

I wish to make an objection to the proposed development MCUI-2024_5698

Flooding and Emergency Response

Firstly I would like to establish my credibility to talk on these matters. I have been a resident in Daintree Village for over 20 years [REDACTED] the opposite bank of the Daintree River from the proposed site. I am part of the Disaster Response in Daintree Village and have observed many and varied floods and cyclones. I have been active in emergency response as a member of the Daintree RFB.

Flooding

During the period December to April the Daintree River catchment receives significant rainfall. The ground becomes waterlogged quite quickly and results in the river running about 1 metre above normal. This scenario sets up rapid river rises with any significant rainfall. Unforecast rain events will often lead to flooding with little or no notice. This can also occur at other times of the year.

I have looked at the flood overlay FST-013(Fig 1) which is included in the application and note that it was drawn up prior to the most recent floods. The Jan 2019 and Dec 2023 floods both exceeded the overlay by at least 2 to 3 metres.

I have included the following evidence:

Fig 2 was taken of the proposed site at 09.00am almost 6 hours after the peak at 2-3.00am. The river falls as rapidly as it rises and watermarks indicated a drop of at least 2 metres.

Fig 3 and 3A indicate flooding south of the Daintree Village in excess of the FST-013 which shows no flooding in that area. The flooding was not only pictured Fig 3A but eye witnesses observed the flooding after sunrise when the level had fallen.

I have indicated the areas observed on the overlay FST-013(Fig1)

Why is this significant

The last two flood events were close together and suggest the 1 in 100 year flood data is no longer a reliable indicator especially as we are effected by climate change.

A proposed educational facility in an isolated location with only river access, subject to increasing severe flooding events seems unsafe.

Raising the height of footings seems problematic when the 2019 flood was a record and the 2023 flood was 2-3 metres higher again.

Emergency Response

I imagine the management of this facility would expect to evacuate if flooding is forecast. As I have mentioned previously the flood may not initially be forecast and it's height can vary considerably from any forecast.

I have observed farmers in this location misjudge the rapid rise of the river during the wet which has resulted in the loss of cattle. If a professional farmer can be caught out I would imagine this facility could suddenly find they are flooded in.

During these wet periods it is very common to lose communication due to Telstra technical failures or damage. It is possible that the facility may not be able to advise anyone of their isolation or even ring 000.

Even if the vessels being used by the facility are in marine survey they are not suitable as flood rescue boats.

In the event of a flooding emergency occupants will be on their own. There is no swift water rescue available in the Daintree Village area and even if they could alert someone it is extremely unlikely that a Mossman swift water craft could get to the location let alone safely. Helicopter rescue is also unlikely as when these events occur the valley is heavily clouded with torrential rain. Another very significant issue is the rapid rise of the river levels. I have observed on more than two occasions the river rising at more than 1 metre an hour.

There have been well meaning but untrained locals who have done water rescues in the past. There may be a time and place for this action but let's avoid this situation. Should this occur it puts lives of every one at stake, the locals, the victims and emergency services.

This proposal is wrong on this site. It is isolated with only river access with the potential to be inundated by rapidly moving flood waters.

One hopes never to read headlines "Why was an educational village set up on a wild river floodplain" Surely there is a duty of care required of facilities management.

Oh I forgot to mention wading across the floodplain fighting currents to higher ground has another hazard. Crocodiles love those little flood islands as there's always plenty of tucker.

Change of Use

The Douglas Shire Planning Scheme I thought, was the blue print for the sustainable development of our shire and to retain its unique characteristics. I am strongly against this change of use that will significantly alter the quaint tourist village lifestyle. Word spreads very quickly and as can be seen by the recent press on this matter truth is easily lost. This will also set a precedence for future developments, where do you stop. That's why we have a planning scheme, were not talking about adding a garage to a block this is a significant proposed change. What happens to the land use and facilities when the 2 year lease expires.

Security

Juvenile crime is like a blanket over our towns and cities. In Daintree Village we are fortunate that residents live in a very peaceful and safe location. If this project is approved Daintree Village will change forever. Most, sadly know victims of juvenile crime and their lives are forever changed. No one thinks of the victims.

It will take only one incident and it will ignite fear and anxiety. It will happen as no system is perfect. Placing teenagers on an isolated location with limited stimuli within view of Daintree Village and a main road out of town will be too much for some.

There will be a cost for cameras, locks, screens but we will become victims. My view would be the same if the participants were non-aboriginal as my concerns are not racial.

There is no police or medical facilities in Daintree. At night Mossman Police Station is not manned and a response would be from Port Douglas 45 min away.

