

5.6. WET TROPICS MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW SUBMISSION

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to support and submit the attached Wet Tropics Management Plan Review Submission to the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wet Tropics Management Authority has invited Douglas Shire Council to provide a submission regarding the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review.

BACKGROUND

The Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 (the Current Plan) is Queensland law and applies only to areas within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The purpose of the Current Plan is to help protect World Heritage values, these are natural heritage values as described in the World Heritage listing and relate to ecological, biological, evolutionary and scenic landscape values. It includes land use controls through the regulation of a range of activities which have the potential to impact on World Heritage values or the enjoyment of those values.

There are five groups of activities regulated under the Current Plan:

1. Disturbance to native plants, waterways and earth – e.g. excavation, dams and diverting water.
2. Control of introduced animals and environmental weeds – e.g. specification of undesirable plants and animals as defined by the Current Plan.
3. Waste disposal.
4. Building and maintenance of structures and roads.
5. Operation of motorised vehicles, boats and aircraft – e.g. motor vehicles, motor boats and commercial flights below 1000ft.

Zoning Maps

The current Plan divides the World Heritage Area into four zones which are managed for different purposes. The four zones are:

1. **Zone A – most pristine, most remote, least disturbed**
Land of high integrity, remote from disturbances by activities associated with modern technological society with no obvious management presence. To qualify for Zone A land must:
 - Be at least 500 meters from all roads, cableways, power lines, towers, mines, quarries and other structures; and
 - Be at least 700 meters from clearings; and
 - Include a minimum area of 150 hectares of undisturbed habitat; and
 - Have no obvious signs of disturbance in the last 40 years (such as logging).

The management purpose is to protect the integrity of land and if disturbed to restore it to its natural state.

2. **Zone B – largely pristine, less remote, often with some disturbances of World Heritage values**

Land that is mostly of high integrity but not necessarily remote from disturbance. Land may be undergoing recovery or rehabilitation towards its natural state. The management purpose is to protect and enhance the integrity of land and if disturbed to restore the land to its natural state and include it within Zone A once it is sufficiently recovered or rehabilitated.

3. **Zone C – land associated with community services infrastructure**

Land on or adjacent to land where there is a disturbance associated with community services infrastructure, such as visitor facilities, roads and electricity supply. Management presence may be obvious in this zone to ensure any adverse impact of activities carried out has a minimal impact on the area.

4. **Zone D – land associated with existing or potential visitor facilities**

Land which has or has plans to be developed to include facilities to enable visitors to appreciate and enjoy the Wet Tropics area. Land will mostly be natural, with visitor facilities integrated into the surrounding landscape and management presence may be obvious.



In general, more stringent restrictions apply in Zone A followed by Zone B, for example new infrastructure is generally prohibited in Zones A and B.

Road Classification

The Current Plan classifies roads within the World Heritage Area, these are:

- Highways
- Local access roads
- Presentation (unrestricted) roads
- Presentation (restricted) roads
- Management roads

Road classification aims to reflect the needs of land managers, infrastructure agencies, visitors, the tourism industry, researchers and the community.

Classifications aim to take into account the potential impact of road access use on the integrity of the World Heritage Area. A permit is required for use of motor vehicles on presentation (restricted) roads and management roads.

Wet Tropics Permits

The Current Plan uses a permit system to regulate the five groups of activities (defined above). However, there are some situations where the need for a permit is waived, these include:

- Activities for the protection of life and urgent protection of property, or urgent control of fire or other natural disaster.
- Activities causing no more than minor and inconsequential impacts.

The Current Plan does not give the right to undertake an activity otherwise regulated under another law. Permit applications are categorised into three types, these are:

- Activities already regulated by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS).
- Development applications controlled by Local Government.
If there is any inconsistency between the Wet Tropics Management Plan and a Local Government Planning Scheme, the Current Plan prevails. Therefore a local authority must not give approval for any development that is inconsistent with the relevant Plan. Notably, the Current Plan does allow for special provisions for a local government to apply for amendments to zoning maps where it involves provision of essential community infrastructure (usually a request change from Zone B to Zone C).
- All other situations.

Special Management Agreements

The Current Plan allows for the creation of special management agreements, these allow for variations to the standard Wet Tropics land use controls. These are created where evidence suggests the activity will result in a positive contribution towards achieving the primary goal, i.e. protection, conservation, rehabilitation, presentation of World Heritage values.

Native Title and Aboriginal Interests

The Current Plan applies to native title holders in a way that does not cause them to be in a more disadvantageous position at law than if they held freehold title. The Current Plan does not constrain the operation of Commonwealth or State native title laws.

COMMENT

The Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) is reviewing the Current Plan. A review of the Plan is required by legislation every ten years. The review consists of two rounds of public consultation, with round one concluding on 30 June 2017. WTMA is proposing a range of changes and options for how the Current Plan works, the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review document sets out the proposed changes (**Attachment One**).

The Rainforest Aboriginal Fact Sheet (**Attachment Two**) focuses on the proposed changes relevant to Rainforest Aboriginal people.

Among the proposed changes there are significant alterations to the zoned areas, WTMA has released mapping showing the Existing Zoning for the northern area of the Wet Tropics (**Attachment Three**) and the Proposed Zoning (**Attachment Four**).

The Wet Tropics Management Plan Review document and the proposed zoning show additional changes to those outlined in the Review document, therefore Council's submission incorporates potential issues as shown from the zoning map changes.

WTMA proposes seven key changes to the Current Plan, these are:

1. The Wet Tropics Zoning System
2. Changes to Zone D visitor sites
3. Roads in the World Heritage Area
4. Community services infrastructure
5. Recognising Rainforest Aboriginal tradition
6. Activities allowed under permit
7. Undesirable plants and animals

The proposed changes will have an impact on Douglas Shire; however the full extent of these changes may not become apparent until a draft Plan is released.

Based on the available data to date, the key concerns and notable changes for Douglas Shire have been outlined in the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review Submission (**Attachment Five**).

PROPOSAL

That Council resolves to support and submit the attached Wet Tropics Management Plan Review Submission to the Wet Tropic Management Authority.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: The proposed changes to the Current Plan appear to impose further restrictions on Council, land owners and business owners. Permits may be required to continue some existing activities, e.g. maintaining existing tracks and access roads.

Environmental: The proposed changes to the Current Plan aim to protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area through stronger land use controls and regulation of activities.

Social: The proposed changes to the Current Plan appear to restrict the use of some tracks currently used for recreational activities by Douglas residents and visitors; and restrict access to a local access road for a residential area.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 4 - Engage, Plan, Partner

4.2.3 - Work with regional, state, national and international stakeholders to promote beneficial partnerships to support strong, resilient and sustainable communities.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Advocate Supporting communities and groups by advocating for certain actions from other organisations (usually other levels of government)

CONSULTATION

Internal: Consultation has taken place with the Sustainability, Development and Assessment; and Infrastructure Teams.

External: Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement has occurred at this stage. The ability to submit a submission is available to all.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Wet Tropics Management Plan Review document **[5.6.1]**
2. Rainforest Aboriginal Fact Sheet **[5.6.2]**
3. Existing Zoning for Northern Area **[5.6.3]**
4. Proposed Zoning for Northern Area **[5.6.4]**
5. Douglas Submission to WTMA June 2017 **[5.6.5]**

Wet Tropics Management Plan REVIEW



Have your say!

The Wet Tropics Management Authority wants to hear your ideas about how we can improve the management of the World Heritage Area.

What's inside?

AN IMPROVED ZONING SYSTEM : CHANGES TO ZONE D VISITOR SITES : ROADS AND ACCESS :
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE : RECOGNISING RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL TRADITION :
ACTIVITIES ALLOWED UNDER PERMIT : UNDESIRABLE PLANTS AND ANIMALS :

See back page for how to make a submission and obtain more information.

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Chair's message



Each year more than five million visitors step foot in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and walk away with a sense of wonder and appreciation. And why wouldn't they? It has been named as the second most irreplaceable world heritage property on earth.

Our World Heritage Area traverses almost 450km of superb north Queensland coastline spanning almost 900,000 hectares. While mostly rainforest, the Area also features diverse habitats including open forests, woodlands, wetlands and mangroves. Sheltered within those areas are more than 4000 species of plants and over 700 species of vertebrate animals. In all, the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area boasts Australia's greatest diversity of plants and animals within an area that covers just 0.12 per cent of the continent.

