



Hon Andrew McNamara MP
Member for Hervey Bay



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Sustainability,
Climate Change and Innovation**

Ref: 1151-08
BNE2008/
SU/08/5978

23 December 2008

The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2008 concerning Petition No. 1151-08 regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 'Crocs in Space' program.

Firstly, I might point out that the policies of relocating crocodiles existed prior to this government. The crocodile in question was not in fact part of the 'Crocs in Space' program.

I can emphasise that public safety is this government's first priority in crocodile management and I can assure the petitioners that this government has strengthened this commitment by undertaking a thorough review of crocodile management across Queensland.

I can say that any crocodiles endangering public safety will not be released to the wild but will be removed to farms or zoos. Having said that, there remains a need to balance the protection of the public from risk and the conservation of crocodiles in their natural habitat.

The capture of crocodiles for research will continue but the decision about any return to the wild will be made at the highest level of authority. The broader issue of public consultation on crocodile relocation was incorporated into the development of the current *Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007 and Management Program 2007-2017*.

In terms of compensation this government does not accept any liability for loss associated with the relocation of one crocodile to a national park south of Townsville given that the decision to relocate a single animal did not pose any greater risk than the risk already posed given the area is known to be populated by crocodiles, as well as other potentially dangerous wildlife.

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Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Clive Cook, Senior Director Conservation, Strategy and Planning of the EPA on telephone (07) 3227 6001.

Yours sincerely



**Andrew McNamara MP
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