

15 August 2025

**Enquiries:** Jenny Elphinstone  
**Our Ref:** MCUI 2025\_5809/1 (Doc ID 1314524)  
**Your Ref:** WP25 029 RAI

Administration Office  
64 - 66 Front St Mossman  
P 07 4099 9444  
F 07 4098 2902

Rainforest Rescue  
C/- wildPLAN Pty Ltd  
PO Box 8028  
CAIRNS QLD 4870

**Email:** [dominic@wildplan.com.au](mailto:dominic@wildplan.com.au)

Attention Mr Dominic Hammersley

Dear Sir

**INFORMATION REQUEST**  
**(Given under Section 12 of the Development Assessment Rules)**

Council refers to your development application that was received on 4 August 2025.

**Applicant Details**

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**Name:** Rainforest Rescue A.C.N. 086 885 154  
**Postal Address:** C/- wildPLAN Pty Ltd  
PO Box 8028  
CAIRNS QLD 4870  
**Email:** [dominic@wildplan.com.au](mailto:dominic@wildplan.com.au)

**Property Details**

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**Street Address:** Lower Daintree:  
110 Cape Tribulation Road;  
L1, L2, L3, L9, Cape Tribulation Road;  
L8, L337, L354 Mossman-Daintree Road; and  
L1, L1, L2 L5 Prins Road.

**Real Property Description:** Lot 2 on N15779  
Lot 9 on SP143026  
Lot 3 on SP126928  
Lot 8 on RP722116  
Lot 1 on RP706308  
Lot 1 on RP720435  
Lot 1 and Lot 2 on RP720582  
Lot 2 on RP721745  
Lot 5 on RP706307  
Lot 337 on RP800690  
Lot 354 on SR616

**Local Government Area:** Douglas Shire Council

Application Number:	MCUI 2025_5809/1
Approval Sought:	Development Permit
Nature of Development Proposed:	Development Permit for a Material Change of Use (Impact Assessment) for Permanent Plantation (ecological restoration of nationally significant wetland and surrounds).
Description of the Development Proposed:	Development Permit for a Material Change of Use (Impact Assessment) for Permanent Plantation (ecological restoration of nationally significant wetland and surrounds).

1. Please confirm that the reference to “*the site lies within the boundary of the Wet Tropics*” is only in reference to part of Lot 2 on SR747.

2. Please provide a calculation of the area of that part of Lot 2 on SR 747 that is within the boundary of the Queensland Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
3. Please provide advice as to whether any of the proposed activities associated with the material change of use, in particular the planting of various flora will require a permit from the Wet Tropics Authority. If a permit has been issued, please provide a copy of the approval issued by the Wet Tropics Authority.
4. Please provide advice of weed species on the premises that is in the Wet Tropics and how these will be eradicated, removed and disposed of.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority nominates undesirable plants on Information Sheet 12. A copy of Sheet 12 is enclosed. Sugarcane is not listed as an undesirable plant. Sugarcane is predominantly undertaken with best practise initiatives having regard to natural environments.

5. Please provide evidence that the continued cultivation for sugarcane production of the part of the land included in the Wet Tropics impacts on the integrity of the World Heritage Area and that such impact warrants the cessation of this land use.
6. Please provide evidence that the continued cultivation, or alternative grazing, of that part of the premises not included in the Wet Tropics impacts on the integrity of the World Heritage Area and that such impact warrants the cessation of any cultivation other than replanting of endemic species.

### **National Significance**

The application form references the development to be the restoration of “*nationally significant wetland and surrounds*.” The accompanying planning report states the McDowell Swamp Oxbow to be, “listed as a Nationally Important Wetland” and listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA).” The accompanying report also states the site, “*is also part of a National Heritage Place*.”

While the lower Daintree River is a listed wetland, a search of the Commonwealth website listing of nationally significant wetlands did not appear to identify the *McDowell Swamp Oxbow* as a listed wetland. See the following link to the database.

<https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/wetlands/search.pl?smode=DOIW>

7. Please provide the citation of significance and supporting documentation for the national significance of the McDowall Swamp Oxbow.
8. Where it is inferred the proposal has regard to the *Lower Daintree River Wetland*, please provide a copy of the supporting cited references.

### **Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES)**

The state mapping of MSES, as provided in the application details only limited parts of the premises to have Wetlands and Waterways significance.

9. Please provide an expert ecological analysis to substantiate the extent of landscape change to the premises necessary to maintain the integrity of the mapped and identified as MSES beyond the Wetland Protection Area.

