Signed Date/...../....

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Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: Updates to the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Minister's Signature: _____ Date/...../..... Comments: _____
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Action Required by: The Minister made commitments to Local Councils to complete changes to the QCMP during June 2017

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended the Minister:
 - approve** the amended Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) and zoning maps for Douglas and Mareeba Shire (Attachment 1 & 2)
 - sign** the attached letters to Douglas and Mareeba Shire Council.... (Attachment 3 & 4)).
 - note** the proposed communication strategy for these changes (Attachment 5)
 - note** that ancillary changes have been made to the QCMP information sheet (Attachment 6) and some cosmetic changes have been made to the other zoning maps to enhance readability, but not to amend any zone boundaries, (Attachment 7).

ISSUES

- In Late March and early April 2017 three local councils (Cassowary Coast Regional Council and Mareeba and Douglas Shire Councils) raised concerns that the QCMP did not adequately address issues in their areas.
- The Minister met with all three councils on 26 April 2017 to discuss the QCMP. At the meeting the Minister made a commitment to amend the QCMP, and its zoning map in response to the concerns raised.
- In response to some of the concerns raised by Cassowary Coast Regional Council a new appendix has been included in the QCMP that details the process, and terminology applied for reported crocodiles that do, or do not become declared as problem crocodiles.
- In response to the concerns raised by the Mareeba Shire Council a new atypical habitat zone (Zone F) has been applied over an area of Two Mile Creek near Mareeba.
- Following consultation with Douglas Shire Council a number of changes are proposed as follows:
 - Changing the name of the monitoring and education zone (Zone E) to general management zone.
 - Changing the name of the transitory zone (Zone D) to the targeted beach management zone.
 - Amending the management in the targeted beach management zone to align it more closely to the management intent and removal criteria applied in the targeted management zone.
 - Creating a new zoning map to apply the targeted management zone and targeted beach management zone to a number of key sites across Douglas Shire. (see attachment 8 for further details)
- Not all the zoning changes originally requested by Douglas Shire Council have been made.

BACKGROUND

- The QCMP was introduced on 17 March 2017.
- The plan applies a standardised state-wide approach which replaces a number of disparate plans and policies that had existed across the state previously.

RISKS

- Crocodile management is currently a high profile topic in Douglas Shire Council, and views of the local community, and the Shire Council, are diverse. However the changes proposed in Douglas Shire have been negotiated with the local council, and are consistent with the management approaches applied in similar areas of Far North Queensland.

CONSULTATION

- A letter (CTS 08969/17) has already been sent to Cassowary Coast Regional Council confirming that changes would be made the QCMP to detail crocodile reporting processes.
- Consultation has occurred with Mareeba and Douglas Shire Councils to ensure that the QCMP changes meet their needs. The changes made fully meet the expectations of Mareeba Shire Council. See Attachment 8 for more specific details for outcomes of consultation with Douglas Shire Council.

COMMUNICATION

- See communication strategy set out in Attachment 5.

Author Name: [Insert name] Position: [Insert position] Tel No: [Insert telephone no] Date Drafted: [Insert date]	Branch Endorsement Name: [Insert name] Position: [Insert position] Tel No: [Insert telephone no] Date Endorsed: [Insert date]	Division Endorsement Name: [Insert name] Position: [Insert position] Tel No: [Insert telephone no] Date Endorsed: [Insert date]	Director-General Endorsement Name: Jim Reeves, DG, EHP Tel No: 3330 6298 Signed Date/...../....
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RTI Act 2009



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS 12149/17

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

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

Dear Councillor Leu

Thank you for your letter of 28 March 2017 concerning crocodile management in Douglas Shire Council area.

Following our meeting of 26 April, and as outlined in my letter to you of 9 May 2017, officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been reviewing your requests to amend zoning under Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP). I have been informed that departmental officers met with you, and several other councillors on 17 May to further discuss these issues.

As a result of these meetings I will soon approve changes to some terminology in the QCMP to better reflect the management approach in each zone.

The name of the monitoring and education zone (Zone E) will be changed to general management zone to reassure the public that all crocodiles displaying dangerous behaviour will be targeted for removal from these zones. Also, I have requested that the current transitory zone (Zone D) is renamed as targeted beach management zone, and that changes be made to the management intent in that zone to align to management intent in the targeted management zone (Zone C), that is, that all crocodiles over 2 metres in length and crocodiles displaying dangerous behaviour are targeted for removal.

It still important to note that it is extremely difficult to catch and remove crocodiles in open water as they are just usually swimming past and as such I do not want to raise unrealistic expectations that this will always occur.

With respect to your requests to modify the zoning maps of the QCMP I can confirm that I will soon approve new zoning maps that include the following changes:

- Three reaches of freshwater creek (on the Mossman River upstream from the Foxton Bridge, Parker Creek upstream from the Shannonvale Causeway, and Spring Creek upstream from the Spring Creek Crossing) will be rezoned from General Management Zone (Zone E) to Targeted Management Zone (Zone C) as per the indicative map discussed at the 17 May meeting.
- The area around the Rankin Street Boat Ramp at the mouth of the Mossman River will be rezoned from General Management Zone (Zone E) to Targeted Management Zone (Zone C). Other informal boat ramps across Douglas Shire will remain as Zone E.

- The small water body known as Ferndale Lake at Port Douglas will be rezoned from General Management Zone (Zone E) to Targeted Management Zone (Zone C).
- Four Mile Beach at Port Douglas will be rezoned from General Management (Zone E) to Targeted Beach Management Zone (Zone D). This will include the waters up to 200m off the beach. As noted above given the difficulty in catching crocodiles in open water it is most likely that wildlife officers will attempt to trap crocodiles in Dickson inlet when it is found that a crocodile moving into the Zone D area at Four Mile Beach is resident in the inlet.

In your letter of 28 March you set out that council would like to see a rezoning of Cooya, Newell, Oak, and Wonga beaches, as well as the Boat Ramp at Rocky Point and a number of informal beach areas used for boat access north of Port Douglas.

I am very committed to working with the Council to employ a range of strategies so that residents and tourists can continue to enjoy these beaches and waterway areas. However at this point in time I am not confident that increasing the level of crocodile removal in these areas is the best option to achieve that.

Instead I would like to work with the council to reduce the risk to public safety by:

- Implementing a number of education programs as part of Crocwise to ensure people stay safe at these beaches.
- Encouraging residents and tourists to report crocodile sightings in a timely fashion so that officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection can respond to crocodiles that are sighted and remove crocodiles displaying dangerous behaviour.
- Providing the necessary training to indigenous land and sea rangers so that they can assist the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection by collecting information on the presence and behaviour of reported crocodiles.

I am supportive of continuing to reassess whether these areas could be made safer by implementing a Targeted Beach Management Zone similar to that proposed at Four Mile Beach, especially in concert with the measures described above.

I have also been informed that a number of other important topics were discussed at the meeting. I can confirm that a survey of the Daintree River occurred during May 2017 as part of the Government's state-wide crocodile population survey program. While the three key sections of freshwater creeks in Douglas Shire (proposed for rezoning) won't be surveyed as part of the state-wide survey program, the Department of Environment and Heritage could carry out some patrols to help determine if the areas might be used by crocodiles.

I believe you were also informed at the meeting that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is currently in discussions with Jabalbina Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers about crocodile management. These discussions are focused on training local rangers to be able to carry out important crocodile management tasks in Douglas Shire, particularly to assist the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection by collecting information about the presence, and behaviour of crocodiles reported by the public.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you, your fellow councillors, or your staff have further enquiries, please ask them to contact Ms Danielle Cohen, Chief of Staff in my office on (07) 3719 7330.

Yours sincerely

DR STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Att/Enc [remove if not applicable]

Departmental Endorsement CTS 12149/17

The information contained in this reply is endorsed by EHP - CSS CBS
as at [insert date endorsed by DDG].

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RTI Act 2009



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS [CTS No]

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Tom Gilmore
Mayor, Mareeba Shire Council
65 Rankin St
Mareeba QLD 4880

Dear Mayor Gilmore

At our recent meeting of 26 April I committed to amend the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan to apply the atypical zone (Zone F) to an area around Two Mile Creek with Mareeba Shire.

I understand that you were provided with a draft map of the proposed Zone F area by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, and this map met your expectations of the area that should be covered by this new zone.

I wish to inform you that I will soon approve an updated Queensland Crocodile Management Plan, which includes a new zoning map which applies the atypical zone to this area. I have included a copy of the new map, which is also available at http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/crocodiles/crocodile_plan.html

In accordance with the management intent set out in the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan all crocodiles located in this area will be targeted for removal, as the area is not considered to be typical crocodile habitat.

Nearby parts of Mareeba Shire that are in the Barron River catchment have not been included in this new zone F area. However I wish to assure you, and the Mareeba Shire Council residents that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection would take any sighting of a crocodile in those areas very seriously, and would respond to ensure public safety.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should your staff have further enquiries, please ask them to contact Ms Danielle Cohen, Chief of Staff in my office on (07) 3719 7330.

Yours sincerely

DR STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Att/Enc [remove if not applicable]

Departmental Endorsement CTS [CTS No]

The information contained in this reply is endorsed by [Bus Area]
as at [insert date endorsed by DDG].

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Communication strategy for release of updated Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP)

Communication with Mareeba and Douglas Shire Councils prior to the release

- Letters have been prepared for the Minister to write to both Douglas and Mareeba Shire Councils outlining the specific changes that will be made to the QCMP in those council areas.
- These are attached the Ministerial Briefing Note (attachment 3 & 4).
- These letters have been drafted to be sent ahead of the release of the new QCMP.
- These letters have all be proceeded by discussions between the officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Mayors of each Shire Council.
- The Minister has already written to the CEO of Cassowary Coast Regional Council outlining the changes that would be made to the QCMP in response to concerns raised by that council.

