



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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COMMONWEALTH URGED TO MOVE ON CROCODILE SAFARI HUNTING

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour today reinforced her commitment to a trial crocodile safari hunting program in the Territory – urging the Federal Government to give final clearance to the Territory’s plan for managing saltwater crocodiles.

After more than a year of consultation and work by Commonwealth and Territory officers, the Management Plan for crocodiles in the Northern Territory was forwarded to the Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell earlier this year.

“The Commonwealth must approve this Plan if it is serious about helping to improve the economic prospects of our Indigenous communities,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The economic benefits which could be reaped by the Northern Territory through crocodile safari hunting are significant – particularly the spin-offs to indigenous communities and pastoralists.”

Ms Scrymgour said the sustainable management of crocodiles in the Territory is a serious issue as the wild population – estimated at more than 70 000 - continues to grow and interact more frequently with human populations.

Part of the NT Government’s Plan of Management for saltwater crocodiles proposes limited crocodile safari hunting in the Territory. The proposal provides for 25 adult crocodiles from the current maximum quota of 600 problem crocodiles that can be removed from Territory waterways each year.

“Limited safari hunting of crocodiles will not have a negative impact on Territory crocodile numbers if managed appropriately as outlined in the Plan of Management,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“There has been extensive research by scientists and researchers studying crocodile numbers in the Territory which has led to the development of this Plan.”

Ms Scrymgour said the NT Government needed to obtain Federal Government approval for the plan to progress – as it was this approval that would allow for the export of the products of crocodile safari hunts.

“My predecessor Dr Chris Burns has spoken extensively to landholders and the industry who have reiterated how important it is to have a croc safari hunting industry that can cater for international guests.

“A viable croc safari hunting industry will require both the opportunity for international visitors to hunt crocs and the opportunity to take their trophy with them.”

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