## Storm Tide Inundation

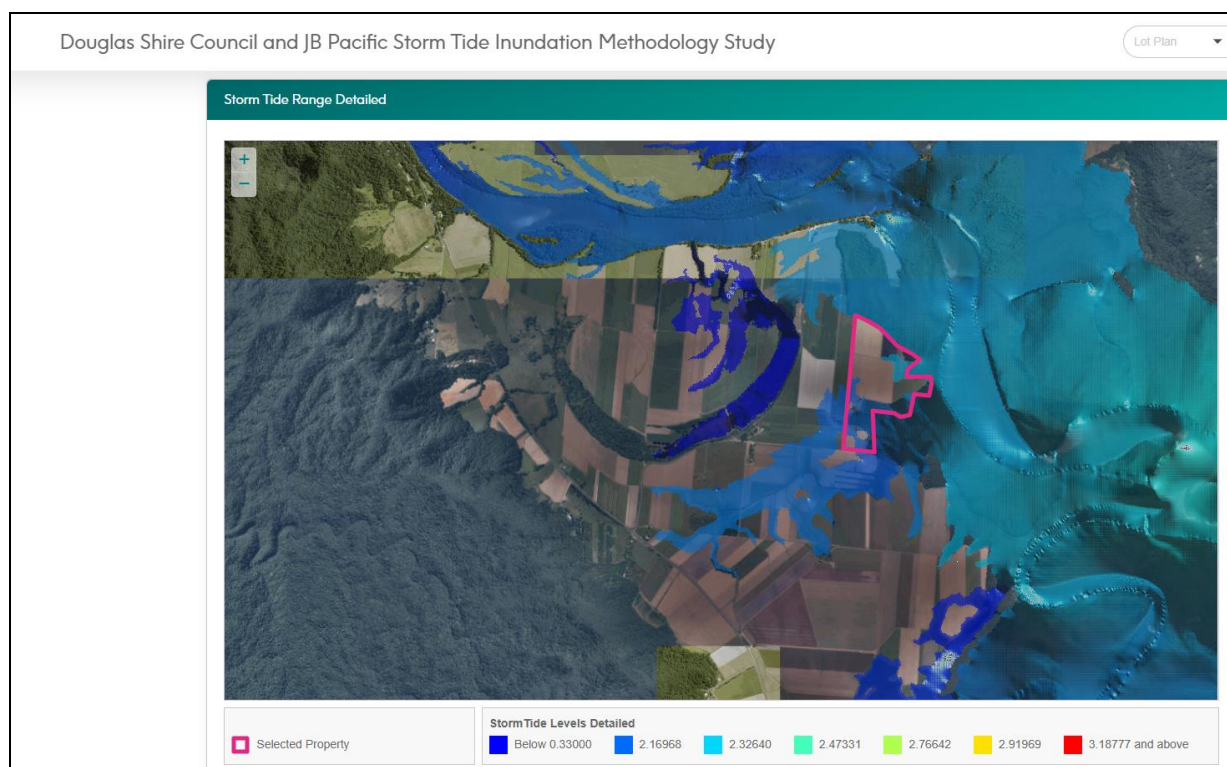
The accompanying Planning report references the Planning Scheme mapping for Storm Tide Inundation Maps, which were State provided mapping. The Planning Scheme Schedule 6 – Planning Scheme Policies, refers to the Cairns Region Storm Tide Inundation Study 2013. Since the introduction of the Planning Scheme Council undertook further study of storm tide inundation by receipt of an Innovation Funding Grant from the State Government. The resultant *Douglas Shire Council and JB Pacific Storm Tide Methodology Study* was adopted by Council and is available on Council's website via the following link.

<https://douglas.qld.gov.au/download/Final-Version-Storm-Tide-Inundation-Methodologies-Study.pdf>

Council provides a free online Storm Tide Inundation property tool that interprets the Study for individual lots with mapping and identifying future development requirements. Refer to the following link for the Storm Tide Inundation Tool. The tool searches both via street address and lot and plan detail.

[https://maps.douglas.qld.gov.au/trueview/dsc\\_storm/disclaimer](https://maps.douglas.qld.gov.au/trueview/dsc_storm/disclaimer)

The Study mapping, unlike the State Mapping, does not identify the whole of lots to be inundated by storm tide. Refer to the map below.



The *Douglas Shire Council and JB Pacific Storm Tide Methodology Study* took into account the impact of mangrove vegetation on storm tide inundation flows.