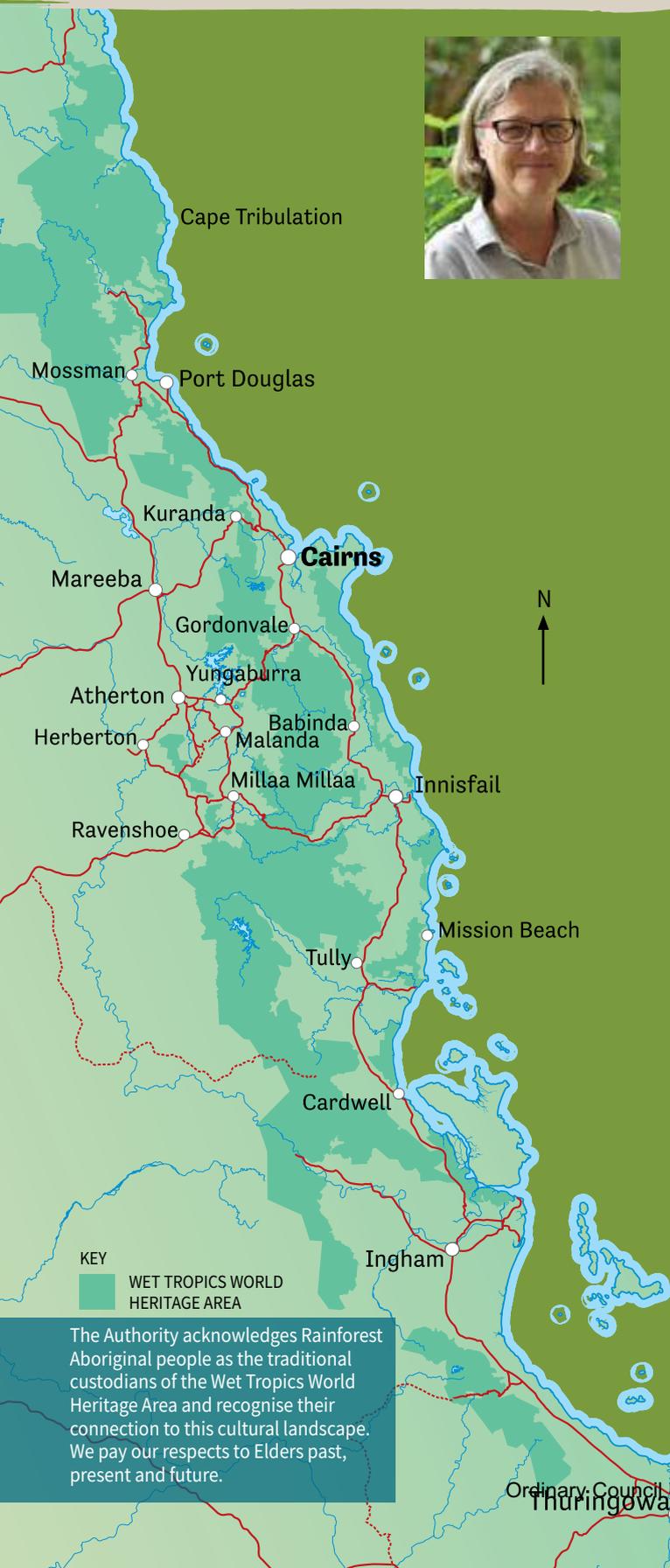
On the traditional lands of the Rainforest Aboriginal peoples, it is a vibrant living cultural landscape, rich with stories handed down over generations spanning at least 40,000 years. The Area is also a highly valued place where communities live, work and recreate.

We are all entrusted with an international obligation to protect, conserve, present, rehabilitate and transmit to future generations the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area. The *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* is a statutory instrument that sets out the framework to deliver that obligation.

Every 10 years the Wet Tropics Management Authority is assigned responsibility for reviewing the Plan. This review is being undertaken in collaboration with all levels of government, Rainforest Aboriginal people, landholders, industry and the broader community. There are many things to consider within the Plan. Most importantly, we need you.

Inside this brochure is a summary of proposed changes that respond to issues raised by land managers and communities, with a view to improved and less complex management. We want your ideas, feedback and any suggestions you may have.

Your thoughts on how to better manage the Wet Tropics can be shared by completing a submission, as outlined on the back of this brochure. The Authority looks forward to taking on board your feedback and presenting an amended Plan for a second round of consultation in early 2018.



The Authority acknowledges Rainforest Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and recognise their connection to this cultural landscape. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Leslie Shirreffs ~ CHAIR

WET TROPICS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

The Wet Tropics Plan Review

What is the Plan?

The *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* (the Act) ensures that Australia's obligation under the World Heritage Convention is met regarding the protection and management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* (the Plan) is subordinate legislation under the Act. The Plan protects the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area through a zoning scheme and permit system. It regulates activities which may have an impact on World Heritage values and integrity. These activities are primarily those which may affect ecosystems, vegetation, soils, waterways and scenic values.

Why do we need a review?

A review of the Plan is required by law every ten years. The review is an opportunity to seek the community's views and update it to better reflect current land management practices and changes in community attitudes. While the Plan is a regulatory instrument, in practice the Authority works cooperatively with its many partners to manage the World Heritage Area and protect World Heritage values. Our partners include Australian, Queensland and local government agencies, Rainforest Aboriginal people, landholders and neighbours, industry, researchers, tourism and recreation groups, the conservation sector and the broader community. We will be asking all these groups how they think we can improve the Wet Tropics Management Plan.

The review process

The review process requires two rounds of public consultation and is expected to be completed in 2018. This brochure outlines some of the proposals for changes to the Plan and invites submissions in this first round of consultation (*see back page*). The Authority will consider all submissions before preparing a draft amendment Plan (draft legislation) for the second round of consultation expected early in 2018.

Other legislation

It is important to note that there are a range of Australian and Queensland laws that help to protect and conserve the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. For example, Australia's *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* controls activities which may have a significant impact on the Area, and Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* regulates activities on National Parks and activities that affect native wildlife.



The Wet Tropics zoning system

The current zoning maps depict four zones (A, B, C & D) which reflect varying degrees of ecological integrity and different management purposes. All zones are managed to protect, conserve and rehabilitate natural values and to ensure there are minimal impacts.

- Zones A and B make up the majority of the World Heritage Area. They comprise lands of high ecological integrity and are managed primarily for conservation and rehabilitation. Zone B designates those areas which were considered to be recovering from past disturbances such as logging.
- Zone B is managed similarly to zone A. However, under Schedule 1, local governments can apply for a rezoning from zone B to zone C for community services infrastructure. Schedule 1 also includes specific review and appeal provisions for local government applications.
- Zone C primarily accommodates community services infrastructure. This includes roads, powerlines, towers, pipelines, cableways, railways and dams.
- Zone D accommodates sites which have existing, or potential for, developed visitor facilities (*see pages 6 and 7 for more information*).

- It is proposed Zone B be retained adjacent to designated community services infrastructure such as roads and powerlines. The zone would extend 500m from the centreline of the linear infrastructure. Retaining zone B will continue to enable flexibility for local governments to seek approval for provision of future community infrastructure needs.
- Several Rainforest Aboriginal groups have previously expressed concern over the proposed change from zone B to zone A on their lands. As a result, it is proposed that designated areas around Wujal Wujal, Buddabadoo and Mona Mona remain as zone B.
- Definitions for zones A and B would be amended to recognise that traditional land management practices are appropriate in all zones.
- Zone C would generally comprise of lands within 50m of linear infrastructure such as powerlines, roads and railways, and some major infrastructure sites such as dams and towers. It is also proposed that zone C would include selected areas of cleared land which have existing use rights or clearings identified as potential sites for community services infrastructure, tourism facilities or other activities.
- Zone D visitor sites would be designated as a circle of 75m radius or as a larger site footprint where necessary.

Proposed changes

The Authority proposes to amend the zoning system to better reflect the management intent for each zone. More specifically:

- The current zoning scheme includes large areas of zone B, described as land of high integrity but still recovering for past disturbances. However, as much of this land has now substantially recovered from past disturbances, it is proposed that it be reclassified as zone A. This proposed reclassification is in keeping with current Plan requirements that zone B land be reclassified to zone A once it has been sufficiently recovered or rehabilitated. This proposed reclassification would result in an increase from 52% to 93% of the Area being zone A.

Have your say!

What are your views on the following:

Do you agree with incorporating recovered areas from zone B into zone A?

What are your views about defining zone B as a 500m buffer around existing infrastructure?

Do you support the inclusion of some existing clearings in zone C as potential sites for visitor infrastructure, or community services infrastructure?



EXAMPLE OF PROPOSED ZONING SCHEME

Note standardised and simplified approach to generating zones consistent with management intent.



LEGEND

ZONES	ZONE A	ZONE B	ZONE C	ZONE D
ROADS	HIGHWAY	POWERLINE	PRESENTATION	
INFRASTRUCTURE	POWERLINE	TOWER Ordinary Council Meeting - 20 June 2017		

Changes to zone D visitor sites

Zone D contains lands where there are a range of developed visitor facilities or the potential for further development of visitor facilities over the life of the Plan. Developed visitor facilities may include a range of infrastructure such as carparks, toilet blocks, constructed walkways, picnic and camping areas, lookouts, boat ramps, visitor information and warning signs.

It is important to note that many less developed sites do not require a zone D designation because of the minimal infrastructure required. For example, a trailhead may have limited infrastructure, such as a small carpark area with some signs which can continue to be maintained without a zone D classification.

Proposed changes

It also proposed to add some zone D visitor sites to the zoning maps to recognise existing sites with developed visitor facilities, and some where visitor facilities may be proposed over the life of the Plan (*see map*).

It is proposed to remove some zone D sites from the zoning maps because it is intended that they remain in a natural state without developed visitor facilities.

The total number of zone D sites identified for existing or proposed developed visitor facilities would change from 94 to 81. Please note that there is no intention to close down any existing visitor facilities.

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Have your say!

What are your views on the following:

Can you suggest any additional sites that may require a zone D for more developed visitor facilities?

What do you think about the proposal to remove the zone D classification from the sites listed on the map?

Do you support the addition of zone D sites where visitor facilities may be proposed in future?



