

HIB Number: 000905

Date/Time  
Transmitted: 10/18/2011 05:31 PM

Subject: LAVARACK BARRACKS TOWNSVILLE – CROCODILE RELOCATION  
Comment:  
Action Area: HDSO

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION - NOT TO BE FORWARDED

**SENSITIVITY: Low**

**KEY ISSUES:**

- A two metre salt water crocodile has been identified residing in a lake within the boundary of Lavarack Barracks Townsville.
- The crocodile is of a size that presents a danger to base residents.
- All base personnel have been warned of the existence of the crocodile and warning signs have been placed around the lake.
- Defence Support-Queensland (DS-Q) is cooperating with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS) to relocate the crocodile.
- Dependent on the weather, QPWS will attempt to trap the crocodile on the 19 - 20 October 2011 and relocate it to a less habited location.
- QPWS advised DS-Q on 17 October 2011 that local media (Townsville Bulletin) were aware of the situation and likely to seek further information.
- Defence Public Affairs has been notified of the media interest.

**Contact Officer: Neil Andrews W: 07 4411 7284 M: [REDACTED]**  
**Authorised by: Mark Jenkin W: 02 6265 6135 M: [REDACTED]**

**Date issued: 18 October 2011**

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

NOT TO BE FORWARDED

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

NOT TO BE FORWARDED

## **BACKGROUND: LAVARACK BARRACKS TOWNSVILLE – CROCODILE RELOCATION**

A small number of crocodiles have been known to inhabit the lakes on Lavarack Barracks Townsville in the past and have been relocated by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to different locations.

From time to time Defence Support Queensland (DS-Q) receives reports of crocodile sightings in the lakes at Lavarack Barracks. All reports of crocodile sightings are investigated.

DS-Q base staff were recently advised of a sighting of a salt water crocodile which appeared to be residing in one of the lakes on Lavarack Barracks Townsville. A number of attempts were made by DS-Q and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff to confirm the existence and location of the crocodile.

Investigations eventually identified that the crocodile appeared to be remaining in a specific location on the northern edge of the lake close to the bank. The crocodile is assessed as approximately two metres in length, a size which may pose a risk to base residents.

DS-Q and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have agreed that relocation of the crocodile to a less habited area is required. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has instigated a plan to trap and remove the crocodile over the period 19 - 20 October 2011.

## **MINISTERIAL TALKING POINTS**

- **A salt water crocodile has been identified residing in one of the lakes on Lavarack Barracks, Townsville.**
- **Crocodiles have been sighted in a number of locations around Townsville in recent times.**
- **The crocodile is of a size that may present a risk to base residents.**
- **All base residents have been notified of the crocodile and warning signs have been placed around the lake.**
- **Defence, in consultation with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, has decided capture and relocation of the crocodile to a less habited location is the most appropriate course of action.**
- **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will manage the capture and relocation of the crocodile during the period 19 - 20 October 2011.**

Drafted  
*TPs drafted by*

Name  
*Neil Andrews*

Appointment  
*A/RD-Q*

DTG  
*18 Oct 11*

Clearance	Name	Appoint	DTG
<i>Subject Matter Expert</i>	<i>Neil Andrews</i>	<i>A/RD</i>	<i>18 Oct 11</i>
<i>Group/Service 1 Star or above</i>	<i>Mark Jenkin</i>	<i>HDS</i>	<i>18 Oct 11</i>
	<i>This information is consistent with advice provided to the Minister by other means (E.g. QTB, MinSub etc) (To be completed by 1 Star or above)</i>		<b><i>Not Applicable</i></b>
<i>Strategic Communications Adviser</i>	<i>Graham Robinson</i>	<i>SCA - DSG</i>	<i>18 Oct 11</i>
<i>ASCAM or delegate</i>	<i>John Anderson</i>	<i>A/AS CAM</i>	<i>18 Oct 11</i>

Minister Name Appointment DTG  
*Ministerial Action:*  
*(To be completed by ASCAM)*  
*Forward to/Cleared by*

For Information Name Appointment DTG  
*Regional Manager Public Affairs*