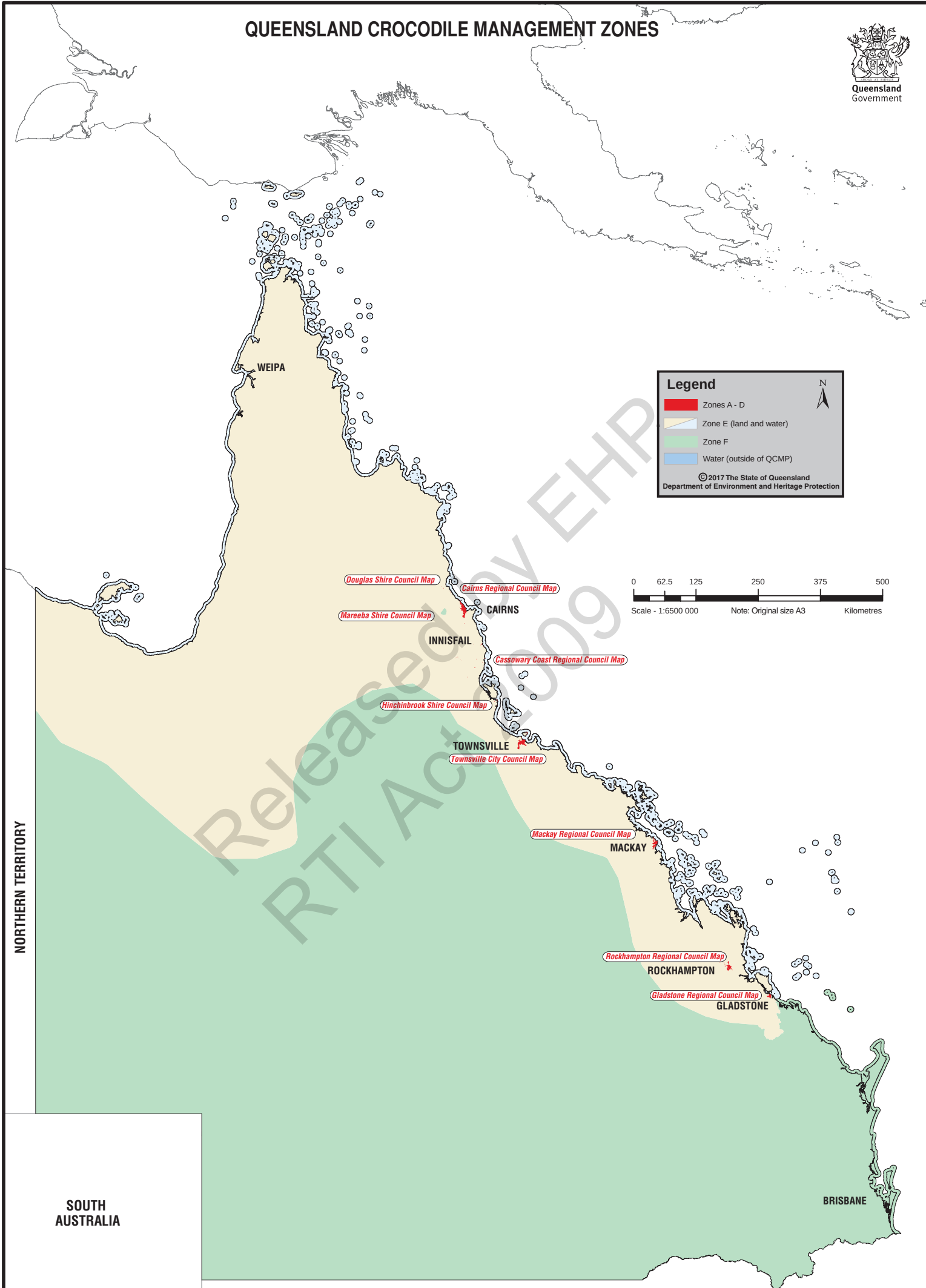
Public announcement of the release of the new plan

- The changes made to the QCMP are in response to specific local issues raised by each of the three councils.
- It is proposed to release separate Ministerial Media Statements, issued jointly with each of the Mayors of Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Mareeba Shire Council, and Douglas Shire Council
- Each media release will highlight:
 - The consultation that has occurred with the council over the recent months
 - The specific changes made to the QCMP to support improved safety in that council area
 - The changes respond to the specific issues raised by each council
 - Any other actions that are being carried out in relation to crocodile management in those areas
 - The general benefits of the new QCMP framework for improving public safety, and the ability for the QCMP to continue to evolve to respond to the needs of individual communities.

Follow up contact with Councils.

- Officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will maintain contact with all three councils as part of their normal work
- New arrangements are also being established to increase engagement on crocodiles between the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC).
- This new level of engagement will help to ensure that the changes to the QCMP are communicated to the three relevant councils.

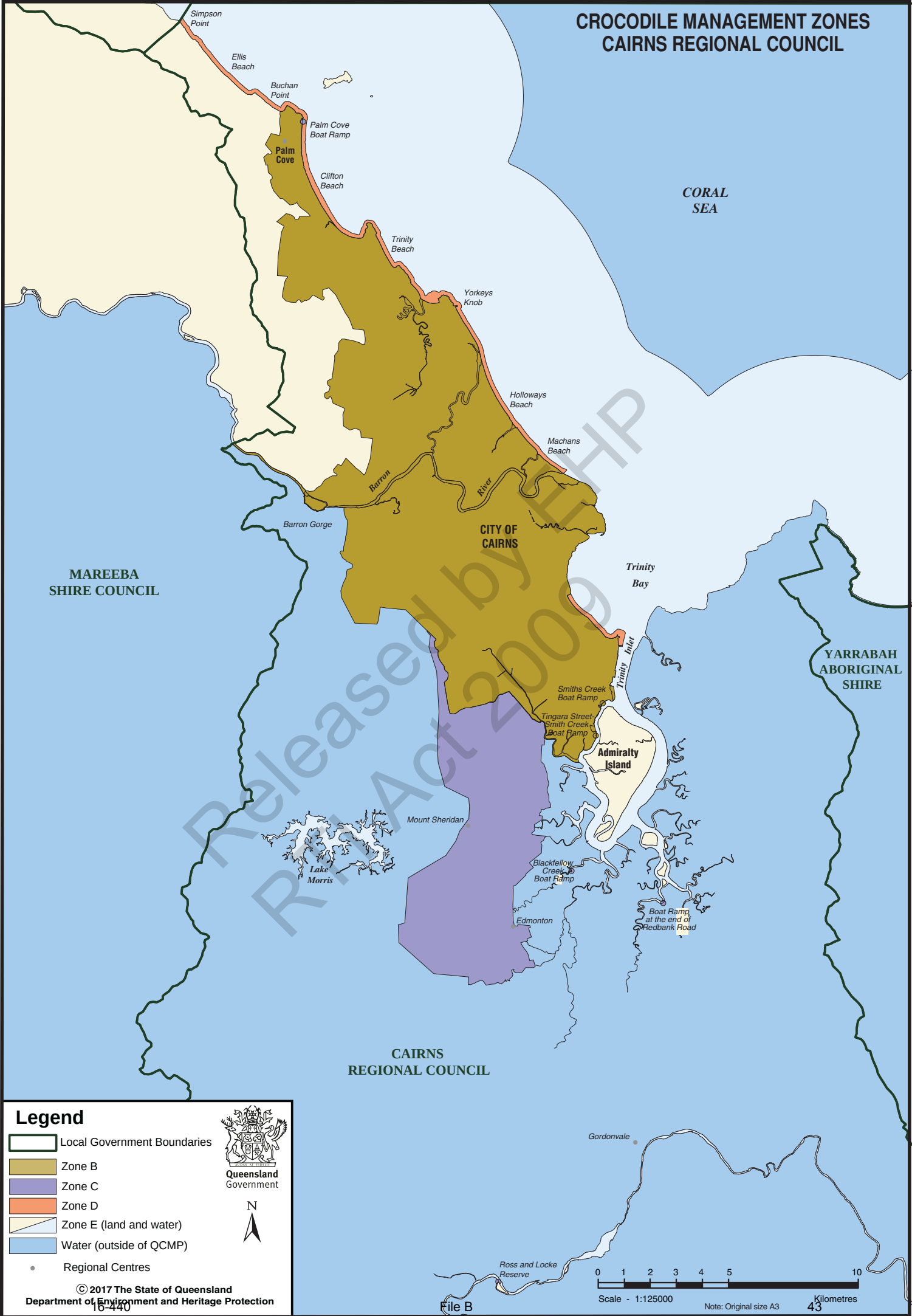
QUEENSLAND CROCODILE MANAGEMENT ZONES



NORTHERN TERRITORY

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA

CROCODILE MANAGEMENT ZONES
CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

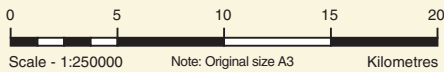


 Local Government Boundaries
 Zone C
 Zone D
 Zone E (land and water)
 Water (outside of QCMP)



**Queensland
Government**

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Department of Environment and Heritage Protection



CROCODILE MANAGEMENT ZONES
CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

CORAL SEA

Poly Creek
 Warriker Creek
 Johnstone River
 North Johnstone
 South Johnstone
 Paronella Park
 Liverpool
 Japoonvale
 Nyleta (upstream of park boundary)
 Whing Creek (access)
 Lacey Creek
 Alligators Nest
 Banyan Creek
 Tully
 North Hull River (upstream of Tully - Mission Road)
 Kurrimine Beach
 North Mission Beach
 South Mission Beach
 Dunk Island
 Goold Island
 Hinchinbrook Island
 Cardwell
 Five Mile Swimming Hole
 Murray Upper

