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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2026 8:21 PM
To: Enquiries
Subject: Development Application CA 2025_5878 – 18 Oasis Drive, Wonga

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10/08/2026

Submission in Support of Development Application CA 2025_5878 – 18 Oasis Drive, Wonga Beach

Dear Councillors and Planning Officers,

I am writing to express my strong support for Development Application CA 2025_5878 for the proposed eco-tourism resort development at 18 Oasis Drive, Wonga Beach. I believe this proposal represents a positive, carefully considered opportunity for Wonga Beach and the broader Douglas Shire, with the potential to deliver meaningful social, economic and community benefits.

My connection to this area spans approximately [REDACTED] years. I relocated to Wonga Beach from down south around [REDACTED] years ago and have been a ratepayer since that time. My family chose Wonga Beach as the place to put down roots, raise our children and contribute to the local community. Although our children are now grown and building their own lives locally as our family has deep connections in and to the area.

As an active and engaged community member, I strongly believe that Wonga Beach needs thoughtful investment that supports local people, encourages sustainable growth and strengthens the long-term viability of our community. This development offers exactly that type of opportunity.

The proposed eco-tourism resort would create employment opportunities both during construction and through the ongoing operation of the property. These jobs would benefit local trades, suppliers, hospitality workers, maintenance staff, tourism operators and many other associated businesses. In a regional community, opportunities of this nature are significant and should be encouraged.

I also believe the development would support local residential growth and improve confidence in Wonga Beach as a place to live, work and invest. Increased market confidence and appropriate growth would assist Douglas Shire Council through a stronger rates base, while also encouraging further investment in local infrastructure, services and amenities. With developers already showing interest in Wonga Beach and surrounding areas, this proposal could help stimulate broader planning and investment in roads, drainage and other essential community infrastructure.

Attracting a younger, working-age population to the area would also have important flow-on benefits. It could help increase enrolments at Wonga Beach State School, support demand for school bus services, and create opportunities for after-school care and family-focused services. Since the closure of Redbacks Resort, there has been a noticeable decrease in young families residing in the area, which has had an impact on school enrolments and the broader sense of activity within the community. A development of this nature, much like Redbacks once did, would provide an important anchor for Wonga Beach by securing employment, creating opportunity and offering greater stability for local families, while also helping to strengthen community ties.

Other development options for this parcel of land, such as residential subdivision into large or small house blocks, would also bring increased population and associated pressures. By comparison, an eco-tourism development offers a more controlled and purposeful form of growth. 200 visitors expected to stay at our idyllic beach for the average 6 night stay to the Port Douglas region, is likely to have less ongoing environmental impact than the permanent footprint, traffic, infrastructure demand and vegetation clearing associated with approximately 100 new homes. The proposal provides accommodation and visitor activity in a managed setting, while also generating employment, encouraging additional local housing demand and supporting nearby businesses.

The benefits of this proposal would not be limited to Wonga Beach alone. Nearby communities and the whole Douglas Shire stand to gain from increased tourism activity, greater local spending, new employment pathways and improved confidence in the region's future. More people visiting and working in the area will create opportunities for new businesses, expansion of existing businesses and broader financial advancement across the shire.

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 Douglas Shire in many years. For these reasons, I offer my strong support for the proposed eco-tourism development at 18 Oasis Drive, Wonga Beach and respectfully encourage Council to support the application.

Kind regards,

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