LAKE EACHAM

EXISTING ZONE D FOR DEVELOPED VISITOR FACILITIES



BIG CRYSTAL CREEK

EXISTING ZONE D FOR DEVELOPED VISITOR FACILITIES



EMMAGEN CREEK

PROPOSED ZONE D FOR POTENTIAL VISITOR FACILITIES



WANGETTI BEACH (SOUTH)

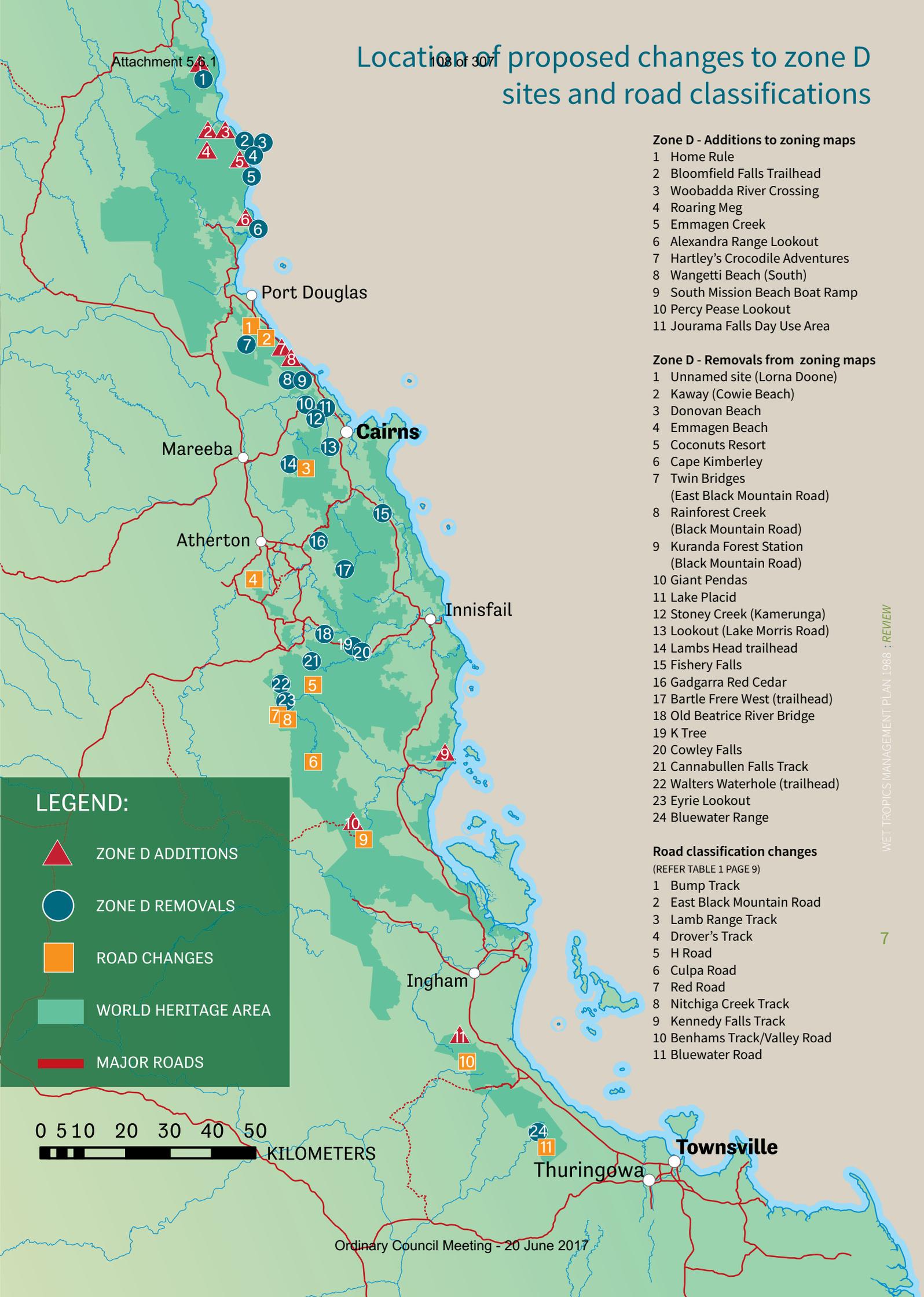
PROPOSED ZONE D FOR POTENTIAL VISITOR FACILITIES



KAWAY

ZONE D TO BE REMOVED, NO VISITOR FACILITIES PROPOSED

Location of proposed changes to zone D sites and road classifications



LEGEND:

- ▲ ZONE D ADDITIONS
- ZONE D REMOVALS
- ROAD CHANGES
- WORLD HERITAGE AREA
- MAJOR ROADS

0 5 10 20 30 40 50
KILOMETERS

Zone D - Additions to zoning maps

- 1 Home Rule
- 2 Bloomfield Falls Trailhead
- 3 Woobadda River Crossing
- 4 Roaring Meg
- 5 Emmagen Creek
- 6 Alexandra Range Lookout
- 7 Hartley's Crocodile Adventures
- 8 Wangetti Beach (South)
- 9 South Mission Beach Boat Ramp
- 10 Percy Pease Lookout
- 11 Jourama Falls Day Use Area

Zone D - Removals from zoning maps

- 1 Unnamed site (Lorna Doone)
- 2 Kaway (Cowie Beach)
- 3 Donovan Beach
- 4 Emmagen Beach
- 5 Coconuts Resort
- 6 Cape Kimberley
- 7 Twin Bridges
(East Black Mountain Road)
- 8 Rainforest Creek
(Black Mountain Road)
- 9 Kuranda Forest Station
(Black Mountain Road)
- 10 Giant Pendas
- 11 Lake Placid
- 12 Stoney Creek (Kamerunga)
- 13 Lookout (Lake Morris Road)
- 14 Lambs Head trailhead
- 15 Fishery Falls
- 16 Gadgarra Red Cedar
- 17 Bartle Frere West (trailhead)
- 18 Old Beatrice River Bridge
- 19 K Tree
- 20 Cowley Falls
- 21 Cannabullen Falls Track
- 22 Walters Waterhole (trailhead)
- 23 Eyrie Lookout
- 24 Bluewater Range

Road classification changes

(REFER TABLE 1 PAGE 9)

- 1 Bump Track
- 2 East Black Mountain Road
- 3 Lamb Range Track
- 4 Drover's Track
- 5 H Road
- 6 Culpa Road
- 7 Red Road
- 8 Nitchiga Creek Track
- 9 Kennedy Falls Track
- 10 Benhams Track/Valley Road
- 11 Bluewater Road

Roads in the World Heritage Area

The current zoning maps depict a range of road classifications for use by motorised vehicles within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. These include:

- Highways
- Local access roads
- Presentation (unrestricted) roads
- Presentation (restricted) roads
- Management roads

A Wet Tropics permit is required for use of motor vehicles only on presentation (restricted) roads and management roads.

Road classifications reflect the needs of land managers, infrastructure agencies, visitors, the tourism industry, researchers and the community. Classifications take into account the potential impacts of road access and use on the integrity of the World Heritage Area.

Unfortunately, the condition of some of the presentation and management roads depicted on zoning maps has deteriorated over the past 20 years during the life of the current Plan. Some of these were old logging roads which have become overgrown, eroded and unsafe due to lack of maintenance. It is proposed that the Plan will not recognise these as 'roads' as they are no longer required for motor vehicle use. However, other roads currently in disuse would be retained on the zoning maps to retain their potential for use in presentation or management. There are also several old forestry roads which are now used as walking or mountain bike tracks.

Proposed changes

The Authority proposes the following changes to road classifications:

- A few presentation (restricted) roads through upland rainforest areas (about 64km) would retain their current designation and still require a permit (where a sign is in place stating a permit is required). These roads are the Mount Lewis Road (past the Bluefinch site), the Tinaroo Range network (Kauri Creek and

Mount Edith Roads) and Shoteel Creek Road (from the Figtree to the start of the Cairns Water track).

- Benhams Track and Valley Road near Paluma Dam could become open for use as a presentation restricted road pending agreements to manage access.
- All remaining presentation (unrestricted) roads would be designated simply as presentation roads. The remaining presentation (restricted) roads would also be re-designated as presentation roads. This would result in the total length of presentation roads increasing from 230km to 400km. Presentation roads may be gated and closed seasonally for safety or maintenance reasons.
- Operation of a vehicle on a management road is currently restricted to use for natural heritage management, scientific research, and maintaining community services infrastructure. These purposes would be expanded to include 'for the purpose of cultural heritage management.'
- Mapping of some management roads will be updated to reflect current use and needs of infrastructure providers.

Have your say!

What are your views on the following:

Do you agree with the proposals to change road classifications in the table opposite?

Are there any roads you think need to be opened or closed to motor vehicles within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area?

Do you agree that a permit should still be required for the presentation (restricted) roads listed above?

Are you happy with the criteria for use of motor vehicles on management roads?



