



The Hon Michael Gunner
Chief Minister
Northern Territory Government

19 November 2020

Dear Chief Minister,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to ask the Northern Territory Government to reject plans for a new crocodile farm proposed at the former site of The Sweet Life Farm, Lambells Lagoon.

The coronavirus pandemic has made this a difficult year for everyone, claiming the lives of more than 900 Australians and decimating the Northern Territory's valuable tourism industry. But the virus that marked 2020 is not random – it is the result of humans' exploitation of animals. Wildlife experts warn that the international trade in the skins of exotic animals for luxury fashion promotes the spread of zoonotic diseases, fuelling the risk of future pandemics like COVID-19. **Given the very real risk to humans and the suffering it would inflict on the animals held captive there, it would be unconscionable for the Northern Territory Government to approve plans for a crocodile farm.**

Every [PETA exposé of the exotic-skins industry](#) has shown that no matter where skins are sourced from – or the “standards” touted by brands – highly intelligent, sensitive animals endure squalid imprisonment and a violent death for them. From the moment they hatch, farmed crocodiles are denied everything that's natural and important to them, confined to small concrete pens, and unable to swim freely. When they're killed, their snouts are bound and they're electrocuted or shot and then stabbed in the neck to sever their spinal cord.

One reptile expert, commenting on investigation footage obtained at one farm – which houses only $1/10^{th}$ of the number of animals the proposed facility in Lambells Lagoon intends to imprison – called conditions “overly-restrictive, understimulating, and inhumane”.

Exotic skins, like fur, are falling out of favour with designers and consumers alike. Already, luxury brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Chanel, HUGO BOSS, Victoria Beckham, Vivienne Westwood, and others have ditched crocodile and other skins. Now is the time to invest in humane, sustainable, future-proof projects, not setting up factory farms to torment animals and create a breeding ground for new pandemics.

PETA is calling on the Northern Territory Government to reject plans for this and any other factory farm that seeks to imprison crocodiles.

Thank you for your time. May we please hear from you on this important matter?

Yours faithfully,

Emily Rice
PETA Australia

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Australia

PO Box 20308
World Square
Sydney NSW 2002

08 8556 5828
Info@peta.org.au
PETA.org.au

Affiliates:

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)