

ORDINARY MEETING 18 NOVEMBER 2014	3.1
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MAYORAL MINUTE

PROVISION OF POWER TO COMMUNITIES NORTH OF THE DAINTREE RIVER

"The Douglas Shire Council considers electricity supply is first and foremost a State government responsibility.

However the Council acknowledges that in representing the interests of its residents in the area it has a responsibility to advocate on their behalf.

Further, that the Council considers the provision of electricity to householders and businesses in communities north of the river to be an essential service and in that respect there is a legitimate entitlement to a reliable State supplied electricity service to the residents and businesses in the area.

The Council acknowledges that until recently, the limitation on electricity supply to communities north of the river was primarily as a consequence of a desire by relevant governments and authorities to restrict the prospect of over development of, and consequent negative impacts upon, this unique and sensitive world heritage environment area.

It is further acknowledged however that with the adoption and implementation of the 2006 Douglas Shire Planning Scheme and the substantial completion of the "buy back" of land that had the potential for development, much of the risks to over development of the area have been mitigated.

In acknowledgment of these circumstances the Council's policy position on the provision of a reliable State auspiced electricity supply is that proposals for extension of electricity supply will, in principle, not be opposed.

In recognition of this, for its part, the Council will co-operate fully with proposals for the extension of electricity supply to properties north of the river. Provided however that any proposals clearly take into account the sensitive environmental characteristics of the area, the fact that it is an area largely of world heritage significance and the climatic risks impacting the area such as cyclones and other weather events, all of which will impact decisions about the nature and scale of electricity supply infrastructure which may be provided".