

# WILDLIFE ADVOCATE

Representing The Quiet Australian

## ISSUE

### Thwarting Northern Territory Government's Plan To Allow Safari Hunting Of Saltwater Crocodiles

#### Background

In January 2004 the Northern Territory Government submitted a draft *Management Plan for Crocodylus Porosus* (saltwater crocodile) in the Northern Territory covering the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008.

This draft management plan differed significantly from the existing management plan in that the Northern Territory Government wanted to allow interstate and international trophy hunters to participate in safari style shooting of these magnificent creatures.

#### Action

Earlier this year Wildlife Advocate wrote to the Federal Government - who is the approving body for such management plans - outlining its concerns regarding the draft management plan.

The key concerns raised were:

- ▶ there has already been a noticeable impact on the crocodile population without the addition of a new way of killing them;
- ▶ the lack of a rigorous compliance mechanism to ensure that crocodiles were humanely shot. While all skins submitted for export would be checked, there would be no in-the-field checks to see if any injured crocodiles are left in the field and not reported to authorities;
- ▶ the lack of Federal Government control over the numbers of crocodiles shot, with the Northern Territory Director of Parks and Wildlife having discretion over the quotas; and
- ▶ there were no controls regarding the shooting competencies of the safari hunters.

On 6 October 2005, the federal Minister for the Environment rejected the safari-hunting component of the NT Management Plan stating that:

*I do not believe that safari hunting of crocodiles is consistent with a modern day approach to animal welfare and responsible management.*

**Through the efforts of Wildlife Advocate, the NT Government's plan to introduce safari hunting of saltwater crocodiles has been rejected by the federal government.**