



CROCODILE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Crocodile Policy

Crocodiles inhabit the waters in and around Cairns and pose a real and potentially grave danger to rowers. The purpose of this risk management plan is to ensure each club member is aware of this danger and the means to minimise risk to member safety. Each club member is expected to adhere to this plan.

Each rower must take caution on the inlet (especially at the boat ramp) at all times and must adhere to warnings issued by the Captain of Boats from time to time, or by the QPWS.

In particular, rowers are to:

1. Survey the vicinity for crocodiles prior to entering the water.
2. Rig boats quickly at the boat ramp and whenever possible stand on the landward side of the boat whilst rigging oars.
3. Complete a Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form and notify a committee member if you see a crocodile anywhere in the inlet, including approximate size and location, but in particular take note of crocodile activity close to the boat ramp.
4. Whilst in the boat rest in the middle of the inlet rather than near the shoreline.
5. Side creeks are considered out of bounds due to the higher risk of encountering crocodiles.
6. Regularly practise capsize-recovery at safe locations (Lake Placid, Lake Tinaroo).

Upon notification of crocodile encounters, the committee will liaise with QPWS to ascertain the risk to members; and members will be notified of the activity and any decision of the QPWS regarding the risk and removal of the crocodile.

Notwithstanding any decision of the committee or QPWS, the decision to continue rowing and to remain vigilant and aware of this risk is placed on each member.

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Crocodile Awareness Plan

Introduction

Due to the increase in crocodile sightings on Trinity Inlet during the previous 12 months, the Cairns Rowing Club is implementing a Crocodile Awareness Plan as an extension to the already existing Crocodile Risk Plan.

This Awareness Plan is aimed at alerting members to the risks associated with the presence of crocodiles in the Inlet so that members can make an informed decision about rowing on the inlet. While the club does not want to discourage anyone from participating in the sport, we feel it is important to ensure that all members are aware of the potential dangers.

Whilst the club has provided this information it is still the individual member's responsibility to educate themselves of the dangers of crocodiles.

As part of this Awareness Plan, the club has prepared an information kit which includes the following:

- Crocodile Risk Management Plan – Crocodile Policy,
- Crocodile Sighting Plan,
- Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form,
- Information sheets on crocodiles as published by DEHP,
- Information on actions proposed by the club in relation to reporting and monitoring of sightings,
- Precautionary advice on rowing in the Inlet, and
- Declaration form to be signed by all members stating that the club has provided the above information.

Crocodile Risk Management Plan.

The club's Crocodile Risk Management Plan is attached and is also available at the club premises for review by members. All members are asked to be familiar with this policy.

Crocodile Sighting Plan

The club maintains a Crocodile Sighting Plan to register the locations of all crocodile sightings. The plan will be updated with the reporting of every sighting and will be available in the club premises for review by members.



Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form

The club's Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form is attached and is also available at the club premises for review by members. All members are asked to be familiar with reporting requirements of this form.

Please note it is mandatory to complete this form as required and provide a copy to a committee member or deposit in the secure box in the shed on every occurrence of a crocodile sighting.

Information Sheets provided by DEHP through CrocWatch

Information sheets as published by DEHP through its CrocWatch program are attached for review by members. These sheets provide details on behaviours and characteristics of crocodiles and may prove to be invaluable in case of any close encounters with crocodiles.

Members are therefore asked to be familiar with these details and should use these to gain a better understanding of the dangers associated with crocodiles.

Reporting and Monitoring of Crocodile Sightings

The club shall provide report details of all sightings to DEHP for review at every occurrence of a sighting, and shall seek advice from DEHP as to the preferred course of action to be taken.

All advice received from DEHP in response to this report process shall be distributed to members.

Based on frequency of sightings, the club may also consider temporary closure of the rowing activity, or identify restricted areas of operations for members during peak activity times.

Precautionary Advice to rowers in the event of a Crocodile Sighting

As we are all aware, crocodiles are ever present in our water way and a risk we must all be aware of. The following precautionary advice is issued to rowers to ensure there is a heightened sense of awareness amongst all members of this risk.

- All members are encouraged to take extra care when launching and exiting the water at the ramp, and keep a sharp look out for crocs while on the waterway.
- Small boats should travel in groups and change resting points on a daily basis so that crews DO NOT display characteristics of a routine. In particular, DO NOT REST at the bend at the end of the last straight on the return trip to the shed.
- Crews should rest for short periods when taking a rest break, that is DO NOT remain stationary for excessive periods in the same location as this may give the impression you are vulnerable (injured) and may be an easy target.
- If there is a close encounter with a crocodile, remain calm and don't stop rowing. Row away quickly. Get as far away from the crocodile as possible and maintain as much distance as possible. Warn others in the immediate area. If you need to return past the sighting area, row on the opposite bank and keep a sharp lookout. On return to the shed, report the sighting immediately.



- Refrain from immersing body arms and legs in the water when at rest.
- ALL members MUST complete a Sighting Reporting Form and report any crocodile sightings to a club committee member on the day of the sighting. The Report Form is located in the club shed (copy attached) and must be completed and submitted directly to a committee member, or deposited in the secure box in the shed. Members will need to note the location of the sighting, characteristics of the sighting area, approximate size and characteristics of the animal.

Declaration Form

The membership registration process will include an acknowledgement form to be endorsed by all members stating they have been informed of the risks associated with Crocodiles. The club will be asking that you sign this form as part of the membership registration and need to note that acceptance of new registrations will be subject to signing this form.

Qualifications on Crocodile Awareness Plan – Small Boat Rowing

In the preparation of this Crocodile Awareness Plan, the club has reviewed the high risk areas associated with presence of crocodiles, these predominantly being small boat rowers (single scullers, pairs and doubles rowing on their own). It should be noted that the club has reviewed options for small boat rowing including:

- Limiting small boat rowing to groups and restricting individual single sculling,
- Restricting small boat rowing to specific days only,
- Grouping all small boats with larger boats ie all sculls to travel in the company of doubles, pairs or larger boats, and
- Providing a support boat during all small boat rowing.

It has however been identified that due to the time constraints applicable to some members, the varying speed that different small boat crews travel at, and the limited resources available to service a support boat at all small boat rowing outings, any plan based on implementing the above options would not be viable.

The club therefore advises as part of this Crocodile Awareness Plan, all single sculling and small boat rowing shall be carried out at the discretion of the crew and all risks associated with small boat rowing shall be the member's responsibility.



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Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form

Date of report	
Reported by	
Date of sighting	
Time of sighting	
Tide conditions (high / low)	
Weather conditions	
Location and description of sighting (mark location on attached plan as required)	
Description of crocodile and whether on the bank or in the water	
Approximate length of crocodile	
Characteristics / behaviour of crocodile (include comments on behaviour and actions)	
Actions taken by club member	
Additional comments	

Name:

Signed:..... Date:.....