Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

**Management plan template**

*Exhibited Animals Act 2015*

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| Applicant name: | Click here to enter text. |
| Applicant company: (if applicable) | Click here to enter text. |

Part A - Species detail

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| This application is for: ***(click box to select/deselect)*** |
| [ ]   | A particular animal |  |
| [x]  | A single species |  |
| [ ]  | Animals of a taxonomic grouping (e.g. more than one sub-species). |  |
|  | Please indicate which category. |  |
|  | [ ]  A [x]  B [ ]  C1 [ ]  C2  |  |
|  |  |  |
| In the table provided record the common name, scientific name, maximum number of animal’s proposed (male and female if relevant) and indicate the relevant box for breeding requirements. If there is not sufficient space provided you may attach a list of the information and submit it with this Management Plan application.  |
| **Common name** | **Scientific name** | **Maximum number proposed** | **Breeding** | **Nonbreeding** |
| Estuarine crocodile (Juvenile) |

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| *Crocodylus porosus*  |  |

 | 2 | [ ]  | [x]  |
| Freshwater crocodile (Juvenile) | *Crocodylus johnstoni*

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**Part B - Relevant experience**

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| [ ]   | Relevant up-to-date experience for the proposed species held by the department |
| [x]  | Relevant up-to-date experience for the proposed species attached |
| [ ]  | Relevant up-to-date experience for the proposed species detailed below: |
|  | Click here to enter text. |

Part C - Species Exhibition and dealings

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| How do you propose to keep the animal: ***(click one or more boxes to select/deselect)*** |
| [ ]  | In a travelling collection (i.e. no fixed location)? (e.g. not held at a regular enclosure site within Queensland) |
| [x]  | In a regular enclosure at the regular enclosure site not available for viewing by the public? |
| [ ]  | In a regular enclosure at the regular enclosure site that is open to the public most of the time? |

Part D - Exhibition & dealing activities proposed

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| How do you propose to exhibit the animal: ***(click one or more boxes to select/deselect)*** |
| [ ]  | In its regular enclosure at the regular enclosure site? *(e.g. primary enclosure at the zoo)* |
| [ ]  | In a controlled area outside the regular enclosure at the regular enclosure site? *(e.g. in a stadium, stage area or other designated area within the zoo)* |
| [ ]  | In a regular enclosure, in a controlled area outside the regular enclosure site? *(e.g. in a fully enclosed enclosure displayed on tables under a marque enclosed with bollards or a 1.2m high removable barrier or in a fenced area surrounded by 6 foot removable cyclone mesh fence)* |
| [x]  | In a controlled area outside the regular enclosure site? *(e.g. removable snake pit with 1.2m high walls with canvas floor sewn into the bottom of the walls or completely enclosed fenced off area with)* |
| [ ]  | Outside a regular enclosure and controlled area off the regular enclosure site? *(e.g. roaming with carpet python at a school fete or market place)* |
| [ ]  | Recording the animal’s image at the regular enclosure site for display to the public? *(e.g. posting images and recorded footage of authorised animals in social media networks)* |
| [ ]  | Recording the animal’s image for the purposes of film and television production? |

Part E - Significant relevant risks and relevant adverse effects

For ***each*** activity proposed in part C complete details below by identifying:

* any significant relevant risks or adverse effects; and
* how you propose to manage these risks associated with the exhibition and dealing of the animal(s) for each of the topics below:
1. Please record details or forward attachments of details for the regular enclosure at the regular enclosure site for the animal and identify the maximum number of each species that will be held within the proposed enclosure *(e.g. plans, photos, diagrams, enclosure specifications).*

**Please see attached enclosure plans including photos and specifications for each regular enclosures for each crocodile. The crocodiles will be held individually in enclosures with fresh water, land area, a mock rock hide built into the wall. Except for the height of the walls (to make capture methods easier) which is just over the recommended height for crocodiles of 1.2m total length, enclosure specifications are much larger than that of the requirements set out in the (draft) Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines Exhibited Animals – Crocodilian standards. Each enclosure is designed and constructed on a mobile base with wheels so that we can disconnect all electrical equipment and roll the enclosure outside so the crocodile may have access to natural sunlight during periods of the day. This also assists the cleaning of enclosures when emptying and disinfecting each enclosure. Each regular enclosure will have the common name, scientific name, house name and state that there is only one crocodile in the enclosure.**

1. Please record details or forward attachments for all other regular enclosures, other proposed authorised enclosures or controlled areas you will use for the animal and record the maximum number of each species that will be held within the proposed enclosures where relevant *(e.g. travelling enclosures, holding enclosures, controlled areas).*

**Please see attached enclosure plans of photos and specifications of the proposed travel enclosures which are also used to hold crocodiles when cleaning the regular enclosures. The plan also details how heaters fit into the travel enclosures during colder weather and calico bags that the crocodiles will be placed during travel. Details including diagrams and photos of the controlled area setup used during exhibits are attached and as part of our policy handlers not exit this controlled area whilst handling animals to maintain control of numbers who want to pat the animals.**

1. Identify animal welfare risks and how they will be managed relevant to the exhibition and dealing activities proposed *(e.g. enclosure fixtures, heating, water, diet, enrichment, training and conditioning).*

**As per the attached enclosure plan, the proposed enclosures have been custom built to ensure all animal welfare needs can be met but also designed to ensure that the operator can capture the animal without unnecessary stress or harm being place on the animal. Animals will be conditioned to being captured to prevent unnecessary stress and injury. I have had many years’ experience in working with crocodiles and condition each crocodile to a method which entails using a clean cloth over the animal’s eyes then picking the animal up with two hands. Eventually you only have to use a very small piece of cloth over the crocodiles eyes as the association of the capture is linked to the cloth and the crocodile will eventually stay quite still as it is being captured. During initial conditioning I shall handle the animals for small periods of time as part of conditioning but they will not be used for display or placed in their transport enclosures so there is no additional stress associated with the initial capture. Each animal will be conditioned to this method and it is critical to ensure that the animal does not associate the capture with a high level of stress so only I will be training the animal at the start rather than my staff who are not as confident in implementing these capture methods. Once the crocodiles are conditioned to capture they will then be conditioned to their transport enclosures and mouth taping procedures for the purposes of educational displays.**

