



**Marion Scrymgour**

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

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## **HERMES SNAPS UP OUR CROCODILE SKINS**

Two Northern Territory crocodile farms have signed long-term contracts with one of the world's biggest fashion brands to provide skins for their luxury hand bags.

Minister for Natural Resources Marion Scrymgour said this marks the coming of age for the crocodile skin export industry in Darwin.

"The Northern Territory produces the best crocodile skins in the world – and the world's best fashion brands want them," Ms Scrymgour.

"Lagoon Crocodile Farm and Darwin Crocodile Farm have spent millions in the past three years to improve infrastructure and increase capacity – and that investment is paying off.

"Hermes representatives visited the Lagoon Crocodile Farm today to sign the contract – and other leading fashion brands are expected to follow with Gucci already showing interest."

Darwin Crocodile Farm Managing director Mick Burns said this is the start of a new era for the export of crocodile skins.

"This industry is ideally suited to the Territory – it has the potential to create many jobs – especially in regional communities," Mr Burns said.

"We have the most aggressive crocodiles in the world – but they have the best skins – so although there are challenges the rewards make it worth the effort."

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