TABLE 1: Proposed changes to road classifications *Note: It is proposed that all other roads retain the classification in the current Plan zoning maps.*

Roads NORTH TO SOUTH	Current classification	Proposed classification	Reasons
Bump Track	Presentation [RESTRICTED]	No classification Not recognised as a 'road'	In use as a walking and mountain biking track
East Black Mountain Road	Presentation [RESTRICTED]	No classification	In use as a walking and mountain bike track
Lamb Range Track	Presentation [RESTRICTED]	No classification	In use as a walking track
Drovers Track	Not shown on maps	Presentation	Create loop with East Hills track
H Road	Management	No classification	Proposed use as a walking and mountain biking track
Culpa Road	Presentation Restricted	No classification	No longer in use due to safety issues and extent of deterioration
Red Road	Local access	No classification	A section of this road not trafficable (propose to substitute Nitchiga Creek Road as alternative access)
Nitchiga Creek Road	Management	Presentation	Seasonal access through to Red Road
Kennedy Falls Track	Presentation [RESTRICTED]	No classification	No motor vehicle use requirement identified
Benhams Track/Valley Road	Management	Presentation Restricted	Tourism opportunities subject to permit and road management
Bluewater Road [PART]	Presentation [RESTRICTED]	No classification	No motor vehicle use requirement identified; proposal to close road beyond gate at old forestry camp visitor site

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TABLE 2: Summary of changes to distances available for motor vehicle use on presentation and management roads

Road class	Current length(km)	Proposed length (km)
Presentation	230	400
Presentation [RESTRICTED]	244	68
Management	342	297



Community services infrastructure

Community services infrastructure in the World Heritage Area is specifically addressed in various sections of the Plan. Such infrastructure includes dams, roads, communication towers, powerlines, pipelines, railways, and cableways. Zone C is designed to cater for the needs of community services infrastructure and Schedule 1 of the Plan provides a process for local government to apply to rezone from zone B to zone C for essential community services infrastructure. Schedule 1 also includes specific review and appeal provisions for local government applications. Maintenance and construction of such infrastructure and potential impacts on World Heritage values are managed under the permit system.

- Section 39 would be amended to allow a permit to be issued to carry out an activity necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in any zone (not just for local governments in zone B under Schedule 1).
- Zone B will now comprise a 500m buffer zone around existing community services infrastructure (see zoning pages). This will continue to enable flexibility under Schedule 1 for local governments to seek approval for provision of future community infrastructure needs

The current zone B for Aboriginal lands at Wujal Wujal, Yarrabah and Mona Mona will be maintained to allow for potential community development.

Proposed changes

The proposed amendments which may affect applications to build or maintain community services infrastructure are listed below:

- Section 65 of the Plan would be amended to apply to all community services infrastructure, not just roads. Section 65 currently prescribes some additional permit requirements for roadworks. To summarise, this proposed amendment would include requirements that any building or upgrading of community services infrastructure:
 1. would not have a net adverse impact on the natural integrity or there is no prudent and feasible alternative.
 2. must be confined to 'land already cleared or degraded' as much as possible.
 3. warrants canopy clearing only for reasons of public safety or provision of a community service.
- Section 65 would also be amended so that it only applies to building and upgrades of community services infrastructure and would not apply to general maintenance works.



Have your say!

What are your views on the following:

Do you agree that all permit applications for building or upgrading community services infrastructure—not just roads—should be assessed against the requirements of section 65?

Do you know of any future need for essential community services infrastructure within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area?

Do you support a 500m zone B buffer around existing community services infrastructure?

Recognising Rainforest Aboriginal tradition

The preamble to the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* acknowledges the significant contribution that Aboriginal people make to the management of cultural and natural heritage within the Area. The legislation states that the Authority must have regard to Aboriginal tradition and ‘liaise, and cooperate, with Aboriginal people particularly concerned with the land’.

Proposed changes

The following proposed changes to the Plan are designed to enhance recognition of Aboriginal tradition and the significant role that Rainforest Aboriginal people play in cultural and natural heritage management within the World Heritage Area:

- Add a preliminary section to recognise that the Plan must have regard to Aboriginal tradition and acknowledge Rainforest Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the Wet Tropics landscape.
- Amend definitions of all zones (page 4) to recognise that traditional Rainforest Aboriginal land management practices are appropriate in all zones.
- Provide for the use of motor vehicles on management roads for cultural heritage management.
- Amend sections dealing with Cooperative Management Agreements to be specific about potential use to enable social and economic development opportunities for Rainforest Aboriginal groups. Agreements provide the Authority with a way to vary the zoning maps and permit system, so long as the agreement contributes to the Primary Goal – to protect, conserve, rehabilitate, present and transmit to future generations the World Heritage Area.
- Amend section 23 to clarify that native title rights prescribed under section 211 of the Commonwealth Native Title Act are not affected.
- Amend section 33(b), which states that a permit may be issued for activities allowed under Native Title, to clarify that a permit is not required to exercise a native title right under s211 of the Native Title Act.

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The Authority will be consulting with Rainforest Aboriginal people on potential amendments to enable recognition of Indigenous plans for management of their country as Cooperative Management Agreements. Plan amendments will also allow the Authority to develop clear guidelines for making decisions about Cooperative Management Agreements.

The Authority will also consider adding potential visitor sites and existing access roads and management roads where proposed by Rainforest Aboriginal people for managing their country.



IMAGE: WET TROPICS IMAGES/BRAD NEWTON



IMAGE: WET TROPICS IMAGES/BRAD NEWTON



Have your say!

What are your views on the following:

What are your views about the recognition of traditional Aboriginal land management practices in all zones?

Do you support the use of management roads for cultural heritage management?

What criteria should be in the guidelines for making decisions about Cooperative Management Agreements?

Do you have more suggestions about how the Plan can be improved to support Rainforest Aboriginal involvement in World Heritage management?

Activities allowed under permit

The Plan regulates a range of activities which may have an impact on the natural values and integrity of the World Heritage Area. Regulated activities include destruction of vegetation, interference with watercourses or earth, building and maintaining roads and other structures, disposing of waste, and keeping or moving undesirable plants and animals. Regulations may also apply to those activities which can affect people's use and enjoyment of the area. These activities may include operating motorised vehicles and aircraft and activities which affect scenic values. Section 33 allows some of these activities to be carried out under a permit.

Note: The Plan does not directly regulate activities which may have an adverse impact on native animals – these impacts are regulated under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Proposed changes

Activities under a Wet Tropics permit.

The following activities are currently prohibited; however, the Authority is proposing to amend the Plan such that a permit may be issued to undertake these activities:

- To destroy native vegetation to improve presentation – at a lookout for example.
- To destroy native vegetation to help conservation – for example, cutting down vegetation to assist fire management or post-cyclone habitat restoration through vine removal.
- To use a motor vehicle for conservation management or maintaining a walking track.

Regulated activities under a permit

The activities below are currently not regulated and the Authority is proposing to regulate them under a permit:

- To translocate and release a fish or crustacean into the Area outside its natural range (*see page 14*).

- To subdivide a lot within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Subdivision of a lot is already regulated under Queensland planning legislation and decided by local governments. However, the Authority wishes to regulate the potential impacts of subdivision where it could result in impacts from additional houses, fences and domestic activities within the Area.

Options for regulating motorised aircraft

The Plan currently requires a permit to fly a motorised aircraft for commercial purposes less than 1000 feet above ground (apart from taking off and landing or for safety purposes). This permit was primarily introduced to be able to control the potential impacts of noise and other adverse effects on visitors, wildlife and vegetation. The Authority is considering various options regarding motorised aircraft:

- To regulate landing of all motorised aircraft under a permit.
- To regulate flying of motorised aircraft below 1000 feet.
- To not regulate motorised aircraft and rely on regulations under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* regarding landing and flying below 1500 feet in designated areas.
- To exempt small drones from any regulation under the Plan.

Domestic activities

The Plan also allows certain domestic activities under a permit on private land or native title land (sections 35 and 63). Landholders and native title holders are allowed to build a house, create access to the house, create gardens and orchards and extract water. The Authority proposes to also allow infrastructure for domestic electricity, water supply and communications under a permit. The permit may be issued with conditions to minimise any impacts on World Heritage values.



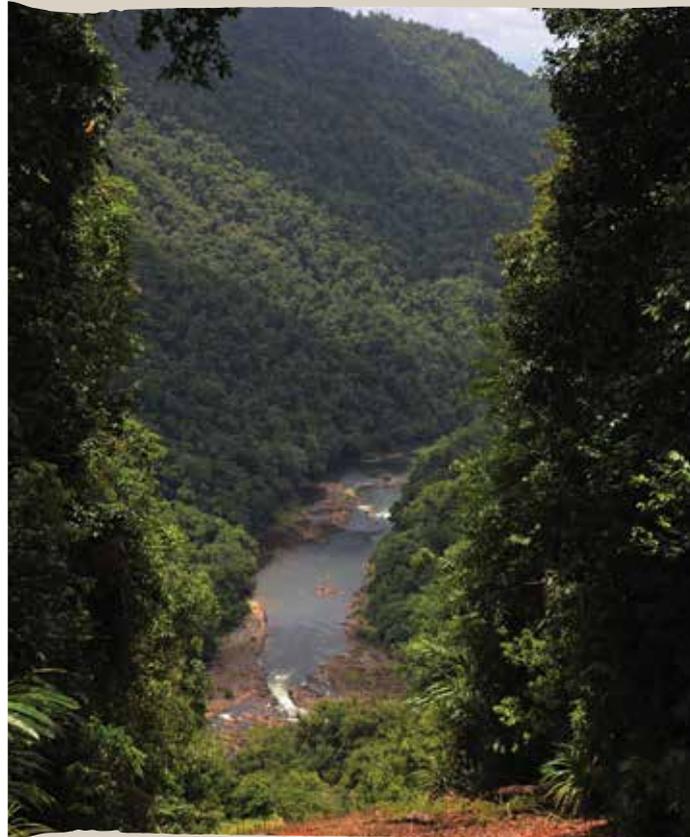
HOUSE AND GARDEN WITHIN THE AREA

Offsets

An environmental offset is an action that compensates for any unavoidable adverse impacts of a development. Offsets are generally a ‘last resort’ option for addressing residual impacts of development, after efforts have been undertaken to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts. They seek to ensure that a development has ‘no net adverse impact’ by providing environmental benefits or gain elsewhere. Environmental and scenic offsets would preferably be within the Area, or located outside where they contribute to World Heritage values. Offsets cannot be used to gain approval for an activity that would not otherwise be approved.