Note: Inset not to scale

GORGE
 ROAD
 ROAD

File B

44

INSET

Note: Inset not to scale

**CASSOWARY COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

TABLELANDS
REGIONAL COUNCIL

16-440

Lake
mhoombho

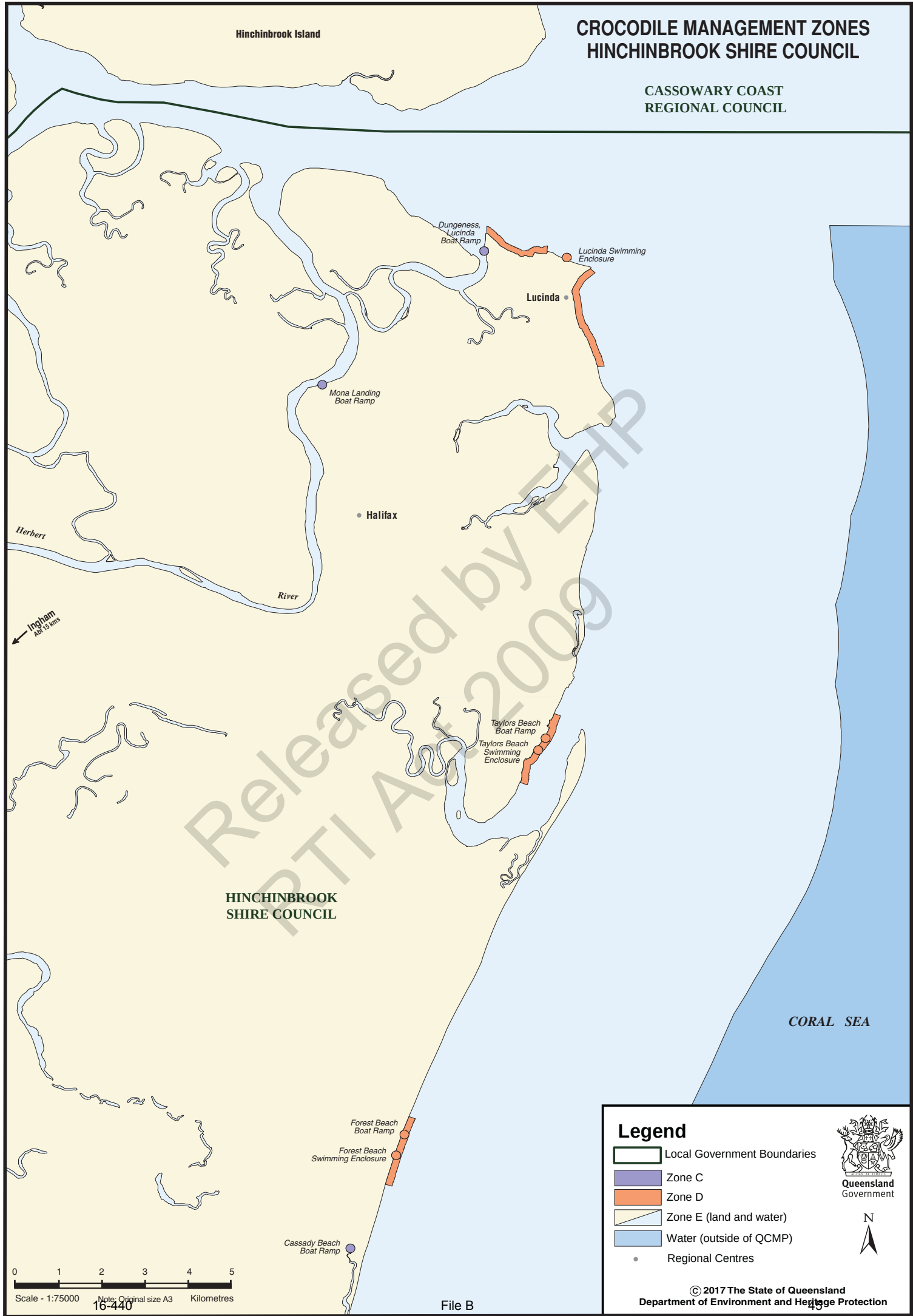
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Cardwell

Five Mile

Hinchinbrook Island

44



CROCODILE MANAGEMENT ZONES TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Legend

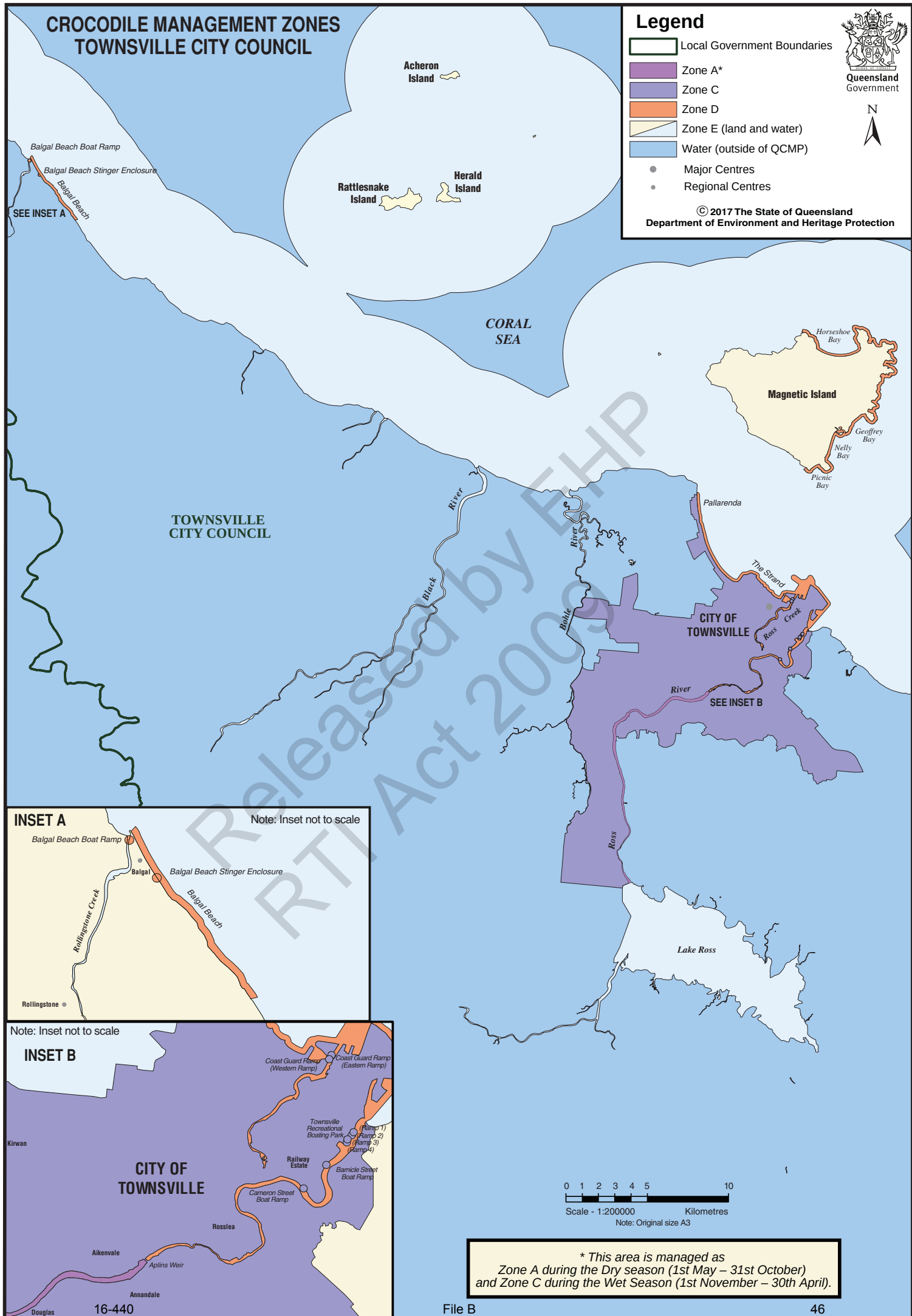
-  Local Government Boundaries
-  Zone A*
-  Zone C
-  Zone D
-  Zone E (land and water)
-  Water (outside of QCMP)
-  Major Centres
-  Regional Centres



Queensland
Government



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CROCODILE MANAGEMENT ZONES MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legend

- Zone C
- Zone E (land and water)
- Water (outside of QCMP)
- Major Centres

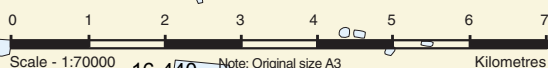


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**MACKAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**CITY OF
MACKAY**

**Flat Top
Island**



16-440

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CROCODILE MANAGEMENT ZONES ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL and LIVINGSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legend

-  Local Government Boundaries
-  Zone C
-  Zone E (land and water)



Queensland
Government



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**LIVINGSTONE
SHIRE COUNCIL**

**ROCKHAMPTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**CITY OF
ROCKHAMPTON**

Alligator Creek
Boat Ramp

Deep
Creek

Kacich
River

River

Ferry
River

River

Lower Gracemere Lagoon

Crescent Lagoon
(Goval Goval)

Murray
Lagoon

Yeppen Yeppen
Lagoon

Padgole Lagoon
(Gracemere)

0 1 2 3 4 5 10
Scale - 1:180000 Kilometres

Note: Original size A3

File B

48

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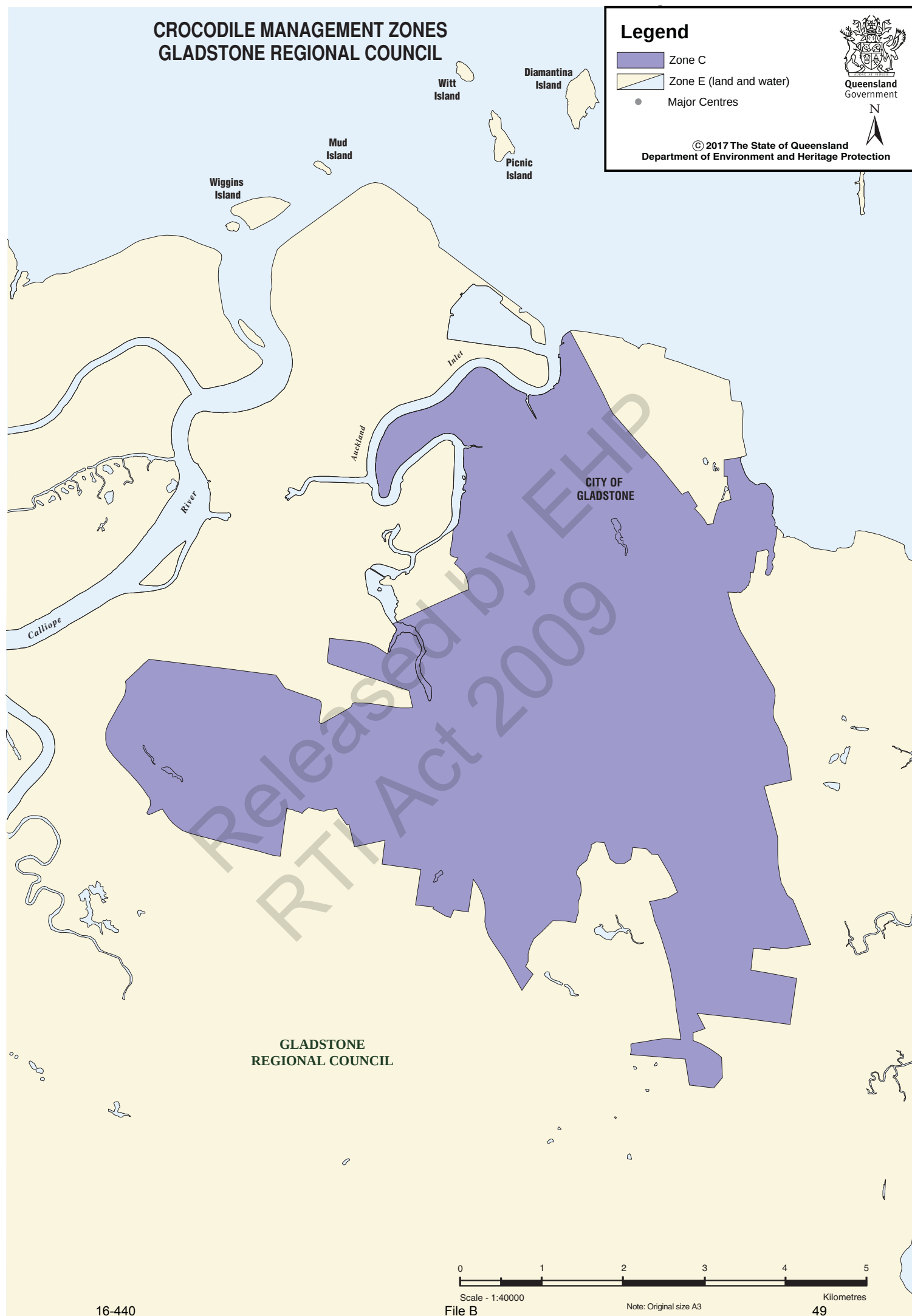
CROCODILE MANAGEMENT ZONES GLADSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legend