Refuse

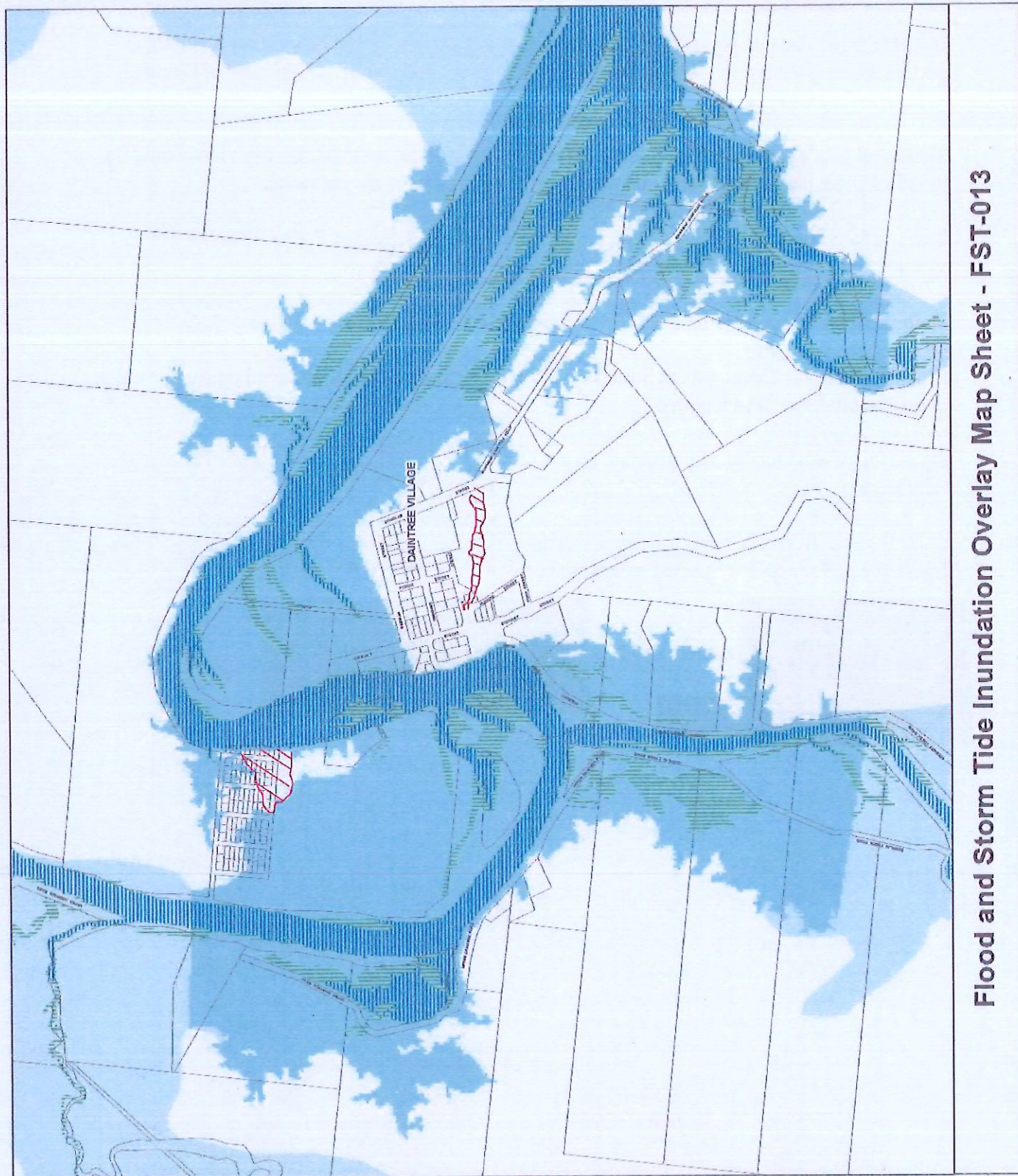
I refer to Table 3-1 Development Summary- Refuse "Refuse storage is provided on site for waste management/disposal as required"

On site disposal is totally inappropriate on a wild river flood plain adjacent to a world heritage rainforest.

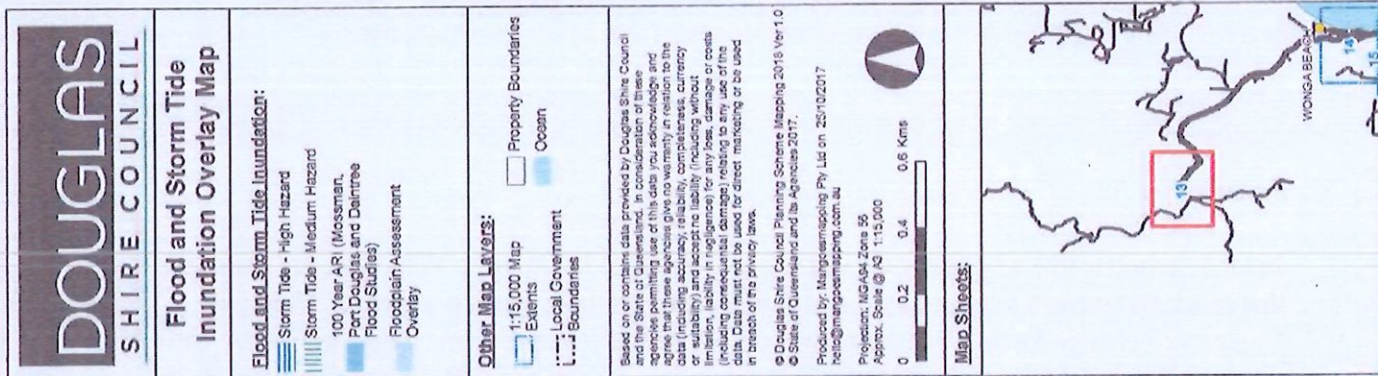
I wish my privacy to be respected in accordance with the Planning Act 2016.