Proposed changes

Section 51 allows a permit to be issued with conditions to ‘prevent minimise or monitor any adverse impact’ on natural integrity. The Authority is considering whether to amend the Plan to also allow the issue of permit conditions to offset any remaining adverse impact.



VEGETATION CLEARING FOR A SCENIC LOOKOUT

Have your say!

What are your views on the following:

Should the Plan regulate subdivision of a lot in the World Heritage Area?

Should the Plan regulate landing of motorised aircraft or aircraft flying low?

If so, what criteria should be used to assess permit conditions for landing in or flying low over the Area?

Should permit conditions be allowed to include offset requirements for any remaining adverse impacts?

Are there other ways to deal with low risk activities that would have no more than minor and inconsequential impacts on World Heritage values – such as through self-assessable guidelines?

Mining ~ an allowed activity

Mining is currently allowed under the Plan where a licence, permit or other authority has been granted under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*. During previous consultation, the mining industry has indicated that it would support a ban on mining within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. However, prohibition of mining would also require an amendment to the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*. Within the World Heritage Area, there are currently two mining leases (343ha) and three exploration permits (3,845ha) under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

Have your say!

What are your views on the following:

Should the Authority seek to phase out mining licences, permits and other mining authorities in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area?

Undesirable plants and animals

The Plan regulates the keeping and movement of undesirable plants and animals. These are plants and animals which are considered a threat to the World Heritage values, particularly if they are allowed to become established. Undesirable plants and animals are defined as those listed in Schedule 2 of the Plan, as well as prohibited wildlife under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and declared plants in Queensland.

Proposed changes

Several updates and changes are proposed to the lists of undesirable plants and animals:

- The list of undesirable plants would be updated to reflect the large influx of environmental weeds into the Wet Tropics over the past 20 years. Not every weed would be included, but the list would incorporate the more invasive weeds which are a threat to intact Wet Tropics ecosystems.
- A small number of undesirable animals and invertebrates may also need to be added.
- The definition of undesirable plants and animals would be updated to incorporate prohibited and restricted plants and animals under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.
- The Authority proposes to create a separate regulation for undesirable animals and plants so that the lists can be more easily updated without requiring a lengthy Plan amendment process.

Other animal and plant regulations

The Authority attempts to balance the social and economic benefits of keeping or moving some non-native and native plants and animals against their potential impacts on the World Heritage Area. The following changes are proposed to address the circumstances when certain animals and plants may be allowed within the World Heritage Area.

- Undesirable animals may currently be kept outside of rainforest on private or native title lands. The amended Plan would not allow undesirable animals to be kept anywhere in the World Heritage Area, with the exception of cattle, dogs, cats and honey bees.
- Cats and dogs must be kept in a way that prevents them threatening native wildlife. If a residence is in the rainforest, a cat or dog would be allowed, as long as it is kept within the enclosed land around the residence.
- The amended Plan would only allow grazing of cattle outside of rainforest to continue. Other undesirable animals could no longer be grazed.





IMAGE: © JURGEN FREUND



IMAGE: ©DAF



IMAGE: ©QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT



IMAGE: ©CHRIS ROACH QPWS

- The translocation and release of native fish and crustaceans beyond their natural range would be regulated under the amended Plan (this is also regulated under the *Fisheries Act 1994*). This practice has been undertaken officially in several dams and waterways for recreational fishing and is commonly referred to as fishstocking.
- The use of working dogs for tasks such as cattle dogs for mustering or sniffer dogs for locating invasive ants would be allowed under a permit.
- New proposals for commercial cultivation of all non-native plant species (which may not be listed as undesirable) would be prohibited.
- The amended Plan may allow walking of dogs on a leash within the World Heritage Area in specified areas where there are no feasible alternatives for the local community and no impacts on World Heritage values.

Have your say!

What are your views on the following:

Should the Plan regulate translocation and release of large predatory fish such as barramundi and sooty grunter into dams and waterways within the Area, outside their natural range?

Should residents be able to keep a dog or cat if their house is located in a rainforest?

Should people be allowed to walk a dog on a lead in certain designated areas where there are no feasible alternatives for the local community?

Should cattle grazing outside of rainforest be regulated under the Plan?

Do you agree with prohibiting animals such as deer, goats and pigs from being kept in the World Heritage Area?

The Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 REVIEW

Have your say!

Submissions close Friday 30 June 2017

How to make a submission

The Authority invites you to provide comments and suggestions on the changes being considered as part of this first phase of the Plan review (*see page 3 for details on the review process*). Your comments will help the Authority gain a better understanding of community views on proposed changes to the Plan. The comments you provide will be carefully analysed and considered when the Authority prepares a draft amendment Plan. The draft amendment Plan will be released for final comment in 2018. Formal submissions must be in writing.

Submissions can be provided in one of the following ways:

Online:

www.wettropics.gov.au/wet-tropics-plan-review

Written submission:

Wet Tropics Management Authority
PO Box 2050, Cairns 4870

Email: wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au

Where can I find out more about the plan?

Wet Tropics website:

www.wettropics.gov.au/wet-tropics-plan-review

Here you can find copies of the relevant legislation, information sheets and links to interactive mapping of the Wet Tropics zoning maps.

Wet Tropics Management Authority:

The Authority has hard copy zoning maps and information brochures.

Local government offices:

Hard copy zoning maps and information brochures will be available at all local government offices.

Contacts

Wet Tropics Management Authority

Cairns Port Authority Building
Corner Grafton and Hartley Streets, Cairns

Campbell Clarke 4241 0531
campbell.clarke@wtma.qld.gov.au

Lorraine Briggs 4241 0520
lorraine.briggs@wtma.qld.gov.au

Contractors assisting with community sector submissions:

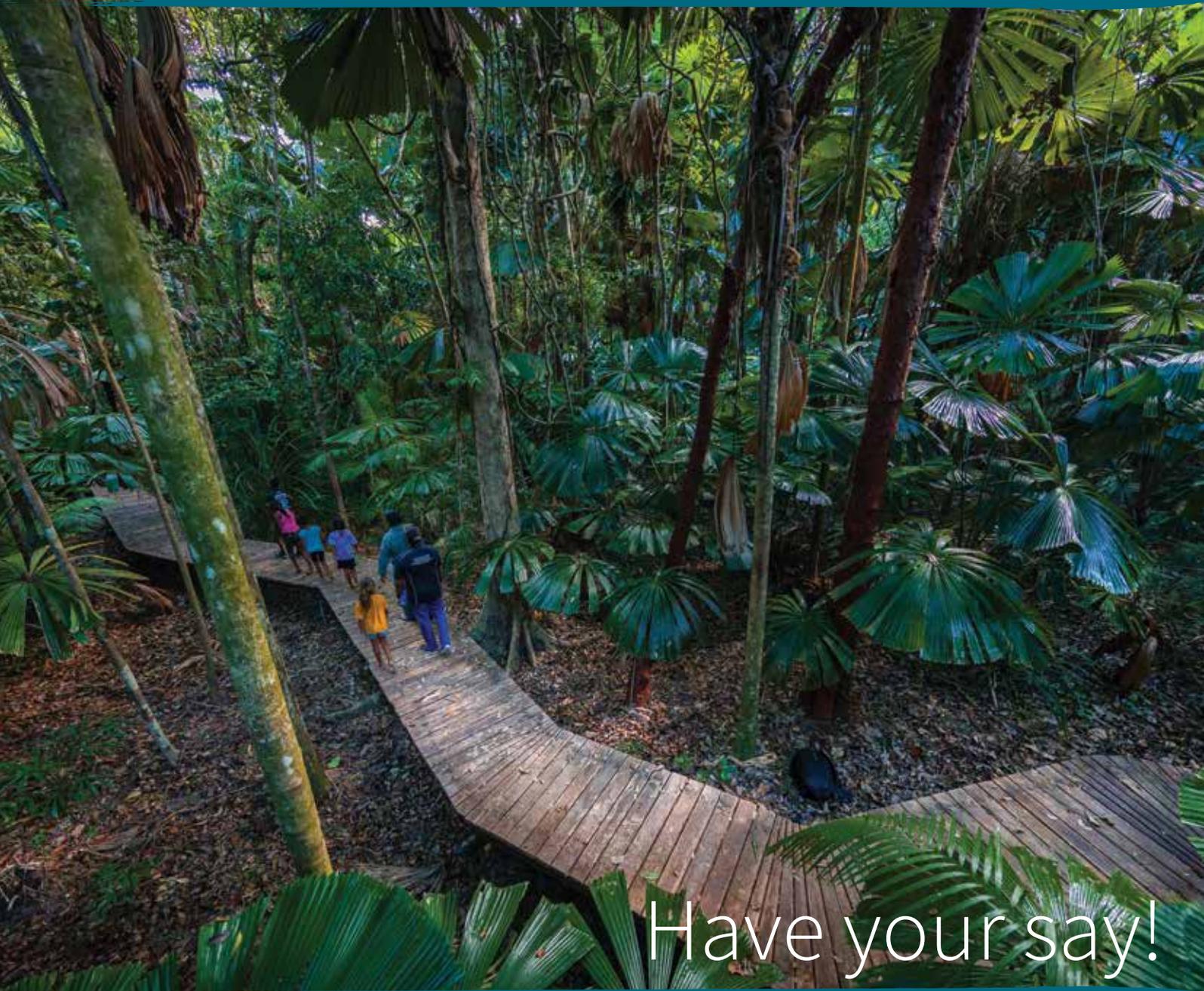
Tourism sector: Alliance for Sustainable Tourism
Email: alliance@ttnq.org.au

Conservation sector:
Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC)
Email: president@cafnecc.org.au

Rainforest Aboriginal people: BioCultural ConneXions
Email: bruc3anthr0@gmail.com



Wet Tropics Management Plan REVIEW



Have your say!

