

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 8 August 2026 10:40 AM
To: Enquiries
Subject: Development Application CA 2025_5878

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.

A world renowned eco-tourism property in the Daintree is the reason, I have been connected to this area for [REDACTED] years and have been a ratepayer on numerous properties for [REDACTED] years. For the past [REDACTED] years, Wonga Beach has been my family's home, a place where we have raised our children, who are all deeply connected to this area and are now building their lives. We have witnessed both the extraordinary strengths and ongoing challenges of living in a small regional community that relies heavily on tourism.

Over the years, I have seen Wonga Beach remain one of the hidden treasures of Far North Queensland. It boasts extraordinary natural beauty and a unique sense of peace and authenticity that is increasingly rare. Yet, despite its enviable position between two World Heritage-listed assets—the Daintree rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef—Wonga Beach has never truly realized its tourism potential.

Many visitors pass through on their way to the Daintree, 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 alter 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 corner of the world.

Having lived through the highs and lows of our local economy, I recognize how crucial 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-19 and cyclone Jasper with 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 to 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.

Moreover, increased residential property developments would enhance the local real estate market values and assist with drainage improvements, linking old infrastructure with new and improved systems. This would enhance the long-term viability of residences often impacted during adverse weather events.

Today's travelers increasingly seek authentic experiences that connect them with nature, culture, wellbeing, and place. They are looking for destinations that offer something unique rather than just 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.

It is also important to consider the demographics of Wonga Beach itself. Our community has a relatively small population and an aging 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 [REDACTED] resident, I also remember when the "Redbacks" or Daintree Palm Resort 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, socialize, 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 underutilized despite occupying one of the most prominent locations in Wonga Beach.

For me, this proposal represents not just a new development but the revitalization 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, rainforest landscapes, Indigenous cultural heritage, and commitment to sustainable living to visitors from around Australia and the world.

Developments of this caliber 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 [REDACTED] years of connection to 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 the Council to support this application and help realize 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.

With kindness,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wonga Beach

[REDACTED]

Wonga Beach Resident

Connected to this environmental paradise for [REDACTED] Years