**Enclosures will be fitted out with adequate UV light over part of their basking dry area and water heaters with temperature control and a connected temperature reader that sits outside the enclosure allowing easy water temperature reading without disturbing the crocodile. Enclosure temperatures will be monitored and recorded every day. Records for feeding and percentages of food eaten will also be recorded as well as weighing the crocodiles monthly. Crocodiles will not be handled after the have eaten until they have defecated or three full days after feeding. Variances in temperature gradient within the regular enclosures will range from 28 – 34°C depending on where the crocodile is within the enclosure. Either way, the species will be given enough appropriate heat to ensure they can keep their internal body temperature around 30-31°C. Each crocodile will have their own designated travel bags, cleaning utensils and travel enclosures. The enclosure has been constructed with a section of the wall which has a whiteboard attached to the outside where we will record that there is one crocodile inside and include the common name scientific name and house name of the crocodile as well as the date the animal can next be used for display. The travel enclosures will also have a sign stating “this way up” and “dangerous animal inside do not touch” written on the enclosure. A schedule of use will be recorded on the paperwork which is attached to the regular enclosure and details information about the enclosure temperature ranges recorded each day, feeding habits and what has been fed, and when the crocodile was last used, this information is then transferred to our electronic records system.**

1. Identify the relevant human safety risks associated with the exhibition and dealing of the animal relevant to the proposed activities (excluding public interaction activities).

**As per attached “Staff training procedures” only staff proficient in the handling and care of crocodiles will have access to crocodile enclosures and be able to work with the species. During mouth taping procedures two staff must be present; one staff member tapes the crocodiles mouth closed whilst the other staff member holds the crocodile. If staff are bitten or injured whilst interacting with crocodiles they must fill in an incident report and if needed their methods of handling and capture are evaluated to ensure they are following correct procedures. All other information such as relevant experience staff must have is included in the “Staff training procedures” attached.**

1. If any of the activities proposed with species involve public interaction, provide detail including any significant relevant risks and how they will be managed.

**During exhibition of the animal clients are given information about the species and the ecological role they play. Once the initial talk is completed clients are permitted to pat the animal on the lower dorsal side and are instructed on how to do so whilst patting. Members of the public are permitted to hold the crocodile for a photo opportunity however we only allow three people to have the experience each day. By limiting the number of interactions we minimise the negative impact this may have on the animal’s welfare. A staff member explains how the crocodile must be held and stands next to the member of the public to ensure the animal is not dropped, squeezed or handled roughly whilst another staff member takes the photo. Small children that do not have the strength or control to handle the animal are not permitted to do so however the parents/guardian may hold the animal and the child l sit next to the parents/guardian on a bench chair we provide and lightly hold the end of the tail.**

1. Identify any other significant animal welfare, biosecurity or safety risks that could be associated with the proposed exhibition and dealings of the animal.

**Attached is the “Crocodile care and husbandry guide” which covers handling, diet and feeding schedule as well as cleaning routines and maximum time each crocodile may be used for displays including time for transportation. During displays on cold days the heater pictured in the guide is used in the manner displayed. The guide covers risks associated with what to do if a crocodile is showing signs of stress and when it should be placed back into its travel enclosure and not used for exhibit. The number of crocodiles requested will ensure that we have sufficient animals to cover our current display demands and ensure overuse will not occur.**

1. How you will manage reproduction of the animal, including for example arrangements for progeny of the animal if breeding permissions are requested?

**No breeding only crocodiles up to 1.2m in total length will be kept**.

1. What are the relevant adverse effects associated with exhibition and dealing of the animal related to the proposed activity(s) and how will they be prevented or minimised? *(e.g. How will the applicant prevent or minimise an event such as escape, theft, animal attack or other for each activity proposed. If an event were to occur how the applicant proposes to prevent or minimise the effects on animal welfare, health, safety or wellbeing of a person or social amenity, the economy and environment.)*

**As per requirements of the *Exhibited Animals Regulations 2016*, crocodiles will be identified in the prescribed way so that in the event of escape the animal can be identified and returned. I shall contact Biosecurity Queensland as soon as practicable if the crocodile is found to be missing and call the police if I believe a crocodile has been stolen. Given the crocodiles will be under direct supervision when out of the regular enclosure at the regular enclosure site I cannot foresee an escape happening. As per the attached photos of the proposed enclosures and specifications, all enclosure will have wire mesh over the top of the tank which is locked onto the wall of the enclosure. The enclosures are also held in a locked room in the downstairs part of the house. I also have cameras installed and one is directly above the room door so I shall know if someone has gained unauthorised entry which will assist in identifying the person responsible. In the event of an escape all of my neighbours are aware of the animals I hold and have stated they would assist me in trying to locate any animals if they went missing. For further details please refer to the “Escape/recapture plan for crocodiles” attached.**

**Part F - Supporting information checklist**

Please indicate in the boxes provided how, if any, the relevant documents have been submitted:

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| **Document** | **Up-to-date documents held by the department**  | **Document attached** | **Information detailed****this management plan** | **Not Applicable** |
| Policies including procedures and guidelines.  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Pictures, diagrams and plans of proposed regular enclosure. | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Pictures, diagrams and plans of other proposed enclosures and controlled areas.  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |