



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Call for community croc watch

February 8, 2018
COOKTOWN

Wildlife officers have urged locals to report all crocodile sightings to the CrocWatch hotline at a crocodile management meeting organised by Cook Shire Council on February 7.

The meeting, called after increased sightings of large crocodiles close to shore around Cooktown over the past weeks, was attended by the Department of Environment and Science's (DES) Northern Wildlife Operations Acting Manager and Director and senior wildlife officers, Cook Shire councillors and Mayor Peter Scott, local police, Yuku Baja Muliku rangers, the State Emergency Services and Cape York Natural Resource Management. "We need to get people on side and get them to start ringing and reporting every croc sighting to CrocWatch," Cr Scott said. "DES has very limited resources, and those resources are deployed where the need is strongest. The only way we will get more action is to show that we do have an increase in croc sightings and incidents, and the only way we can do that is by everybody reporting all sightings to CrocWatch."

DES officers also attended schools in the area to raise awareness about being croc wise with students, and were very supportive of the formation of a local crocodile reporting Facebook page, Cr Scott said. "SES controller Dan Hodgson has started a Facebook group called Cooktown Croc Watch, which I would encourage people to join."

Crocodile sightings and incidents can be reported to CrocWatch by phone on 1300 130 372. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/205154760229148/ to join the Cooktown Croc Watch Facebook page.

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