The Commonwealth’s decision to rule out crocodile safari hunting has been labelled as a total load of croc by members of the Northern Territory Government.

Minister for Land Resource Management, Willem Westra van Holthe, and Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Bess Price, have together slammed Greg Hunt’s decision.

“Canberra needs to take its foot off the Territory’s throat. Crocodile safari hunting has the potential to create real employment for Indigenous people in remote parts of the Territory,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“The Northern Territory Government, after extensive consultation with Traditional Owners, lodged an application for a one year crocodile safari trial to form part of our crocodile management plan.

“The Territory Government has provided a properly researched scientific plan with economic benefits.

“We are severely disappointed with Greg Hunt’s short sighted and ill-informed decision.

“Currently under the existing Crocodile Management Plan we are able to harvest up to 500 crocodiles from the wild annually. This proposal requests to harvest 50 crocodiles from within the existing quota on a one year trial basis.

“We have plans in place to ensure animal welfare standards are maintained, this is a humane proposal. A Conservation Officer and Traditional Owner would be required to attend every safari.”

Minister Price said this decision kills off future jobs to Indigenous Territorians who need it most.

“We had hoped to work together with the Federal Government. However, Greg Hunt has made a decision which will do nothing to improve the lives of Indigenous Territorians living in remote communities,” Mrs Price said.

“This decision goes against the Commonwealth Government’s priorities of developing the north and ending welfare dependency in the bush.

“Crocodile safari hunting is a real opportunity for economic development and it would create wider tourism opportunities.

“Greg Hunt is listening to the wrong people. He needs to listen to the people on the ground in the bush. He has made the wrong decision.”

The Northern Territory Government is now exploring alternative pathways to make crocodile safari hunting a reality.

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