Storm Tide Inundation is a natural flow of saltwater to ecosystems in areas of inundation.

10. Please provide advice as to the necessity of reliance on the broad scale mapping by the State and the current Planning Scheme rather than the more refined and more recently adopted *Douglas Shire Council and JB Pacific Storm Tide Methodology Study*.

11. Please provide an analysis of the impact of reduction of storm tide inundation flows, if any, by the proposed permanent plantation, on the existing ecosystems and areas of inundation.

### **Good Quality Agricultural Land**

Schedule 8 of the report application includes the *Good Quality Agricultural Land Assessment* report prepared by Dr Charissa Rixon. Page 4 of the report includes an assumption that the closure of the Mossman Mill requires a reassessment of Agricultural Land Classifications. Council understands there are agreements in place to continue transportation of the sugarcane to the Mulgrave Mill for at least the next four to five years. Furthermore, trials are being currently undertaken on former sugarcane production land for alternative crops – including sorghum and Bana grass. The premises is within the Mossman Groundwater Management Area, Mossman Zone 1B of the Wet Tropics Water Plan. Lot 3 on SP126928 contains a registered water bore.

The report notes that the land does not have available irrigation licenses.

12. Please provide the date and version of the Good Quality Agricultural Land Assessment report prepared by Dr Charissa Rixon that was submitted as part of the application.
13. Please provide an updated report having regard to the current agreements in place to continue sugarcane production.
14. Please provide an updated report where the storm tide inundation considerations have regard to the *recent Douglas Shire Council and JB Pacific Storm Tide Methodology Study*.
15. Please provide an updated report identifying the amount of water license required for alternative crops, in particular having regard to the high rainfalls experienced in the local area.

### **Due Date**

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The due date for providing the requested information is 15 November 2025 in accordance with section 14.2 of the Development Assessment Rules, if you do not provide a response before the above due date (or a further agreed period), it will be taken as if you have decided not to respond to the information request and Council will continue with the assessment of the application.

### **Other**

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Please quote Council's application number: MCUI 2025\_5809/1 in all subsequent correspondence relating to this development application.

Should you require any clarification regarding this, please contact Jenny Elphinstone on telephone 07 4099 9444.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Vogel', written in a cursive style.

**For**  
**Leonard Vogel**  
**Manager Environment & Planning**

Encl –  
Wet Tropics Management Authority Information Sheet 12 Undesirable Animals and Plants.

## Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

### Information Sheet No. 12

#### Undesirable Animals and Plants

##### ***What is the Wet Tropics Management Plan about?***

The Plan commenced on 1 September 1998 and was designed to help protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Plan regulates only those activities within the World Heritage Area that have the potential to adversely affect the natural or cultural values of the Area<sup>1</sup>. The activities of most concern are the destruction of native vegetation, and the disturbance of earth or watercourses.

##### ***What is an undesirable animal or plant?***

Undesirable animals and plants are listed in a schedule to the Plan (see next page). They are generally introduced species which become established in natural ecosystems changing the habitat and threatening native biodiversity.

##### ***Why does the Plan regulate undesirable animals and plants?***

Pest animals can compete with, prey upon or disrupt the breeding success of native wildlife as well as spreading diseases or parasites. Environmental weeds are capable of establishing self-sustaining populations by invading native ecosystems and causing major modifications to natural vegetation communities. They include shade tolerant plants and other plants which can quickly colonise and establish especially in disturbed sites.

##### ***Am I allowed to keep my dog and cat?***

If your land contains rainforest the Authority will be seeking your cooperation to prevent domestic pets from entering the rainforest. A permit is not required to keep domestic animals on private land in areas not containing rainforest, nor is a permit needed for transporting animals through the Area as long as they are suitably constrained to prevent them from straying or escaping.

##### ***Can I grow non-native plants in my garden?***

If your garden is separated from rain forested areas and your gardening practices preclude any opportunity for potential environmental weeds to escape, many exotic plants would not pose any threat. However by their very nature environmental weeds have great propensity to reproduce in profusion and it is for this reason that the plants listed as undesirable may not be cultivated within the

<sup>1</sup> The natural values for which the Wet Tropics Area was listed as of World Heritage significance include evidence of major stages of the earth's evolutionary history, ongoing geological and biological processes, superlative natural phenomena or areas of natural beauty, and important habitats for conserving biodiversity. The Area's cultural values are also considered in determining appropriate management.



