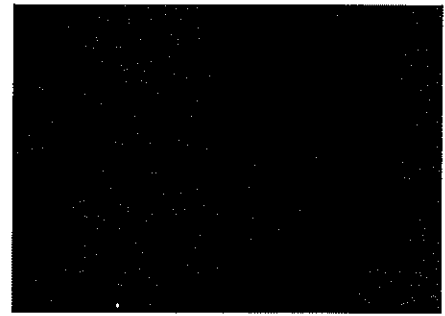


Friday, 3 October 2025

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

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 Daintree Life to express our enthusiastic 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.)

We feel that this initiative will deliver wide-ranging benefits for the 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 for the region.
- **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** – with the restoration of more than 400 hectares of former cane land, the proposal will help restore ecological function to the

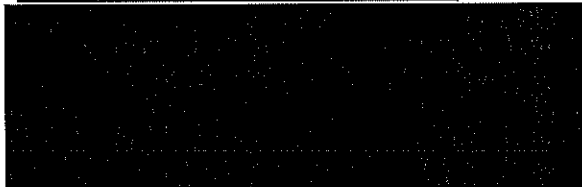
area, including: the protection of nationally significant wetlands, and the re-establishment of endangered rainforest ecosystems.

- **Boost to Roost Habitat & Food Resource for Endangered local Spectacled flying-foxes** - the proposed permanent plantation will significantly expand upon locally-available roosting and feeding opportunities for endangered Spectacled flying-foxes (*Pteropus conspicillatus*), which regularly roost in large numbers - away from human habitation - in the existing adjacent Melaleuca swamp on the northern side of the main road. We feel this could help mitigate human/wildlife conflict in the urban roosts in and around Port Douglas, by giving the animals an increased and alternative roosting area within the DSC LGA.
- **Community & 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 & 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, and this project is a transformative step in aligning land use with 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,

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