- Zone C
- Zone E (land and water)
- Major Centres



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Department of Environment and Heritage Protection



Scale - 1:40000

Note: Original size A3

Kilometres

Attachment 6: Proposed Queensland Crocodile Management Plan

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection currently uses a range of different instruments to set out definitions and rules for when a particular crocodile may be considered a crocodile of concern.

Four Crocodile Management Plans (CMPs) cover the far north Queensland local government areas of Douglas/Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Hinchinbrook and Townsville. These plans define various zones with different removal rules in each. There are also three Crocodile Urban Management Areas (CUMAs) in Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone. Outside of these specific areas different operational rules apply to the removal of crocodiles, depending on whether the area is regarded as being in crocodile country or not. This creates a confusing system of two different types of plans in seven local government areas making it difficult for the community to understand why some crocodiles are removed and others are not.

To overcome this complexity, it is proposed that a new Crocodile Management Plan for all of Queensland be developed. The new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan will set out various criteria for when a crocodile would be considered a 'crocodile of concern' and targeted for removal. The new plan will still use a zoned approach similar to that currently used. It will also provide a more comprehensive explanation of management responses to different levels of risk from crocodiles in different zones across the state, and how both crocodile removal and community safety behaviours contribute to avoiding attacks in each zone.

The proposed zones would be as follows.

Zone A – Crocodiles are physically prevented from entering this zone, and targeted for immediate removal if they do enter

- Zone A would apply in areas where there are effective barriers that make it practical to make certain urban waterways free of crocodiles.
- This would equate directly to the current Zone 1 used in the CMPs and currently only applies to the Ross River Weir in Townsville, where the weir already provides a sound physical barrier to crocodiles moving upstream during the dry season.

Zone B – All Crocodiles are proactively targeted for removal

- Zone B would apply in coastal creeks and wetlands where crocodiles are frequently in close proximity to large urban populations. This zone equates directly to Zone 2A used in the current CMPs and currently only applies to certain waterways in the urbanised areas of Cairns.
- The purpose of this zone is to help reduce the total number of crocodiles, particularly large crocodiles, living in close proximity to dense urban areas. Although the aim is to significantly reduce the risk of attack on humans it is not designed (nor is it possible) to make these areas free of crocodiles.

Zone C – All crocodiles above two metres in length, and crocodiles displaying aggressive/dangerous behaviour are targeted for removal

- Zone C would apply in areas that are used frequently by crocodiles and that are also popular swimming areas, boat ramps or urban populations. This zone is designed to reduce the chance of a large or aggressive crocodile being close to urbanised areas, or areas where people are near the water. Removal of crocodiles from this zone does not eliminate the chance of attacks from crocodiles.
- Zone C equates directly to Zone 2 in the existing CMPs, as well as to the criteria for problem crocodile management for the CUMAs.
- This zone would apply to large parts of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone as well as specific reaches of rivers near smaller towns, and around non-urban boat ramps in areas with dense crocodile populations.

Zone D – (Popular Beaches) All crocodiles above two metres in length, and crocodiles displaying aggressive/dangerous behaviour are monitored and encouraged to move away

- Zone D would apply to popular surf beaches in areas where crocodiles are relatively common. This zone equates directly to the Zone 2 beach areas in the existing CMPs.
- Crocodiles rarely remain near beaches for long, and are very difficult to catch in this environment. The description of this zone would emphasise that crocodiles regularly migrate through open waters, and normally move on quickly from any particular location.
- The response to a confirmed sighting of a crocodile two metres or greater or any crocodile displaying aggressive behaviour, will be to encourage the crocodile (where possible) to move outside the zone and monitor its activity.
- This zone cannot ensure that a particular beach, or adjacent open waters remains safe for swimming but management actions are likely to reduce the risks of attacks from individual crocodiles.

Zone E – Crocodiles displaying aggressive/dangerous behaviour are targeted for removal

- Zone E would apply to the balance of crocodile habitat that is not part of Zone A through to Zone D. This zone is directly equivalent the arrangements in place for Zone 3 in the current CMPs, as well as the arrangements across the majority of non-urban crocodile habitat, in particular in small communities in Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- In these areas the response to crocodile sightings is to work with local communities, using a combination of monitoring, education, and where necessary the removal of aggressive and dangerous crocodiles to minimise risks to public safety. In some remote communities permits are issued to allow local authorities to manage specific crocodiles where that is practical.

Zone F – All crocodiles south of the Boyne River are targeted for removal

- Zone F would apply with all crocodiles south of the Boyne River removed after a confirmed siting. Crocodiles do not occur regularly south of the Boyne River, and as a result the community frequently use beaches and waterways without considering the possibility of crocodiles being present. For this reason, crocodiles pose a specific threat when they are present south of the Boyne River.
- Recent cases of crocodiles in this zone indicate that removal can take some time, and during this period local education and community engagement is used to minimise the risks to public safety.

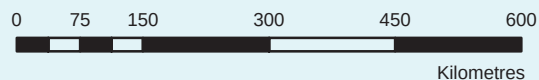
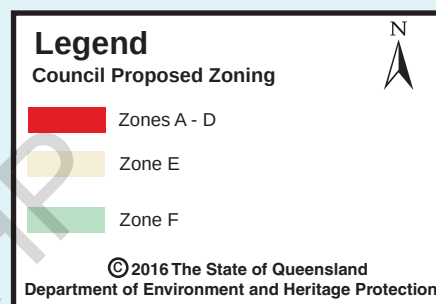
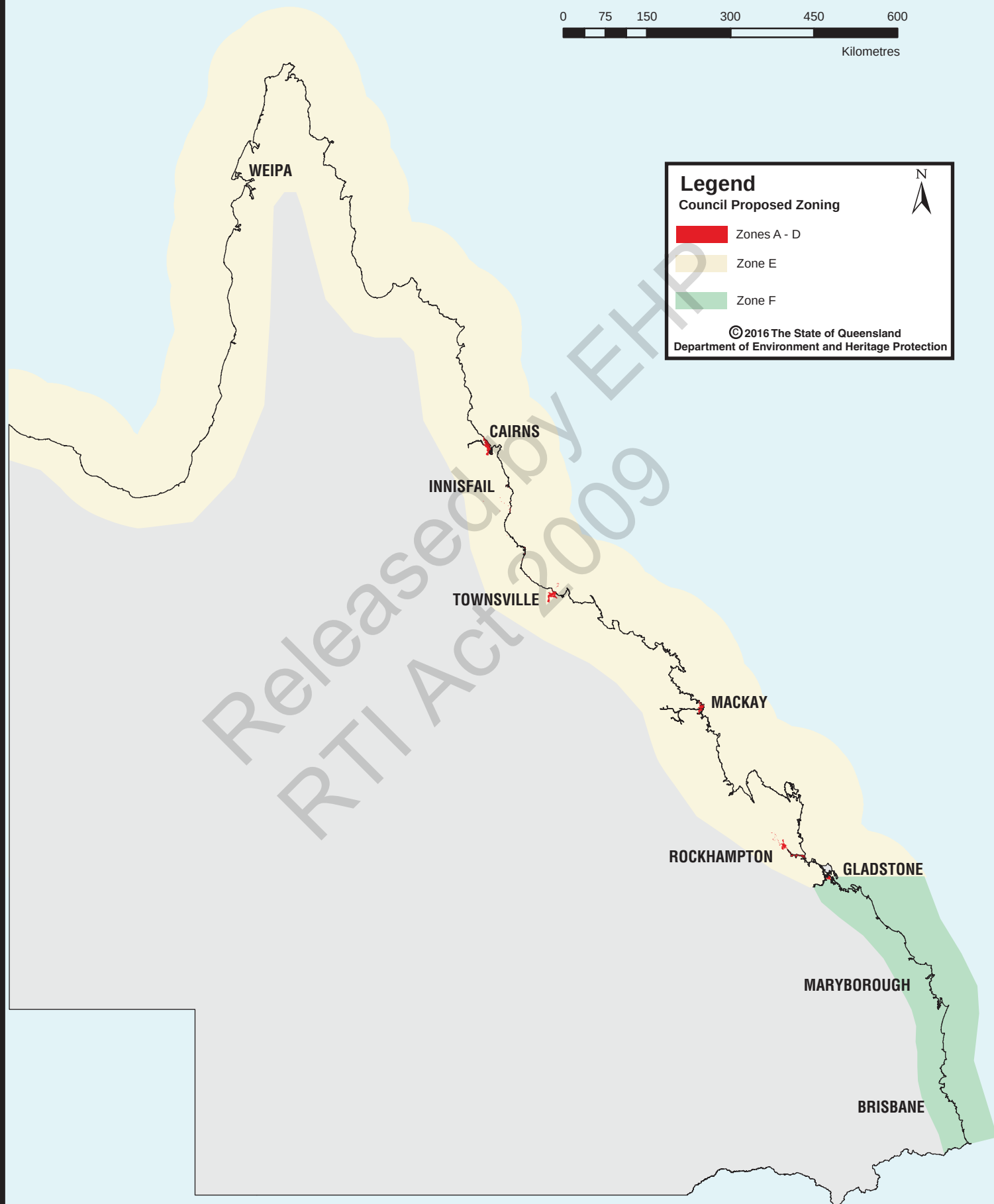
Management Area Boundaries

The maps shown below are indicative of proposed crocodile management areas named under the alphabetic zone system. The zone boundaries presented in these maps are based directly on the existing CMPs and CUMAs. These maps will be refined for inclusion in the new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan.

