

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 2:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] Submission in
Support of Development Application CA 2025_5878 Wonga Beach Resort – 18 Oasis
Drive, Wonga Beach

Re-submission (with address details)

Dear Councillors and Planning Officers,

I am writing to express my strong support for Development Application CA 2025_5878 for the proposed resort development at 18 Oasis Drive, Wonga Beach.

My family and I have lived in the Douglas Shire for more than 25 years. We have raised our children here, built our lives here, and have experienced firsthand both the extraordinary strengths and the ongoing challenges of living in a small regional community that relies heavily on tourism.

Over the years, I have watched Wonga Beach remain one of the hidden treasures of Far North Queensland. It is a place of extraordinary natural beauty, with a unique sense of peace and authenticity that is becoming increasingly difficult to find. Yet despite its enviable position between two of the world's most remarkable World Heritage listed assets—the Daintree rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef—Wonga Beach has never truly realised its tourism potential.

Many visitors pass through the area on their way to the Daintree without stopping, often unaware of the beauty, history and lifestyle that Wonga Beach has to offer. This proposal presents a rare opportunity to change that.

Importantly, I do not see this development as something that will change the character of Wonga Beach. Rather, I believe it has the potential to celebrate and elevate the qualities that make the area special. The proposal's focus on eco-tourism, wellness experiences, sustainability and nature-based travel aligns perfectly with the values that have long attracted residents and visitors to this part of the world.

As someone who has lived through the highs and lows of our local economy, I also recognise how important investment of this scale can be for a regional community. We have weathered cyclones, economic downturns, changing tourism markets and, more recently, the impacts of COVID and cyclone Jasper and its subsequent flooding. While Port Douglas has continued to attract significant tourism investment, communities in the northern part of the Shire have often been overlooked.

This development offers an opportunity to bring meaningful economic activity into Wonga Beach and the surrounding region. During construction, local trades, contractors and suppliers stand to benefit. Once operational, the resort would create employment opportunities across hospitality, tourism, maintenance, administration, wellness services, food and beverage operations and event management. These jobs will not only benefit Wonga Beach residents but also people from Mossman, Daintree, Port Douglas and beyond.

One aspect of the proposal that particularly resonates with me is its alignment with broader tourism trends. Today's travellers are increasingly seeking authentic experiences that connect them with nature, culture, wellbeing and place. They are looking for destinations that offer

something unique rather than simply another resort experience. The Douglas Shire is exceptionally well positioned to meet this demand, and I believe this proposal would help us do so in a way that reflects our environmental values and community identity.

I also believe it is important to consider the demographics of Wonga Beach itself. Our community has a relatively small population and an ageing demographic. Like many regional areas, we need opportunities that encourage younger people and families to remain in the region rather than moving elsewhere in search of employment and economic opportunity. Sustainable investment, carefully considered tourism growth and local job creation all contribute to the long-term viability of communities such as ours.

As a long-term resident, I also remember when the Redbacks Hotel and Motel operated on this site. For many years it was more than simply tourist accommodation. It was a valued part of community life. It provided a place for people to meet, celebrate, socialise and connect. The pool, tennis courts, shop and function spaces created opportunities for interaction that helped strengthen community ties. Since its closure, the site has remained significantly underutilised despite occupying one of the most prominent locations in Wonga Beach.

For me, this proposal represents not just a new development, but the revitalisation of a site that has historically contributed to the social and economic fabric of our community.

I am also encouraged by the environmental ambition demonstrated within the proposal. Douglas Shire has built a reputation as one of Australia's premier eco-tourism destinations, and I believe developments that embrace sustainability, climate-responsive design and environmental stewardship should be encouraged. The resort's emphasis on wellness, ecological sensitivity and low-impact tourism reflects the direction that many successful tourism destinations around the world are moving towards.

Perhaps most importantly, I believe this development has the potential to place Wonga Beach on the international tourism map while preserving the very qualities that make it special. It offers the opportunity to showcase our beautiful coastline, our rainforest landscapes, our Indigenous cultural heritage and our commitment to sustainable living to visitors from around Australia and the world.

Developments of this calibre do not come along often. They require vision, confidence and a willingness to invest in the future of regional communities. Having reviewed the proposal, I genuinely believe it represents one of the most exciting and appropriate tourism opportunities presented to the Douglas Shire in many years.

After more than 25 years living in this region, I remain deeply protective of its natural environment and community character. I would not support a development that I believed would compromise those values. In this case, however, I believe the proposal strikes an appropriate balance between environmental responsibility, economic opportunity and community benefit.

I respectfully urge Council to support this application and help realise a vision that has the potential to benefit not only Wonga Beach but the entire Douglas Shire for generations to come.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind regards,



Wonga Beach QLD 4873

Wonga Beach Resident
Douglas Shire Resident for 25+ Years

