



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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CANBERRA SAYS 'NO' TO CROC SAFARI HUNTING

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour today expressed her disappointment at the Federal Government's decision to not allow controlled and limited crocodile safari hunting in the Northern Territory.

The Federal Government today announced that it would not approve crocodile safari hunting of crocodiles as part of the NT Government's Crocodile Management Plan – which has been with the Federal Government for approval for the last 18 months.

"I am extremely disappointed with the decision, especially in terms of the opportunities lost for economic advancement and independence for Indigenous communities and pastoralists," Ms Scrymgour said.

"The proposal would have increased the opportunities available for Aboriginal landholders and pastoralists to develop viable business on their land.

"Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell seems to have taken considerable effort to talk to interest groups outside of the Territory. But I'd like him to visit the communities to talk to the people most affected by this issue.

"It's simply not good enough that he take economic development away from these communities without offering something in return."

Ms Scrymgour said the proposal provided the humane safari hunting of 25 adult crocodiles from the current maximum quota of 600 crocodiles that can be sustainably removed from Territory waterways each year.

"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.

"As Environment Minister, of course my absolute concern is about the Territory's unique biodiversity. The proposal - as it was put up to the Federal Government - included explicit detail of how safari hunting would be undertaken to ensure that all animal welfare obligations were met."

"There is already safari hunting run on private properties and Indigenous land along similar lines that utilise a number of feral animals, including feral buffalo and banteng. These safaris are subject to the Animal Welfare Act and strict humane obligations apply."

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