

RESEARCH on the STEVE IRWIN WILDLIFE RESERVE is currently being undertaken on:

• Crocodiles

Professor Craig Franklin, from The University of Queensland and in collaboration with Australia Zoo's Croc Team, is conducting world-first research on Estuarine Crocodiles in the Wenlock River.

Using cutting-edge, remote-sensing technology, acoustic transmitters are implanted into crocodiles, allowing their movements, diving behaviours and body temperatures to be monitored for the next ten years. The information gathered will help to clarify the ecological role of crocodiles in river systems and aid in their management and conservation.



• File Snakes

Professor Craig Franklin, along with students from The University of Queensland is investigating the movement patterns of file snakes in waterholes on the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve.

The Arafura file snake is a fully aquatic freshwater snake. They are non-venomous and can grow up to 2m long. **File snakes don't lay eggs but instead give birth to live young underwater.**

The research is examining the effect of environmental conditions and water quality on their diving behaviour.



• Sawfish, Spear-toothed Shark, Freshwater Stingray

Stirling Peverell, Fisheries Biologist MSc BSc from Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries is currently conducting research on the above three species.

Large mature sawfish are known to inhabit inshore coastal waters to a depth of less than one metre. Although once reasonably abundant, sawfish are now considered rare and their population status is unknown.

Sawfish worldwide are considered to be critically endangered

