

Full name: Wes Field

Postcode: 0822

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation: Yes

If yes, please enter the name of the organisation: Arirrki Aboriginal Corporation

Submission content:

There has been minimal discussion with the Crocodile tour groups that work on the Adelaide River. The four jumping croc tours collective, would be pulling +100,000 tourists a year through the wetlands region, A number that approaches the same visitor numbers to Kakadu National Park. The visitor numbers are very underrated by the Northern Territory government. There is major concerns about reduced volume flows along the Adelaide river. The unsustainable “free for all” crocodile egg collecting along the mid sections of the Adelaide river over the past 5 years, is already having huge impacts on population levels of saltwater crocodiles, and to have huge volumes of water diverted from a river that has only flooded twice in the past 8 years, and one of those was a minor event that lasted only 4 days, is going to have an impact on the wildlife that the area is famous for, and is currently not only allowing us to put have put over a million dollars back into community support over the past 5 years, but employees dozens of locals, and permits visitor numbers, in particular the growing cruise ship industry during the wet season, to view what is essentially a pristine river system. The recent 2024-34 Crocodile management plan put forward by the NTG was outright slanderous and defamatory in the description of our tour groups, despite there being little actual fact to support the claims, of the tours being dangerous. Parks & Wildlife have allowed the constant and frequent egg collecting along the 25km animal interaction zone of the Adelaide river, and do not have the data to back up their claims of “no impact”, despite what is written in the report. Parks & wildlife’s own reports from 2020 show a change in the wild crocodile population along the Adelaide river, which 5 years later they still have no followed up on, except to increase egg collection along the Adelaide river “because it’s economically cheaper”. Now ARROWS comes along to reduce water flows and further impact on the wildlife. Presumably the EIS is using data taken from Parks & Wildlife that now we are looking into, does not actually back their own conclusions. Potentially the ARROWS EIS is majorly flawed in its conclusions and this needs to be further investigated. Unless there is greater consultation, we may look to the media to attempt to get the issues resolved