

Queensland Threatened Plant Network



**Queensland
Government**

*A joint initiative of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation
and the Queensland Government Threatened Species Program*

22nd September 2025

Chief Executive Officer
Douglas Shire Council
PO Box 723
Mossman QLD 4873

By Email: enquiries@douglas.qld.gov.au

Re: Properly Made Submission - Letter of Support – Rainforest Rescue Development Application for Permanent Plantation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Queensland Threatened Plant Network to express our strong support for Rainforest Rescue's Development Application. Please accept this written notice as a properly made submission in support of the proposed Permanent Plantation development in the Lower Daintree (Council Ref: MCUI 2025_5809/1.)

This initiative will deliver wide-ranging benefits for Douglas Shire:

- **The proposal responds to the Regional Plan's call for climate-responsive land use**, by restoring degraded land, improving flood resilience, and supporting biodiversity corridors. These actions contribute to regional adaptation and align with broader sustainability goals.
- **Planning Act 2016 Compliance:** the development supports the purpose of the *Planning Act 2016* by facilitating ecological sustainability through the integration of environmental protection, economic development, and community wellbeing. Specifically it:
 - Restores degraded land and protects Matters of State and National Environmental Significance.
 - Supports local employment and economic diversification through nature-based industries.

- Enhances resilience to climate change and natural hazards through nature-based solutions.
- **Ecological Benefits:** restoration of more than 400 hectares of former cane land, protection of nationally significant wetlands, and re-establishment of endangered rainforest ecosystems.
- **Community and Economic Benefits:** support for local employment through seed collection, nursery propagation, and land management roles, alongside new opportunities for eco-tourism and sustainable revenue streams.
- **Climate and Resilience Benefits:** enhancement of biodiversity corridors, carbon sequestration, improved water quality flowing to the Daintree River and Great Barrier Reef, and resilience to climate change impacts.

Rainforest Rescue has a 25-year history of conservation leadership in the Daintree region, and this project is a transformative step in aligning land use with the Council's vision for a sustainable and resilient Shire.

We urge Douglas Shire Council to approve this Development Application and enable the restoration of these lands for the benefit of the environment, community, and future generations.

Yours sincerely



Paul Donatiu
Project Manager
Queensland Threatened Plant Network
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12th March 2025