The Wet Tropics Management Authority is reviewing its statutory management plan.

The Authority is seeking the views of Rainforest Aboriginal people about how best to promote recognition of Aboriginal tradition and the significant role that Rainforest Aboriginal people play in cultural and natural heritage management within the World Heritage Area.

The Wet Tropics landscape we value so much today is the result of the stewardship of the Rainforest Aboriginal people who have been present since time immemorial.



**WET
TROPICS**
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



See back page for how to make a submission and obtain more information.

Ordinary Council Meeting - 20 June 2017



Attachment 5.6.2



119 of 307



Wet Tropics World Heritage Area listing

The World Heritage Area was declared in December 1988. The listing recognised natural values such as:

- The diversity and evolutionary importance of the Area's plants, animals and ecosystems.
- The high proportion of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.
- Significant habitats for conservation of biodiversity, including threatened animals and plants.
- Exceptional natural beauty.

In 2012, Rainforest Aboriginal people successfully achieved a National Heritage Listing of Indigenous cultural values in the Wet Tropics. The listing recognises Rainforest Aboriginal heritage is unique to the Wet Tropics and is a remarkable and continuous connection with a tropical rainforest environment.

How does the Plan work?

The Wet Tropics Management Plan came into operation in 1998. The Plan regulates activities that may have an impact on the natural values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Plan includes:

- Zoning maps to designate areas for conservation, infrastructure and visitor sites. They also define road classifications for the use of motorised vehicles.
- A permit system which allows the Authority to assess the potential impact of regulated activities and provides opportunities for Rainforest Aboriginal people to advise the Authority on relevant cultural considerations.

We acknowledge Rainforest Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and recognise their connection to this cultural landscape. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

How could the Plan be improved?

Overall, we are looking for ways the Plan could better recognise Rainforest Aboriginal traditions and the contributions of Rainforest Aboriginal people to the past and future management of the World Heritage Area. Specifically, it is proposed that the Plan could:

- Add a preliminary section to recognise that the Plan must have regard to Aboriginal tradition and to acknowledge Rainforest Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the Wet Tropics landscape.
- Amend definitions of all zones (section 6) to recognize traditional Rainforest Aboriginal land management practices are appropriate in all zones.
- Provide for the use of motor vehicles on management roads for cultural heritage management.
- Amend the sections dealing with Cooperative Management Agreements to be more specific about potential use to enable social and economic development for Rainforest Aboriginal groups. These agreements allow the Authority to vary the zoning maps and permit system in the Plan, so long as the agreement contributes to the Primary Goal – to protect, conserve, rehabilitate, present and transmit to future generations the World Heritage Area.
- Investigate opportunities to amend the Plan to enable the recognition of Indigenous plans for management of their country as Cooperative Management Agreements. Plan amendments could also allow the Authority to develop guidelines for making decisions about Cooperative Management Agreements.
- Amend section 23 to clarify that the Plan does not affect Native Title rights prescribed under section 211 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).
- Amend section 33(b), which states that a permit may be issued for activities allowed under Native Title, to clarify that a permit is not required to exercise a native title right under s211 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- Consider adding potential visitor sites and existing access roads and management roads to the Plan where proposed by Rainforest Aboriginal people for managing their country.

Guidelines for consultation and decision making

The Plan provides for guidelines to be developed about how to best consult and make decisions about permit applications.

It is proposed to update the permit assessment (section 62) guideline for Rainforest Aboriginal consultation to ensure the Authority has appropriate regard for Native Title rights, Aboriginal tradition and free, prior, informed consent processes.

It also proposed to create a new section to allow guidelines to be developed to facilitate Indigenous land management plans to be recognised as cooperative management agreements (sections 40-43). These guidelines would help the Authority and Rainforest Aboriginal people to work together to develop suitable management plans for living on country and to avoid or minimise impacts on the World Heritage Area.

Protection of cultural heritage in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

- The *Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* is the primary legislation for protection of Rainforest Aboriginal cultural sites and heritage. Some Rainforest Aboriginal Groups are registered as Cultural Heritage Bodies which means they are the first point of contact for cultural heritage matters.
- The *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* includes provisions to ensure effective management of listed cultural values and protection against activities that may have a significant impact on these values.

The Plan review requires two rounds of public consultation of at least 40 days each for the community to make submissions. The proposed amendments then go to the Wet Tropics Ministerial Forum and the Queensland Government for approval.

Phase 1 consultation (2 May to 30 June 2017)

- The purpose of this phase is to gather ideas and suggestions from landholders, Traditional custodians, Native Title holders, stakeholders and the broader community about how the Plan could be improved.
- The Authority will contact Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBCs) and Prescribed Bodies Corporates (PBCs) to plan formal and informal meetings with Rainforest Aboriginal people during this period.
- Rainforest Aboriginal groups and individuals are encouraged to make a formal submission during this process.
- To assist Rainforest Aboriginal people to make a formal submission, a contractor, BioCultural ConneXions has been appointed.

Plan preparation (July 2017 to January 2018)

- The Authority considers all submissions and prepares a draft amendment Plan.

Phase 2 consultation (February to May 2018)

- The purpose of this phase is to seek comments on the draft amendment Plan and zoning maps.
- As in phase 1, the Authority will meet with Rainforest Aboriginal people to seek comments and submissions.

Legislative approval (June 2018)

- The Authority will prepare the final amendment Plan for approval by the Wet Tropics Ministerial Forum and the Queensland Government.

Online:

www.wettropics.gov.au/wet-tropics-plan-review

Written submission:

Wet Tropics Management Authority
PO Box 2050, Cairns 4870

Email: wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au

More information

See the Plan review brochure on our website www.wettropics.gov.au/wet-tropics-plan-review for detailed information and interactive zoning maps.

Visit your local council office to see hard copies of the zoning maps and a 16 page brochure.

Contacts

Wet Tropics Management Authority

Cairns Port Authority Building

Corner Grafton and Hartley Streets, Cairns

If you wish to know more about the Plan review process or if you would like us to come and meet with you directly, please contact staff at the Authority:

To organise a meeting:

Eli Taylor 4241 0505
eli.taylor@wtma.qld.gov.au

Alicia Haines 4241 0510
alicia.haines@wtma.qld.gov.au

To ask about proposed changes to the Plan:

Campbell Clarke 4241 0531
campbell.clarke@wtma.qld.gov.au

Lorraine Briggs 4241 0520
lorraine.briggs@wtma.qld.gov.au

To contribute to a Rainforest Aboriginal submission:

BioCultural ConneXions
Email: bruc3anthr0@gmail.com



The Wet Tropics Management Plan REVIEW

Have your say!

Submissions close
Friday 30 June 2017



WET TROPICS PLAN REVIEW

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MAP Existing Zoning (Northern)

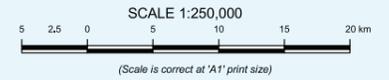
Edition 2.0 - 23 January 2009

NOTE:
This map is for the use on the Wet Tropics Plan Review project only. It should be read in association with the Wet Tropics Plan Review Information booklet - February 2009, and should not be used for any other purpose.