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OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED CROCODILE MANAGEMENT AREAS

(see detailed sheets for selected councils)





PROPOSED CROCODILE MANAGEMENT AREAS TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

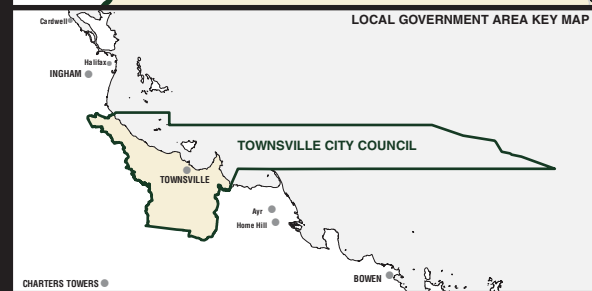
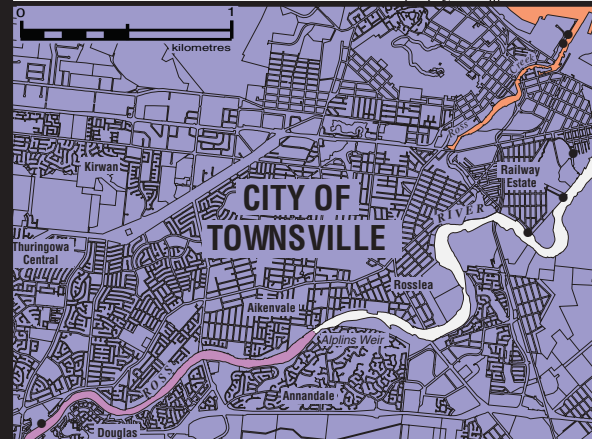
Legend

Council Proposed Zoning

- Local Government Boundaries
- Zone A
- Zone C
- Zone D
- Zone E
- Boat Ramps (50m Exclusion Zone)
- Drainage Network
- Major Centres
- Regional Centres

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Legend

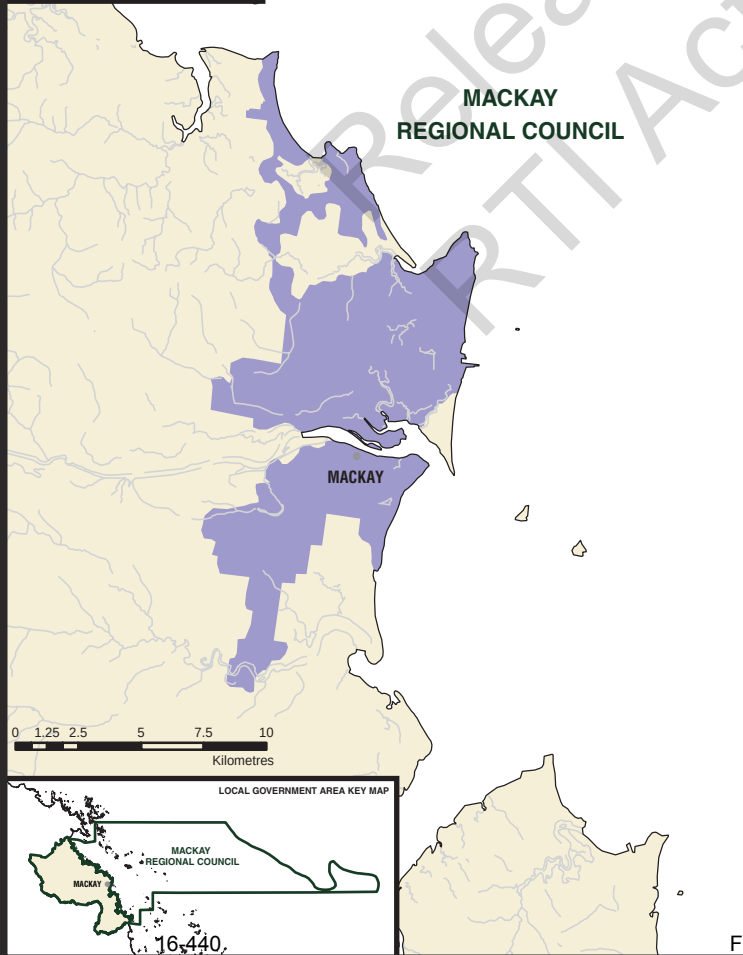
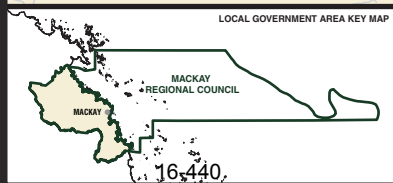
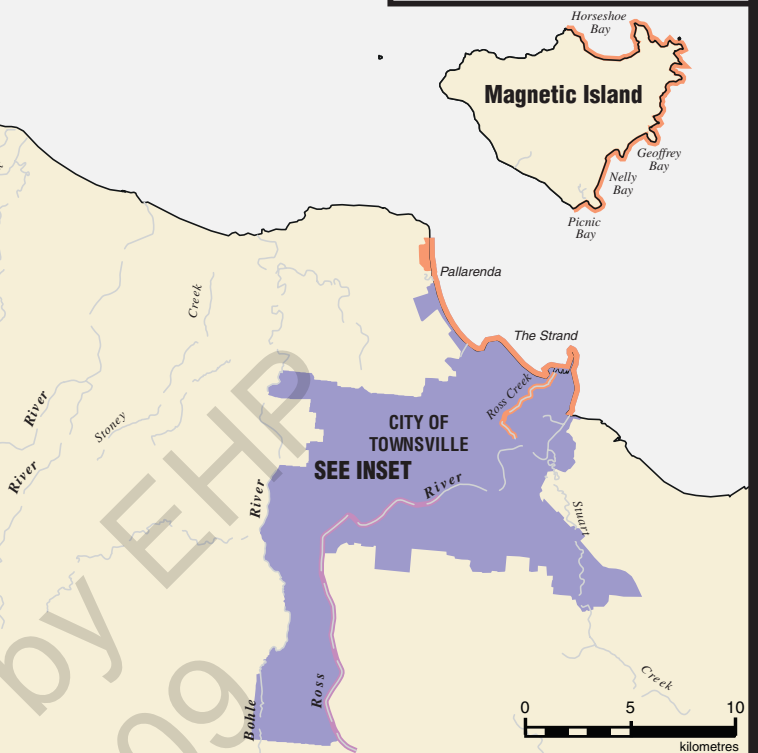
Council Proposed Zoning

- Local Government Boundaries
- Zone C
- Zone E
- Drainage
- Regional Centres

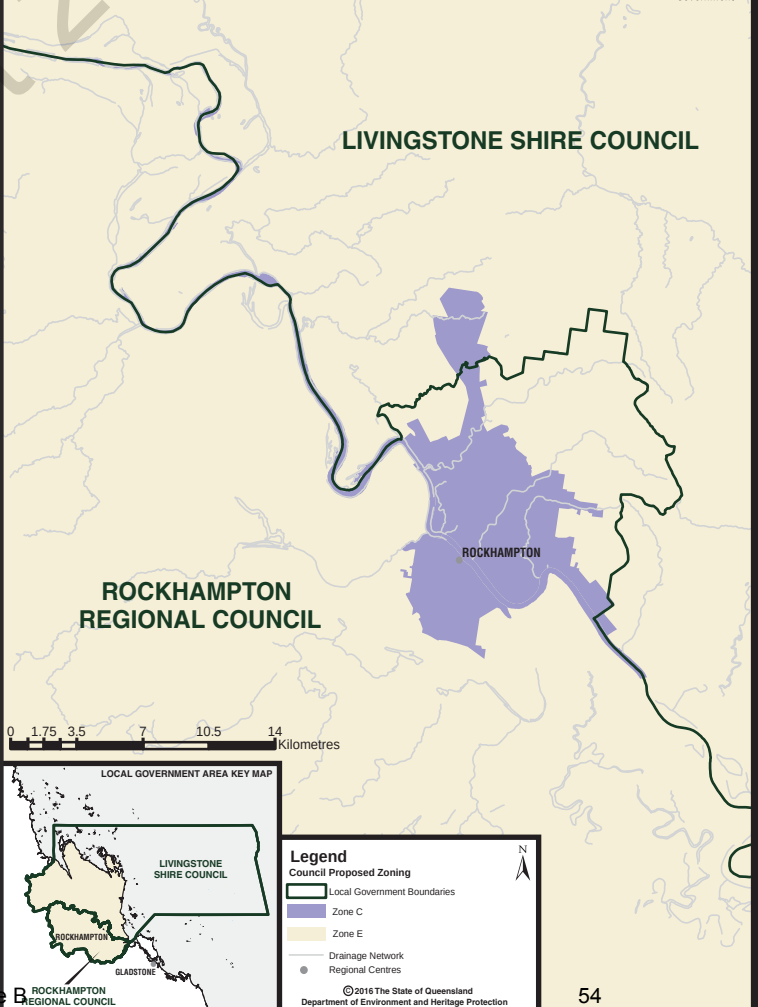
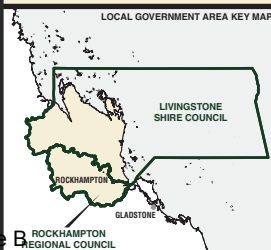
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PROPOSED CROCODILE MANAGEMENT AREAS MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL



PROPOSED CROCODILE MANAGEMENT AREAS ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL



