

Qld 4873

Chief Executive Officer
Douglas Shire Council
PO Box 723
Mossman
Qld 4873
07/10/2025

Re Properly made submission in respect of:

Property Address: MCUI 2025_5809 110 Cape Tribulation Rd Lower Daintree

Applicant Name & Address: Rainforest Rescue, C/- WildPLAN Pty Ltd, PO Box 8028, CAIRNS
QLD 4870

Proposed Development: Permanent Plantation

Level of Assessment: Impact

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to object to this Impact Assessable Development. Approving this will set a dangerous precedent, and Council should consider a Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) to prevent further applications of this type until broad community consultation can occur, and the Town Plan is updated based on the outcomes of that consultation.

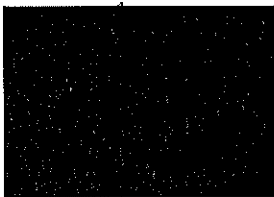
1. The 2018 Town Plan Strategic Framework says in 3.8.4.1 Specific outcomes (part 3) that 'The availability and viability of rural land for on-going agricultural uses is not compromised by inappropriate or incompatible development.' This proposal goes completely against that.
2. While part 5 says that carbon sequestration can occur 'away from areas of quality agricultural land and the applicant proposes that the subject area is not quality agricultural land, however there is along history of the land growing good cane, and no reason why other crops or grazing would not be successful. If the odd inundation is reason to condemn land, then much of our arable land will be condemned.
3. The subject land is Rural and in 6.2.10 Rural Zone code it says

6.2.10.2 Purpose (1) The purpose of the Rural zone code is to provide for: (a) provide for rural uses including cropping, intensive horticulture, intensive animal industries, animal husbandry, animal keeping and other primary production activities; (b) provide opportunities for non-rural uses, such as ancillary tourism activities that are compatible with agriculture, the environmental features, and landscape character of the rural area where the uses do not compromise the long-term use of the land for rural purposes; (c) protect or manage significant natural resources and processes to maintain the capacity for primary production

The application is not consistent with this and should be rejected.

4. Also in the Rural Zone Code 6.2.10.2 Purpose 3. (a) Areas for use for primary production are conserved, and fragmentation is avoided. This application does not seek to conserve rural land. It seeks the opposite.
5. Table 6.2.10.3.b — Inconsistent uses within the Rural zone specifically includes 'Permanent Plantation'. They are applying for a specifically noted inconsistent use which should be refused.
6. Given that the applicant is applying for a fee waiver of Around \$700k, the chances are that a further application for rates waiver would be made if this is approved. Given the financial situation of Council, approving either request would be fraught with danger.
7. The suggestion that it will result in significant employment is laughable. There will perhaps be a few low paid jobs in seed collection and Nursery work, but Rainforest Rescue typically uses unpaid volunteers to plant. The only high paying jobs will be for the executive level, most of whom do not reside here.
8. Rainforest Rescue has a dubious record regarding tourism promotion generally. Their marketing necessarily indicates that the area is less than pristine, and if not carefully managed can damage the mainstream marketing Council funds via Tourism Port Douglas Daintree. Given that the Douglas Shire will now rely almost exclusively on tourism, we need to tread carefully if we are to permanently remove rural land. Advertising to raise funds to replant this land will almost certainly be negative about farming, to the detriment of existing farm and farm tourism operators. The only benefactor will likely be Rainforest Rescue.
9. Rainforest Rescue rarely engages across community and relies instead of corporate and private out of town sponsors. While they make much in this application about their green credentials, they have been unable to even support a microgrid in the region, that would significantly reduce pollution. I suggest that they only support projects that result in direct financial gain to their organisation. On this basis alone, they should not be getting a 'hall pass' for inconsistent use of rural land.

Yours Sincerely



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