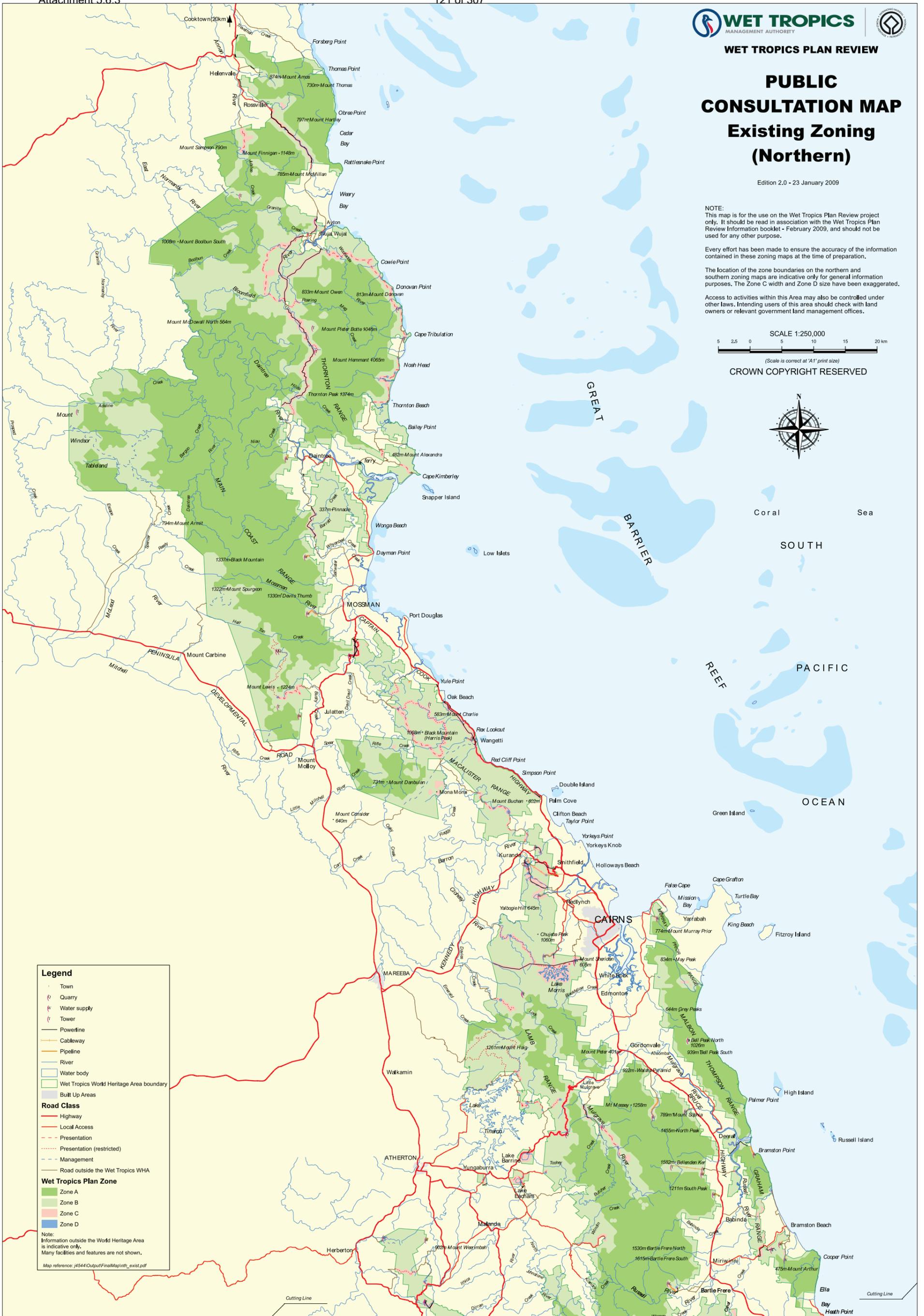
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in these zoning maps at the time of preparation.

The location of the zone boundaries on the northern and southern zoning maps are indicative only for general information purposes. The Zone C width and Zone D size have been exaggerated.

Access to activities within this Area may also be controlled under other laws. Intending users of this area should check with land owners or relevant government land management offices.



CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED



Legend

- Town
- Quarry
- Water supply
- Tower
- Powerline
- Cableway
- Pipeline
- River
- Water body
- Wet Tropics World Heritage Area boundary
- Built Up Areas

Road Class

- Highway
- Local Access
- Presentation
- Presentation (restricted)
- Management
- Road outside the Wet Tropics WHA

Wet Tropics Plan Zone

- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C
- Zone D

Note:
Information outside the World Heritage Area is indicative only. Many facilities and features are not shown.
Map reference: J4544\Output\FinalMap\pinth_exist.pdf

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MAP Proposed Zoning (Northern)

Edition 2.0 - 3 March 2017

NOTE:
This map is for the use on the Wet Tropics Plan Review project only. It should be read in association with the Wet Tropics Plan Review Information booklet - March 2017, and should not be used for any other purpose.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in these zoning maps at the time of preparation.

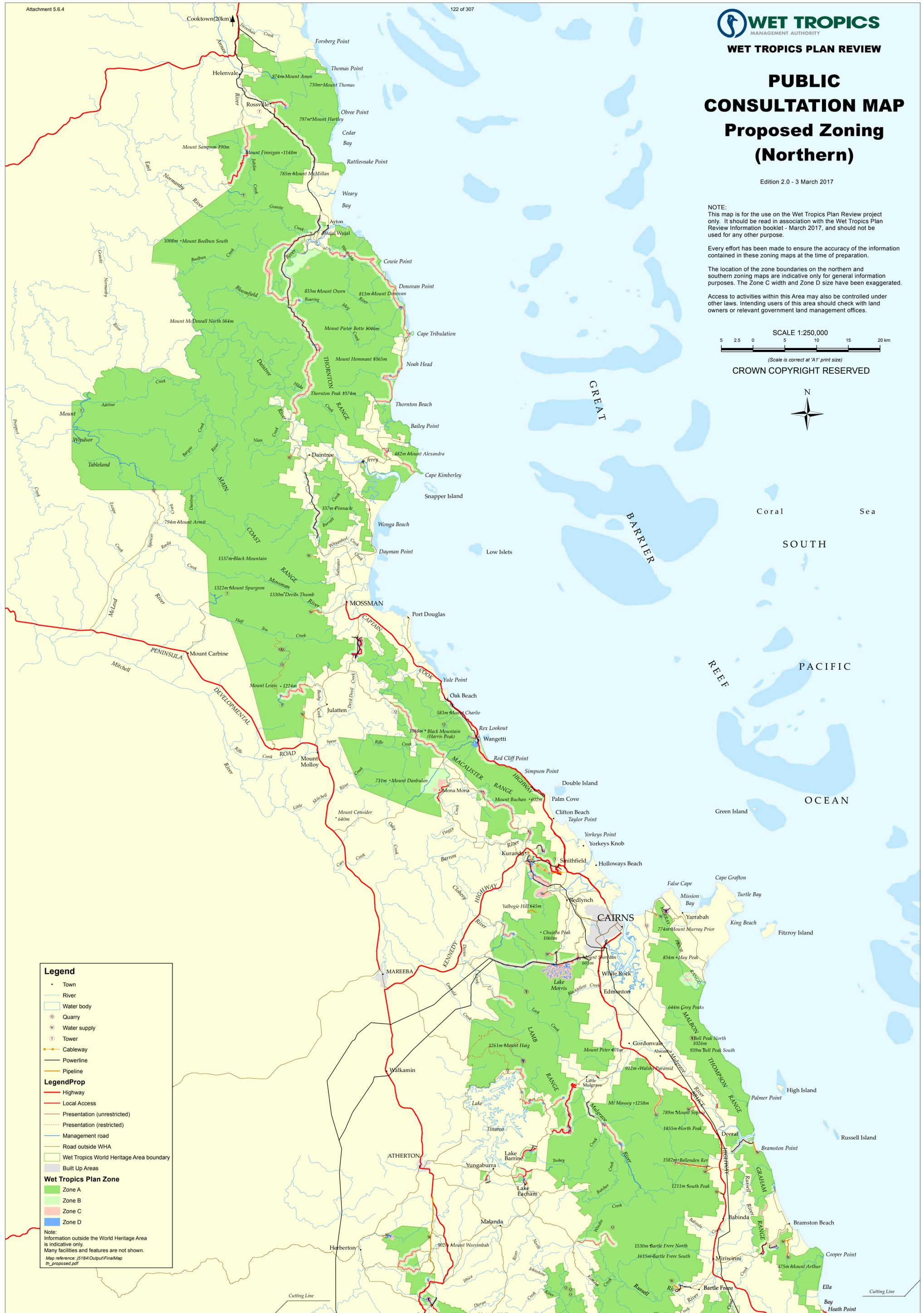
The location of the zone boundaries on the northern and southern zoning maps are indicative only for general information purposes. The Zone C width and Zone D size have been exaggerated.

Access to activities within this Area may also be controlled under other laws. Intending users of this area should check with land owners or relevant government land management offices.



(Scale is correct at 'A1' print size)

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED



Legend

- Town
- River
- Water body
- Quarry
- Water supply
- Tower
- Cableway
- Powerline
- Pipeline

LegendProp

- Highway
- Local Access
- Presentation (unrestricted)
- Presentation (restricted)
- Management road
- Road outside WHA
- Wet Tropics World Heritage Area boundary
- Built Up Areas

Wet Tropics Plan Zone

- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C
- Zone D

Note:
Information outside the World Heritage Area is indicative only. Many facilities and features are not shown.
Map reference: J5184\Output\FinalMap th_proposed.pdf

WET TROPICS MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

*A submission to the Wet
Tropics Management
Association*

20 June 2017

DOUGLAS SHIRE
COUNCIL

*Improving Environmental Performance
Ngaral Kulji Bubungu - Eastern Kuku Yalanji
Pulmpa dakit jarral-a-kaling - Yirrganydji*

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Introduction

The Douglas region is comprised of World Heritage listed areas of natural beauty, ancient and complex ecosystems and is renowned for the biodiversity of its flora and fauna. The rainforests of the Wet Tropics and the reefs and waters of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) support a strong economy, with 1.2 million tourists visiting the Shire every year. Douglas Shire Council (Douglas) is committed to protecting the Wet Tropic World Heritage values, whilst also promoting positive economic and social outcomes.

Submission Questions

The Wet Tropics Zoning System

1. Do you agree with incorporating recovered areas from Zone B into Zone A?

Under the proposed zoning system a large amount of Zone B land will be reclassified as Zone A. Whilst this is consistent with the Current Plan's position that Zone B land should be reclassified as Zone A once it has been sufficiently recovered or rehabilitated, there are concerns for Douglas. The reclassification has the potential to significantly interfere with the Return to Country aspirations of traditional owners, particularly in the China Camp (Buru) area of Douglas Shire. The initiative to retain Zone B land in Douglas Shire in close proximity to Wujal Wujal is supported, however the Zone B land needs to be expanded to correlate with the proposed precincts in the Return to Country Local Plan. Much of this land is not rainforest and has been used for a variety of purposes in the past, including grazing and mining. Greater consistency from WTMA is needed to ensure the initiatives contained in the Douglas Shire Proposed Planning Scheme and its proposed Return to Country Local Plan are not diminished through the proposed changes to the zones. In addition, the proposed zoning also has the potential to prevent the establishment of new infrastructure (such as the Wangetti Trail and extensions to the Council's drinking water pipe network) and appears to prevent the maintenance of existing tracks and infrastructure. It would also preclude the addition of new facilities (such as visitor sites and toilets) to support existing tracks and infrastructure.