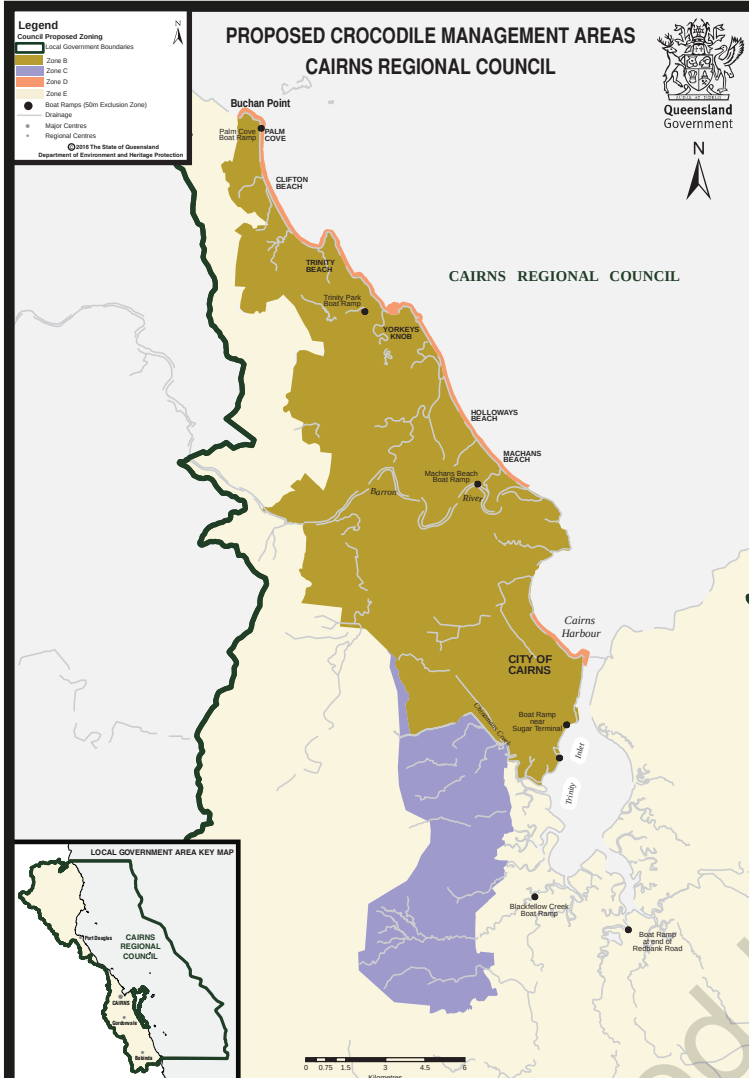
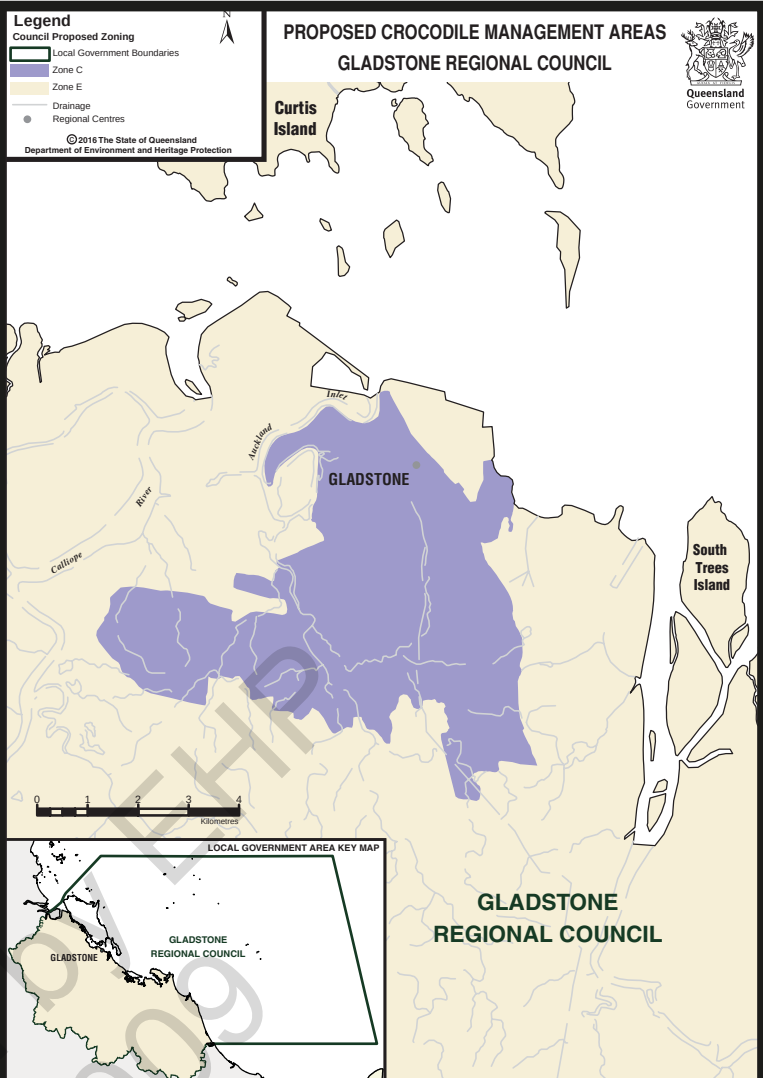
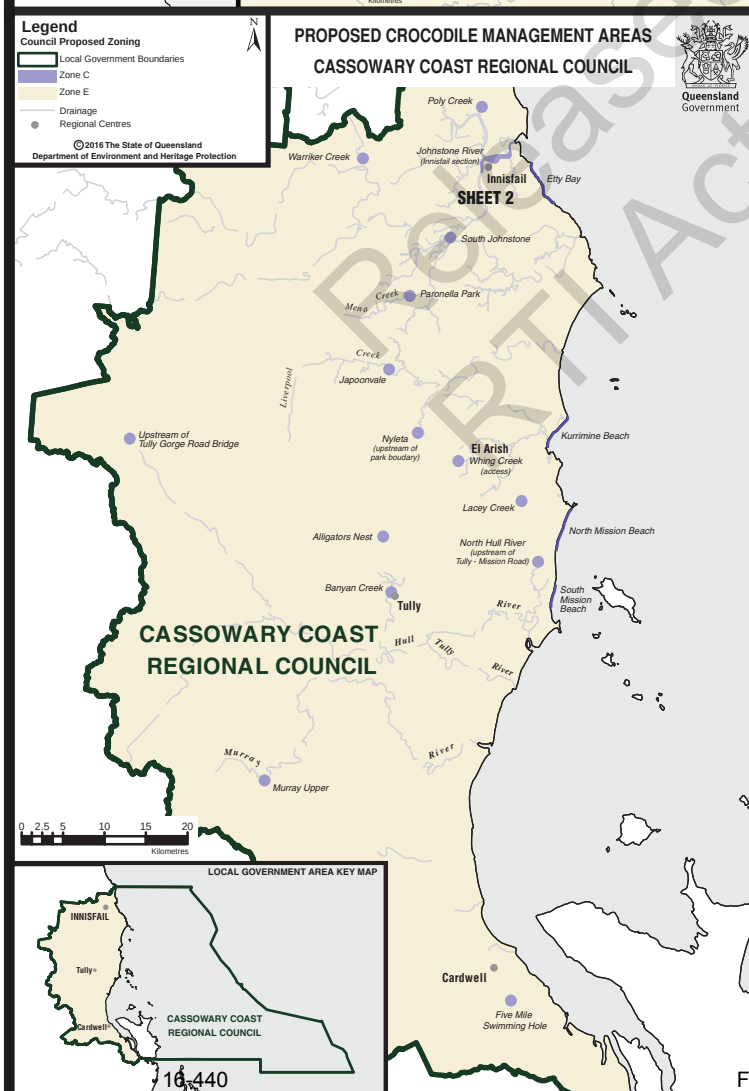
Legend

Council Proposed Zoning

- Local Government Boundaries
- Zone C
- Zone E
- Drainage Network
- Regional Centres

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Attachment 7: Implementation timetable for proposed Queensland Crocodile Management Plan

Milestone	Start Date	Due Date
Cabinet decision	1 Nov 2016	12 Dec 2016
Develop QCMP maps and consolidate zone descriptions	Nov 2016	Jan 2017
Develop QCMP content and messaging	Jan 2017	Feb 2017
Targeted consultation with key stakeholders on draft QCMP	Jan 2017	Jan 2017
Finalise draft QCMP and media package	Feb 2017	Feb 2017
Ministerial approval for release	Feb 2017	Feb 2017
Develop and deliver a new Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP)	Nov 2016	Feb 2017
Release of QCMP with media statement	February 2017	

Attachment 8:

Table 1 – Summary of consultation process on QCMP changes in Douglas Shire Council

Stage	Agreement Reached
The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection carried out a range of consultation on crocodile management with Douglas Shire Council in the lead up to the release of the QCMP.	Council did not request any changes to zone, but did ask for a number of changes to practices, and improved service delivery.
The Douglas Shire Council wrote to the Minister on 28 March 2017 after the release of the QCMP requesting a number of changes to zoning across Douglas Shire.	In this letter the Council requested changes to zoning under the QCMP by assigning the targeted management zone to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three freshwater sections of creek at the Mossman River, Spring Creek and Parker Creek. • A Small water body in Port Douglas known as Ferndale Lake. • A number of formal, and informal boat ramps across Douglas Shire. • Four Mile Beach at Port Douglas, • A number of other beaches between Mossman and the Daintree River.
The Minister subsequently met with the Douglas Shire Mayor on 26 April 2017 as part of a meeting with other Mayors from Far North Queensland	The Minister made a commitment to make changes to the QCMP to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the name of the Monitoring and Education Zone (Zone E) to the General Management Zone • To amend the management intent in the transitory zone (Zone D) to be more consistent with the targeted management zone and emphasise that crocodiles above 2m would be targeted for removal • To consider proposed changes to zoning, following further discussion between the Council and officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.
Officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection met with the Mayor, and several Councillors of Douglas Shire Council on 17 May 2017 to discuss the zone changes proposed by the Shire Council, as well as a number of crocodile management issues.	At this meeting it was agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The targeted management zone (Zone C) should be applied to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 3 freshwater creeks, as requested by Council o The Rankin St boat ramp at the Mouth of the Mossman River o Ferndale Lake • The Management approach at Four Mile Beach should be focused on removal of crocodiles above 2m, as well as crocodiles displaying dangerous behaviour. <p>There was disagreement about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How best to deliver the agreed management approach at Four Mile Beach. • changing the zoning of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Beaches north of Port Douglas o Informal Boat Ramps o The Rocky Point boat ramp
Subsequent contact between Douglas Shire Council and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection	This ongoing contact has resulted in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full agreement that management arrangements at Four Mile Beach would be best delivered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o amending the name of the transitory zone (Zone D) to the targeted beach management zone (in addition to amending the management intent for this zone) o applying the targeted beach management Zone (Zone D) to the area up to 200m off four mile beach. • Acceptance by Douglas Shire that their request for changes to zoning at beaches, open waters, and informal boat ramps north of Mossman would not be supported at this time.

