Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced that crocodile safari hunting was back on the agenda, with Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull saying he will reconsider the Territory Government’s original proposal.

Ms Scrymgour personally approached Mr Turnbull earlier this year asking him to reconsider the Australian Government’s position on safari hunting crocodiles after the initial proposal was rejected by Turnbull’s predecessor Ian Campbell.

The proposal to safari hunt a limited number of crocodiles each year was part of the NT Government’s Crocodile Management Plan. It provided for the humane safari hunting of 25 adult crocodiles from the current maximum quota of 600 crocodiles that can be sustainably removed from Territory waterways each year.

“I am pleased to announce today that Mr Turnbull has written back to me saying that he has decided to undertake public consultation before making his final decision.

“I now call on Mr Turnbull to do what Mr Campbell failed to do before he made his shot gun decision – that is come to the Territory and visit the Indigenous communities and pastoralists who are will benefit economically through this proposal.

“This proposal has the potential to increase the opportunities available for Aboriginal landholders and pastoralists to develop viable business on their land.

“Former Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell took considerable effort to talk to interest groups outside of the Territory, but he never bothered to come up here and visit the communities to talk to the people most affected by this issue.

“Mr Turnbull has more nous than his predecessor so I am sure he will give serious considering to visiting the Territory – to see first hand the impacts this could have on the land.”

Ms Scrymgour the proposal - as it was put up to the Federal Government - included explicit detail of how safari hunting would be undertaken to ensure that all animal welfare obligations are met.

“There is already safari hunting run on private properties and Indigenous land along similar lines that utilise a number of feral animals, including feral buffalo and banteng. These safaris are subject to the Animal Welfare Act and strict humane obligations apply.”
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