There is a clear need for recreational (walking and mountain biking) trails and tracks to be mapped and defined in the scheme and maintenance around those tracks permitted to continue. This also needs to accommodate the development of future trails such as the concept of the Wangetti Trail and also the potential reopening of the old aboriginal walking tracks and *highways* that are prevalent throughout the Douglas area and surrounds.

2. What are your views about defining Zone B as a 500m buffer around existing infrastructure?

Douglas is supportive of extending the definition of Zone B to include a 500 meter buffer around existing infrastructure.

3. Do you support the inclusions of some existing clearings in Zone C as potential sites for visitor infrastructure, or community services infrastructure?

Douglas is supportive of incorporating some existing clearings in Zone C as potential sites for infrastructure. This view is based on the infrastructure location in the clearings as being 'fit for purpose'.

Changes to Zone D Visitor Sites

4. Can you suggest any additional sites that may require a Zone D for more developed visitor facilities?

In the Douglas Shire there is a need to identify additional Zone D areas to accommodate potential future visitor facilities in the Buru (China Camp) area and along the proposed Wangetti Trail. Douglas can provide further information, such as GIS overlays for this concept infrastructure.

5. What do you think about the proposal to remove the Zone D classification from the sites listed on the map?

No comment at this stage as further investigation is required.

6. Do you support the addition of Zone D sites where visitor facilities may be proposed in future?

Douglas agrees with the six additional Zone D sites which are located within the Douglas Shire. These being: Woobadda River Crossing, Roaring Meg, Emmagen Creek, Alexandra Range Lookout, Hartley's Crocodile Adventures and Wangetti Beach (South).

Roads in the World Heritage Area

7. Do you agree with the proposals to change road classifications in the table (*as identified in the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review document*)?

The information provided to date on road classifications is unclear and further clarification is required from WTMA, including proper definitions for each of the road classifications. The Proposed Zoning maps show additional changes to those identified in the Review document Table. Table One below represents Douglas' current position based on the proposed zoning mapping covering the Douglas Shire.

Table One – Road Classification in Douglas Shire

Road	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	Douglas Comment
Bump Track	Presentation (restricted)	Not shown and area becomes Zone A	The proposed mapping shows the Bump Track moving to Zone A. This indicates that there will be no management and the track would ultimately disappear to the rainforest. This is an integral track for recreational activities (hiking, trail running and mountain biking) for Douglas residents and visitors. Douglas therefore recommends that a new classification of road is created on the maps identified as 'Trails'. The definition of a Trail should allow for recreational use (hiking, trail running and mountain biking) and for track maintenance and vehicle access for sporting events.
East Black Mountain Road	Presentation (restricted)	Not shown and area becomes Zone A	The mapping shows the Twin Bridges Track moving to Zone A. This indicates that there will be no management and so the track would ultimately disappear to the rainforest. This is an integral track for recreational activities (hiking, trail running and mountain biking) for Douglas residents and visitors. Douglas therefore recommends that a new classification of road is created on the maps identified as 'Trails'. The definition of a Trail should allow for recreational use (hiking, trail running and mountain biking), for track maintenance and vehicle access for sporting events.
CREB Track – local access to residential area	Presentation (non restriction)	No classification (not recognised as a road)	Located at Daintree River Crossing area of the CREB Track, this road is an important track for local access to a residential area. Douglas is not in favour of the proposed change and recommends that it remains as a 'Presentation (non restriction) road'.
Zig Zag Track	Shown as powerline and Zone C	Not shown and area becomes Zone A	The Zig Zag Track is an important existing track for access to properties and is used for recreational activities (hiking, trail running and mountain biking). The track also has the potential to be expanded as part of the economic development plan for the Wujal Wujal/China Camp areas. Douglas therefore recommends that the Zig Zag Track is classified as a 'Presentation (restricted) road'.
Proposed Wangetti Trail	n/a	Shown as Zone A	The proposed Wangetti Trail should be recognised in the proposed mapping. The track will be used for recreational activities (hiking, trail running and mountain biking). Douglas therefore recommends that a new classification of road is created on the maps identified as 'Trails'. The definition of a Trail should allow for recreational use (hiking, trail running and mountain biking), for track maintenance and vehicle access for sporting events.

8. Are there any roads you think need to be opened or closed to motor vehicles within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area?

Refer to Table One above.

9. Do you agree that a permit should still be required for the presentation (restricted) roads listed above?

Douglas agrees that a permit should still be required for the presentation (restricted) roads.

10. Are you happy with the criteria for use of motor vehicles on management roads?

Douglas is happy in principle with the criteria for the use of motor vehicles on management roads, however the criteria needs to continue to support sporting event requirements. This includes running and cycling events which are often held on management roads, e.g. the Twin Bridges, Bump Track and Lemon Track.

Community Services Infrastructure

11. Do you agree that all permit applications for building or upgrading community services infrastructure – not just roads – should be assessed against the requirements of section 65?

Douglas is not supportive of this change as it has the potential to interfere with Douglas' ability to provide essential services, such as water. This would put additional constraints on local government resources, particularly around the required permits for maintaining essential community infrastructures.

12. Do you know of any future need for essential community services infrastructure within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area?

Existing water infrastructure is not mapped on the existing or proposed zoning maps correctly. Whilst water intakes are identified in Mossman, Daintree and Whyanbeel, the pipes are not currently mapped and are shown as Zone A in the proposed mapping. Douglas therefore recommends that the water pipe infrastructure is appropriately identified and will provide further information, such as GIS overlays on request.

There may be future infrastructure requirements in areas identified under the Return to Country Plans included in the proposed Douglas Shire Planning Scheme.

13. Do you support a 500m Zone B buffer around existing community services infrastructure?

Douglas does not see an issue with the proposed 500m Zone B buffer zones.

Recognising Rainforest Aboriginal tradition

14. What are your views about the recognition of traditional Aboriginal land management practices in all zones?

Douglas is supportive of the proposed changes in principles relating to recognising Rainforest Aboriginal traditions; however the proposed mapping does not support the Return to Country aspirations for Aboriginal peoples return, nor the facilitation of economic development to support those aspirations.

15. Do you support the use of management roads for cultural heritage management?

Douglas is supportive of this proposal.

16. What criteria should be in the guidelines for making decisions about Cooperative Management Agreements?

Refer to Question 17.

17. Do you have more suggestions about how the Plan can be improved to support Rainforest Aboriginal involvement in World Heritage management?

The initiatives to retain Zone B land in Douglas Shire close to Wujal Wujal is supported by Douglas, however, the Zone B land needs to be expanded to correlate with the proposed precincts in the Return to Country Local Plan, as defined in the proposed Douglas Shire Planning Scheme. Much of this land is not rainforest and has been used for a variety of purposes in the past, including grazing and mining. Whilst Douglas is supportive in principle of the proposals around Rainforest Aboriginals further liaison is needed in developing the draft amendment Plan to ensure WTMA, Traditional Owners and Douglas Shire Council's planning objectives can be properly implemented.

Activities Allowed Under Permit

18. Should the Plan regulate subdivision of a lot in the World Heritage Area?

The Douglas Local Planning Scheme should regulate the subdivision of a lot in the World Heritage Area and WTMA should be a referral agency.

19. Should the Plan regulate landing of motorised aircraft or aircraft flying low?

Douglas has no comment on this issue.

20. If so, what criteria should be used to assess permit conditions for landing in or flying low over the Area?

Not applicable.

21. Should permit conditions be allowed to include offset requirements for any remaining adverse impacts?

Douglas is supportive of including offsets as a last resort.

22. Are there other ways to deal with low risk activities that would have no more than minor and inconsequential impacts on World Heritage values – such as thorough self-assessable guidelines?

Douglas believes the status quo should remain around the existing minor and inconsequential activities as defined in the Current Plan.

23. Should the Authority seek to phase out mining licences, permits and other mining authorities in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area?

Douglas is supportive of phasing out mining licences, permits and other mining authorities in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Undesirable Plants and Animals

24. Should the Plan regulate translocation and release of large predatory fish such as barramundi and sooty grunter into dams and waterways within the Area, outside their natural range?

Douglas is supportive of this proposal.

25. Should residents be able to keep a dog or cat if their house is located in a rainforest?

This is a matter for the relevant Local Governments to determine under Local Laws and Local Planning Schemes.

26. Should people be allowed to walk a dog on a lead in certain designated areas where there are no feasible alternatives for the local community?

Douglas is supportive of this concept to ensure the welfare of dogs is accommodated.

27. Should cattle grazing outside of rainforest be regulated under the Plan?

Douglas is supportive of further regulation in this area.

28. Do you agree with prohibiting animals such as deer, goats and pigs from being kept in the World Heritage Area?

Douglas is supportive of further regulation in this area.

Additional Information

For further information on this submission please contact:

Paul Hoyer
Manager Sustainable Communities
Douglas Shire Council
Paul.Hoyer@douglas.qld.gov.au
07 4099 9473