Area. It would also be desirable that other non-native plants which have weedy characteristics<sup>2</sup> are not cultivated in the Area.

**For further information contact:**

Wet Tropics Management Authority  
15 Lake Street  
PO Box 2050  
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Ph: (07) 4052 0555  
Fax: (07) 4031 1364  
Website: [www.wettropics.gov.au](http://www.wettropics.gov.au)

## Undesirable Animals and Plants cont'd

*Evolutionary isolated biological systems which characterise the Wet Tropics are especially vulnerable to biological invasions. Restricted endemic species are particularly vulnerable to extinction through disease, competition, habitat modification or predation from introduced species.*

### PART 1- UNDESIRABLE PLANTS

Species	Common name	Species	Common Name
all non-native species of <i>acanthaceae</i> family		<i>Panicum maximum</i>	guinea grass
<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>	allamanda	<i>Passiflora spp (exotics)</i>	passion fruits or flowers
<i>Annona glabra</i>	pond apple	<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>	elephant grass
<i>Bambusa spp</i>	bamboo	<i>Perilepta dyeriana</i>	perilepta
<i>Brachiaria mutica</i>	para grass (ponded pasture)	<i>Pinus caribaea</i>	caribbean pine
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	cabomba (aquatic weed)	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	guava
<i>Calopogonium mucunoides</i>	calopo (pasture legume)	<i>Pueraria phaseoloides</i>	puero (pasture legume)
<i>Centrosema pubescens</i>	centro (pasture legume)	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	salvinia or water fern
<i>Chuckrasia velutina</i>	East Indian mahogany	<i>Samanea saman</i>	raintree
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	camphor laurel	<i>Sanchezia parvibracteata</i>	sanchezia
<i>Clitoria laurifolia</i>	clitoria	<i>Sansevieria spp</i>	mother-in-law's tongue
<i>Coffea arabica</i>	coffee	<i>Selaginella willdenovii</i>	peacock fern
<i>Duranta repens</i>	golden dewdrops or sky flower	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	African tulip tree
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	water hyacinth	<i>Stephanophysum longifolium</i>	stephanophysum
<i>Glycine spp</i>	glycine	<i>Thaumastochloa danielii</i>	prayer plant

<sup>2</sup> Often shade tolerant ornamentals, no special germination requirements, long lived wind-dispersed seeds, large and continuous seed crops, rapid seedling growth, vigorous vegetative reproduction, pioneers with adaptations to rapidly colonise disturbances.

**Wet Tropics Management Authority**  
**Ground Floor Cairns Port Authority**  
**Cnr Grafton and Hartley Streets, Cairns 4870**  
**Ph: 4241 0500 Email: [wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au](mailto:wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au)**  
**ABN: 50 264 108 752**



<i>Harungana madagascariensis</i>	harungana	<i>Thunbergia alata</i>	black-eyed susan
<i>Hemigraphis colorata</i>	hemigraphis	<i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i>	blue thunbergia
<i>Ipomoea spp</i>	morning glory	<i>Thunbergia laurifolia</i>	laurel clock vine
<i>Lantana camara</i>	lantana	<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i>	Japanese sunflower
<i>Ligustrum spp</i>	privet	<i>Tradescantia spp</i>	wandering jew
<i>Melinis minutiflora</i>	molasses grass	<i>Turbina corymbosa</i>	turbina
<i>Miconia calvescens</i>	miconia	<i>Wedelia tricornuta</i>	Singapore daisy
<i>Momordica charantia</i>	balsam pear	<i>Zebrina spp</i>	wandering jew
<i>Montanoa hibiscifolia</i>	anzac flower		

## PART 2- UNDESIRABLE ANIMALS

Species	Common name	Species	Common Name
all species cichlid		<i>Cervus timorensis</i>	rusa deer
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	European honey bee	<i>Dama dama</i>	fallow deer
<i>Axis axis</i>	chital deer	<i>Felis catus</i>	cat
<i>Bos indicus</i>	zebu cattle	<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>	mosquito fish
<i>Brachiaria mutica</i>	European cattle	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	rabbit
<i>Bubalis bubalis</i>	water buffalo	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	guppy
<i>Bufo marinus</i>	cane toad	<i>Pontosclex corethrurus</i>	exotic earthworm
<i>Canus familiaris</i>	dog	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	pig
<i>Capra hircus</i>	goat	<i>Tilapia mariae</i>	tilapia
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	red deer	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	fox

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