Table 2 – Summary of changes requested by Douglas Shire Council, and changes proposed for approval

Beaches From zone E to zone C.	Four Mile Beach	Zone D over beaches and nearby open water is recommended for Four Mile. QCMP text will include changes to the name and management intent in this zone to better reflect its similarity to the targeted management zone
	Newell Beach	No change. Remains Zone E
	Wonga Beach	
	Cooya Beach	
	Oak Beach	
Lake in urban area From zone E to zone C.	Ferndale Lake, Port Douglas (small water feature/lake) in a new suburban housing development	Amend to Zone C
Boat ramps From zone E to zone C.	Rankin st Boat Ramp at Mossman River	Zone C to be applied to waterway immediately surrounding the Boat Ramp.
	Boat Ramp at Rocky Point	No change, water and land to remain zone E.
	Informal boat launch sites at Newell Beach, Wonga Beach Cape Tribulation Cow Bay	No change, water and land to remain zone E.
Stretches of freshwater creek --From zone E to zone C.	Upstream from Foxtan Bridge to the Mossman Gorge.	Amend to Zone C
	Upstream from Shannonvale Causeway, Shonnonvale	
	Upstream from Spring Creek Crossing, Mowbray	

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
400 George St
BRISBANE 4000

By email: wildlife.management@ehp.qld.gov.au

24th June 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Comments on Crocodile Review closing 30th June 2016.

I have been directed by the State Council of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Wildlife Queensland) to forward comments for consideration as part of the current review.

As you are no doubt aware Wildlife Queensland is one of the longest established and most respected wildlife-focused conservation groups in Queensland. With over 6500 supporters spread across branches throughout the State with supporters interstate and overseas, Wildlife Queensland is a strong voice for our wildlife and its habitat.

Wildlife Queensland is apolitical. Our aims include;

- Preserve the flora and fauna of Australia by all lawful means
- Educate the community in an understanding of the principles of conservation and preservation of the natural environment
- Discourage by all legal means, the possible destruction, exploitation and unnecessary development of any part of the natural environment.
- Encourage rational land use and proper land planning of existing and future development and the use of the natural environment and its management.

Wildlife Queensland welcomes the opportunity to provide comment. However in providing comment it must not be construed that Wildlife Queensland supports the current policy and strategies employed by the Department. It is our view that significant changes in current policies are required. While Wildlife Queensland appreciates that the removal of 'rogue crocodiles' may be necessary the current approach and reasons for removal of crocodiles lacks scientific rigour. Wildlife management plans must be underpinned by science, the animal welfare issues addressed and a rigorous compliance program in place to warrant support. The current policies appear to be underpinned by data that are inconclusive and lacking in scientific rigour.

Crocodile management in Queensland is a vexed issue, particularly on the more populated east coast of North Queensland, and is a continuing source of controversy, dissention, and strident demands for more or different actions by government. That the dissatisfaction continues is proof that the present policies and their implemented actions are not working.

protecting wildlife • influencing choices • engaging communities

Suite 1, Level 1, 30 Gladstone Road, Highgate Hill Qld 4101. Phone: 07 3844 0129 Fax: 3846 4784

The Queensland Government has two fundamental but inherently contradictory responsibilities relating to crocodiles; an obligation to conserve them, and an obligation to keep people safe from them:

- The obligation to protect people from harm has to accommodate and accept the realisation that it is neither practical nor economically feasible to ensure complete safety from crocodiles in and around natural waters in northern Queensland. Risk can be minimised but never removed completely.
- The obligation to conserve derives from the *Nature Conservation Act* 1992 and through Australian Government legislation and international agreements. Crocodile conservation in Queensland includes the need to protect them from being killed illegally for sport or profit, and is set against a background of the wholesale, unregulated slaughter that decimated their populations until they were protected by law in the early 1970s.

Addressing these responsibilities adequately is not trivial in a State as large and complex (physically, biologically and politically) as Queensland. But some other governments, in Australia and overseas, have similar responsibilities and handle them well. The international effort in crocodile conservation and management over recent decades is justifiably regarded as a significant success story.

Our concern is that current Queensland crocodile policy and practices continue to generate much angst, fall well short of best practice and fail to achieve the right balance between protecting people and conserving crocodiles on the Queensland populated east coast. Queensland, as a highly developed state both socially and economically, should be able to address these responsibilities in a more adequate manner.

These continuing problems are all within the remit of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and, although much has been done (Crocwise, signage etc.), it is important that DEHP takes a more public and more assertive stance in educating the public about crocodile management and conservation and a more direct role in practical management. Before making some specific recommendations, we detail a series of points that we consider need to be taken into account.

1. Estuarine crocodiles should have a place in Queensland.

If there is no shared view that crocodiles can and should have a place in the Queensland environment, then any conservation and management program can do little more than preside over their eventual extermination in the State.

At present they survive principally because Queensland has much land that is remote and sparsely inhabited, and because crocodiles are cryptic and adaptable and protected against unlawful killing.

The sparse human population will not persist indefinitely - especially if visions for future development of the north come to fruition.

Where people encroach on estuarine crocodile habitat, the crocodiles gradually give way under the pressure of land-clearing, illegal killing, destruction of nests, and disruption of their natural habitat. The east coast of Queensland illustrates the process clearly and the present 'total removal' strategy under the 2014 management regime brings it into stark relief. The Queensland Government's policy of total removal (rather than selective removal based on size, behaviour and location) has, in effect, stated that the estuarine crocodile has no place in significant stretches of populated Queensland.

2. **It is reasonable to define areas where large estuarine crocodiles have 'no place', but it is wrong to implement such a policy without an equally forceful effort to educate the public about their responsibilities where they coexist with crocodiles, and about how crocodiles travel, so that crocodile removal lowers the risk but cannot negate it.**

There is a wide spectrum of views about what our tolerance for crocodiles should be. No reasonable person would argue that a large estuarine crocodile should be allowed to reside in a public swimming pool. Few would think it reasonable to leave one in a long-standing natural swimming hole on the periphery of crocodile habitat, such as Lake Placid in Cairns. Some might think it reasonable to remove them from anywhere where people feel like swimming, canoeing, rafting, or diving. And some think they should be removed even from National Parks, established once upon a time for the protection of native fauna, flora and landscapes. Others think crocodiles should not be removed from any natural waterways and that people should accommodate that; but they are in the minority.

The challenge is to find a balance between conflicting views that the majority can accept. It is self-evident that a policy area with as much 'grey' as this cannot be managed with simplistic policies. A policy of 'total removal' or 'total intolerance' of crocodiles in areas most frequented by people is too simplistic to succeed in balancing Queensland's responsibilities. It can only accelerate calls for exclusion zones in remote areas as well, where some residents and visitors would prefer not to share their environment with crocodiles.

A nuanced policy requires effective communication if people are to understand and respect it. Some will not, despite the best communication. But few will try to accept policy if they are poorly informed about the philosophy behind it, if government is silent about that and merely resorts to simplistic measures and one-dimensional slogans.

3. **Estuarine crocodile populations must be actively managed to balance crocodiles' and peoples' needs - not ignored, neglected or subjected to poorly informed**

management practices that pander to public pressure without countering ill-informed public comment.

Queensland is a rich, progressive, and modern society with a well-educated community. It will do itself a disservice in the eyes of many Australians, overseas visitors and international institutions if it runs an ill-informed and poorly balanced management program. The current East Coast management program is neither well-informed nor well-balanced.

For example, the latest initiative to remove all crocodiles, regardless of their size or potential threat to people, arises directly from what is the most recent in a series of publicity-fuelled furores, traceable back to the 1980s, about crocodile numbers being out of control in eastern coastal Queensland. Media reporting has all-too-frequently been underpinned by anecdotal reports, exaggerated claims, and ill-informed speculation.

Government has done too little to inject facts or reason into this debate. DEHP, the department principally responsible for crocodile conservation, has often had little to say when talk-back radio is replete with anecdote and speculation. Commentary from officials may have little resonance for people who actually share their environment with crocodiles when it includes inane advice such as "swim between the flags".

DEHP should be the authoritative source of information for the public on crocodile conservation and management, but it seems to have abrogated that position, leaving anecdote to rule. The community cannot be expected to understand or respond positively to crocodile management or conservation initiatives without advice from experts. Without advice from people who know what they are talking about, backed up by solid information, the ground will be occupied quickly by self-proclaimed experts, often with self-serving axes to grind.

4. Conservation and management programs should be based on sound science.

In today's Australia, this should go without saying. But the East Coast management plan is not informed by sound estimates of the current size of the remnant coastal population, let alone its history since protection was enacted, and current trends. Nor is there any evidence that the management/removal program is designed in a way that will generate such information. To the best of our knowledge, the Queensland Government funds no systematic, scientifically-based census of its estuarine crocodile population, and their trends, anywhere in the State. Until such a programme is implemented, and its respect won, official statements about population trends will continue to be treated scornfully and rejected in favour of subjectively formed opinions that make better headlines. That state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. In the Northern Territory crocodile surveys elsewhere are routine and suitable methodologies are well worked out.

It is hard to see how the government's management plans can be underpinned by science when recognised scientific experts are not participating in the process.

5. Crocodile management and removal programs should be undertaken by trained and experienced professionals committed to working humanely.

Finally, and the easiest of all these issues to address quickly, are problems with the current removal plan. There is a strong expectation in the Australian community today that its governments should not employ inhumane practices when working with animals. This emerges repeatedly in furores over live sheep exports, handling of cattle, culling and commercial harvesting of kangaroos and the like. Many international visitors would have like expectations.

The employment of steel wire nooses and hooks to capture wild crocodiles is inhumane because of the pain and harm they can, and must, cause to the animal. The harm is likely to be especially severe where such traps are deployed without radio beacons to alert the trapper to a capture and allow immediate response. Even so, radio beacons are inadequate across much east coast territory because attending to a snare or hook trap after it is tripped can take hours.

