

NICK DAMETTO
Member for Hinchinbrook



MEDIA RELEASE

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Dametto calls for TYTO Wetlands to be an active removal zone

Katter's Australian Party (KAP) Deputy Leader and Hinchinbrook MP Nick Dametto is calling on the State Labor Government to rezone TYTO Wetlands as an active removal zone following an increase of saltwater crocodile sightings.

The Department of Environment and Science defines an active removal zone as "areas of rivers, creeks and wetlands where crocodiles are frequently in close proximity to large urban populations. All crocodiles, regardless of size or behaviour are targeted for removal."¹

The Hinchinbrook MP stated that TYTO Wetlands is in the heart of Ingham within close proximity to residential properties, the Hinchinbrook Visitor Information Centre, and the Brothers Sports Club and the increase in sightings was an extreme safety concern for locals and visitors.

"TYTO Wetlands is home to over 240 species of birds and with extensive walking tracks, bird hides and viewing platforms it's the ideal tourist attraction for nature lovers and birdwatchers. Unfortunately, the increase in crocodile sightings negatively impacts its reputation as a tourism destination," said Mr Dametto.

"A few months back, constituents contacted my office to advise Ingham's weekly parkrun was cancelled for three weeks in a row as crocodile markings were spotted on the track which was the result of a crocodile moving locations due to high rainfall.

"How are we meant to grow this weekly community event if our runners need to outrun the crocs to participate?

"Crocodiles are encroaching on our land-based and water recreational activities and this needs to be managed appropriately to protect locals and visitors.

"The Department needs to act swiftly, as we have the wet season quickly approaching, which is definitely a concern as crocodiles are known to move locations.

"I am calling on the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef to rezone the TYTO Wetlands as an active removal zone."

—ENDS—

¹ <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/crocodiles/management>

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Photo: State Member for Hinchinbrook and KAP Deputy Leader, Nick Dametto.

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