Yet such inappropriate techniques have been and are being used in and around Cairns at present. A snare was set within a short walking distance of a Cairns tourist resort. It is hard to see how images of a snared crocodile thrashing, rolling and tearing itself up in front of local residents or tourists could benefit Queensland's reputation in tourism or conservation. Approval for the use of hooks, which must frequently prove lethal, is even harder to comprehend.

Queensland has a long and successful history of removing problem crocodiles from the east coast and elsewhere dating to the 1980s, but we are not aware of any prior use of snares or hooks. The earlier focus was on humane capture to provide unharmed breeding stock for farms. We believe that snares and hooks should have no place in Queensland's current program. That they might be sanctioned for use elsewhere in Australia should be treated as a state/territory-specific policy and not as justification for their use in Queensland.

It has been conceded by Queensland Government that crocodile snares have been deployed in Cairns by its contractors. It has also been conceded that a 1.2m crocodile was killed in a failed attempt to harpoon it in the neck. Both instances call into question the competency, capability and resources of the contractors. If they do not have the necessary experience, skills, equipment and training in safe and humane handling of wild-caught crocodiles, then they should not be entrusted with the role.

Recommendations

It is our opinion that, through wider consultation, the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef needs to find a way to achieve a better balance between the government's responsibilities to protect people from crocodiles and crocodiles from people. We believe the situation would be much improved if the Minister

- (a) ensures a survey is undertaken to establish the population and distribution of crocodiles in Queensland.
- (b) based on the findings of the survey use both Government and nongovernment available expertise to develop a long-term and comprehensive crocodile management plan for the whole State.
- (c) ensures DEHP is actively and conspicuously at the frontline of crocodile management by implementing a more effective and nuanced communication strategy on crocodile conservation and management. The Agency's public profile on these issues is woefully small because DEHP media presence is muted following incidents of human/crocodile conflict.
- (d) reviews the composition, roles and activities of the crocodile advisory group to ensure the Government's policy and management advice is underpinned by science and soundly researched information, and not by anecdote and ill-informed speculation;
- (e) reviews the current arrangements for commercial contracting out of crocodile management activities to ensure they are performed competently, cost-effectively and humanely by people with demonstrable knowledge, experience and training.

It is Wildlife Queensland's view that there is a need to find a way to achieve a better balance between the government's responsibilities to protect people from crocodiles and crocodiles from people. The situation must be improved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Des Boyland

Policies & Campaigns Manager

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: Results of consultation on Crocodile Management Arrangements in Queensland

CoS / AdvisorEndorsed

Date/...../.....

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Minister's Signature: _____ Date:/...../..... Comments: _____
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Action Required by: There is no specific timeframe required

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended the Minister:
 - **Note** the results of consultation on crocodile management summarised in the consultation report (Attachment 1);
 - **Note** the options and recommendations for changes to crocodile management arrangements arising from the consultation (Attachment 2);
 - sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality
 -
 -

ISSUES

2. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) has conducted stakeholder consultation and a survey of the general community with regard to community views on crocodile management in Far North Queensland.
3. The consultation results indicate there is not strong support amongst the community to revert to the crocodile removal arrangements in place under the previous Labor government.
4. There is strong support for the current arrangements in place under the Crocodile Management Plans, with some minor variations to zone boundaries and improvements in the way information about crocodile management is communicated to the public and key stakeholders.
5. The consultation results also indicate that there is a significant opportunity to improve communication and education programs, particularly signage.
6. sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

BACKGROUND

7. The Government has committed to establishing a long term crocodile monitoring program to allow the management of crocodiles to be based on sound science. It is expected this monitoring program will take three to five years to produce useful results.
8. sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

CONSULTATION

9. Detail provided in the attached consultation report (Attachment 1).

COMMUNICATION

10. sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality
- 11.

Rec'd - ODG

16 SEP 2016

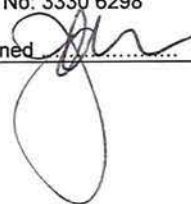
ATTACHMENT/S

Attachment 1.

Attachment 1 – Consultation report

Attachment 2.

Attachment 2 – Options and Recommendations for Crocodile Management Arrangements

Author Name: Andrew Mullens Position: Manager Tel No: 3330 5018 Date Drafted: 25/08/2016	Branch Endorsement Name: Andrea Leverington Position: A/ED CSP Tel No: 3330 5865 Date Endorsed: 15/09/2016	Division Endorsement Name: Maria Mohr Position: DDG CSS Tel No: 3330 5017 Date Endorsed: 16/9/2016	Director-General Endorsement Name: Jim Reeves, DG, EHP Tel No: 3330 6298 Signed  Date 16.9.16
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RTI Act 2009

Relea

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: Results of consultation on Crocodile Management Arrangements In Queensland

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Minister's Signature: 	Date: 13.10.16
	Comments:	

Action Required by: There is no specific timeframe required

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 - Note** the results of consultation on crocodile management summarised in the consultation report (Attachment 1);
 - Note** the options and recommendations for changes to crocodile management arrangements arising from the consultation (Attachment 2);
 - sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

ISSUES

- The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) has conducted stakeholder consultation and a survey of the general community with regard to community views on crocodile management in Far North Queensland.
- The consultation results indicate there is not strong support amongst the community to revert to the crocodile removal arrangements in place under the previous Labor government.
- There is strong support for the current arrangements in place under the Crocodile Management Plans, with some minor variations to zone boundaries and improvements in the way information about crocodile management is communicated to the public and key stakeholders.
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- sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

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- The Government has committed to establishing a long term crocodile monitoring program to allow the management of crocodiles to be based on sound science. It is expected this monitoring program will take three to five years to produce useful results.
- sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

CONSULTATION

- Detail provided in the attached consultation report (Attachment 1).

COMMUNICATION

- sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

11

Rec'd - ODG

16 SEP 2016

ATTACHMENT/S

Attachment 1.

Attachment 1 – Consultation report

Attachment 2.

Attachment 2 – Options and Recommendations for Crocodile Management Arrangements

Author	Branch Endorsement	Division Endorsement	Director-General Endorsement
Name: Andrew Mullens Position: Manager Tel No: 3330 5018 Date Drafted: 25/08/2016	Name: Andrea Leverington Position: A/ED CSP Tel No: 3330 5865 Date Endorsed: 15/09/2016	Name: Maria Mohr Position: DDG CSS Tel No: 3330 5017 Date Endorsed: 16/9/2016	Name: Jim Reeves, DG, EHP Tel No: 3330 6298 Signed  Date 16/9/16

Released by EHP
RTI Act 2009

From: MULLENS Andrew [Andrew.Mullens@ehp.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2017 3:24 PM
To: Kerrie Hawkes (Kerrie.Hawkes@douglas.qld.gov.au)
CC: CLOUSTON Beth; DELZOPPO Lindsay
Subject: Crocodile Management at Four Mile Beach

Hello Kerrie.

As discussed on the phone, following our meeting last week we are working to develop some changes to the QCMP to provide for more intensive management of crocodiles at Four Mile Beach, as well as number of other locations.

I believe at the meeting between the Mayor and the Minister in April, and at our meeting last week there has been very strong agreement that we should move to rezone Four Mile Beach and implement a program of management that targets crocodiles for removal that are greater than 2m in length, as well crocodiles that are displaying dangerous behaviour.

We believe this would be best implemented by:

- Renaming the existing Transitory Zone (Zone D) as the Targeted Beach Management Zone (Zone D).
- Changing the management intent in the Targeted Beach Management Zone (Zone D) to be the same as for the Targeted Management Zone (Zone C), that is, all crocodiles over 2 metres in length and crocodiles displaying dangerous behaviour are targeted for removal.
- Maintaining the two separate zones under QCMP. The purpose of the separate zones is to not raise unrealistic expectations, since crocodiles are typically just swimming past beaches on the way to nearby estuaries and that crocodiles pose different risks and are extremely difficult to catch and remove in open water.
- Rezoning Four Mile Beach and the waters 200m offshore at Port Douglas from General Management (Zone E) to Targeted Beach Management Zone (Zone D).

We believe that this approach would provide for the level of management that Douglas Shire Council wants in order to increase public safety at Four Mile Beach (removal of crocodiles above 2m in length), while ensuring there are realistic expectations about the approach to crocodile management in this area in line with the overarching state-wide plan.

It should be noted that many of the crocodiles observed off Four Mile Beach are likely to be resident in Dickson Inlet or in the Mowbray River Estuary. In many cases if EHP declares one of these crocodiles as a problem crocodiles (in accordance with the QCMP removal criteria) the most practical way to carry out a capture and removal will be to place a trap in one of those water bodies.

We would like to ensure that this arrangement would meet the expectations of the Council before we proceed. Would you be able to discuss this with the Mayor and gauge her thoughts please? We are keen to prepare a letter for the Minister to formalise these arrangements very shortly.

Please feel free to give me a call. We would be happy to set up a teleconference to further discuss this approach if you think that would be worthwhile.

Andrew Mullens

Manager

Conservation and Biodiversity Policy | Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

From: CLOUSTON Beth [Beth.Clouston@ehp.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 13 March 2017 11:57 AM
To: JOYCE Michael
CC: MULLENS Andrew; COMPTON David
Subject: CE decision re problem crocodiles
Attachments: CE decision re problem crocodiles.docx

Hi Mike

Please find attached the text we have drafted with respect to the delegate decision re problem crocodiles.

Are you happy to send this to Rebecca Williams for her approval? It should also be kept on file for further reference.

Thanks

Beth

Dr Beth Clouston

A/Director

Conservation and Biodiversity Policy | Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy

Conservation and Sustainability Services

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

P 07 3330 6110 M sch4p4(6) Pers

Level 27, 400 George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001

Email: beth.clouston@ehp.qld.gov.au

Released by EHP
RTI Act 2009

13//03/2017

RE: Chief Executive decision regarding 'Problem Crocodiles'

For the purposes of the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007, and with reference to the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan, I consider the following crocodiles to be 'problem crocodiles'—

- All estuarine crocodiles in a 'barrier and removal zone' (zone A)
- All estuarine crocodiles in an 'active removal zone' (zone B)
- All estuarine crocodiles in an 'atypical habitat zone' (zone F)
- Estuarine crocodiles greater than 2 metres in a 'targeted management zone' (zone C)

N.B. Other estuarine crocodiles may also be considered 'problem crocodiles' for the purposes of the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007. These would be the subject of a separate consideration and decision by the Chief Executive or a delegated officer.

Bec Williams
Executive Director