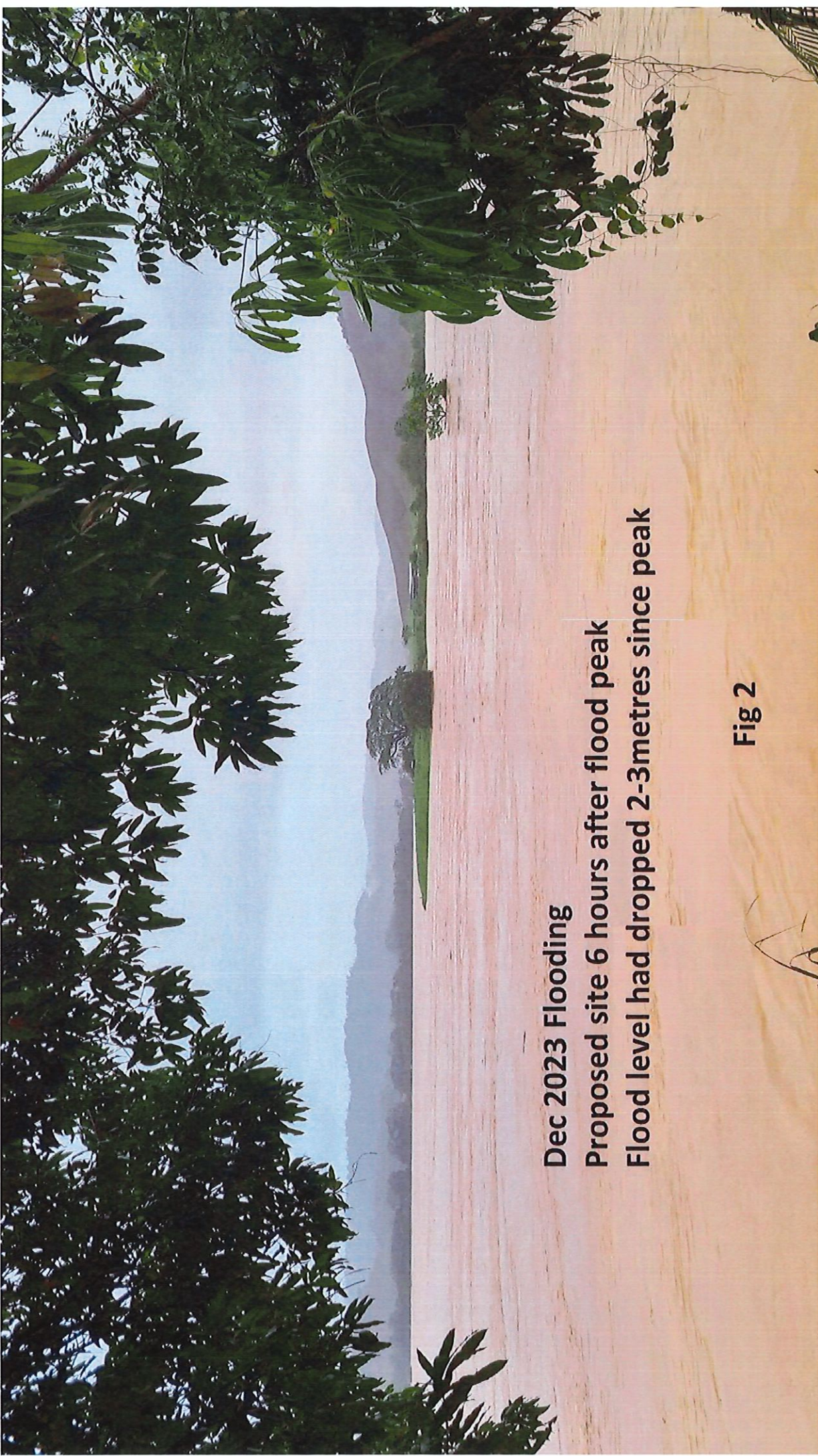
[REDACTED] Daintree 4873 [REDACTED]

Fig 1



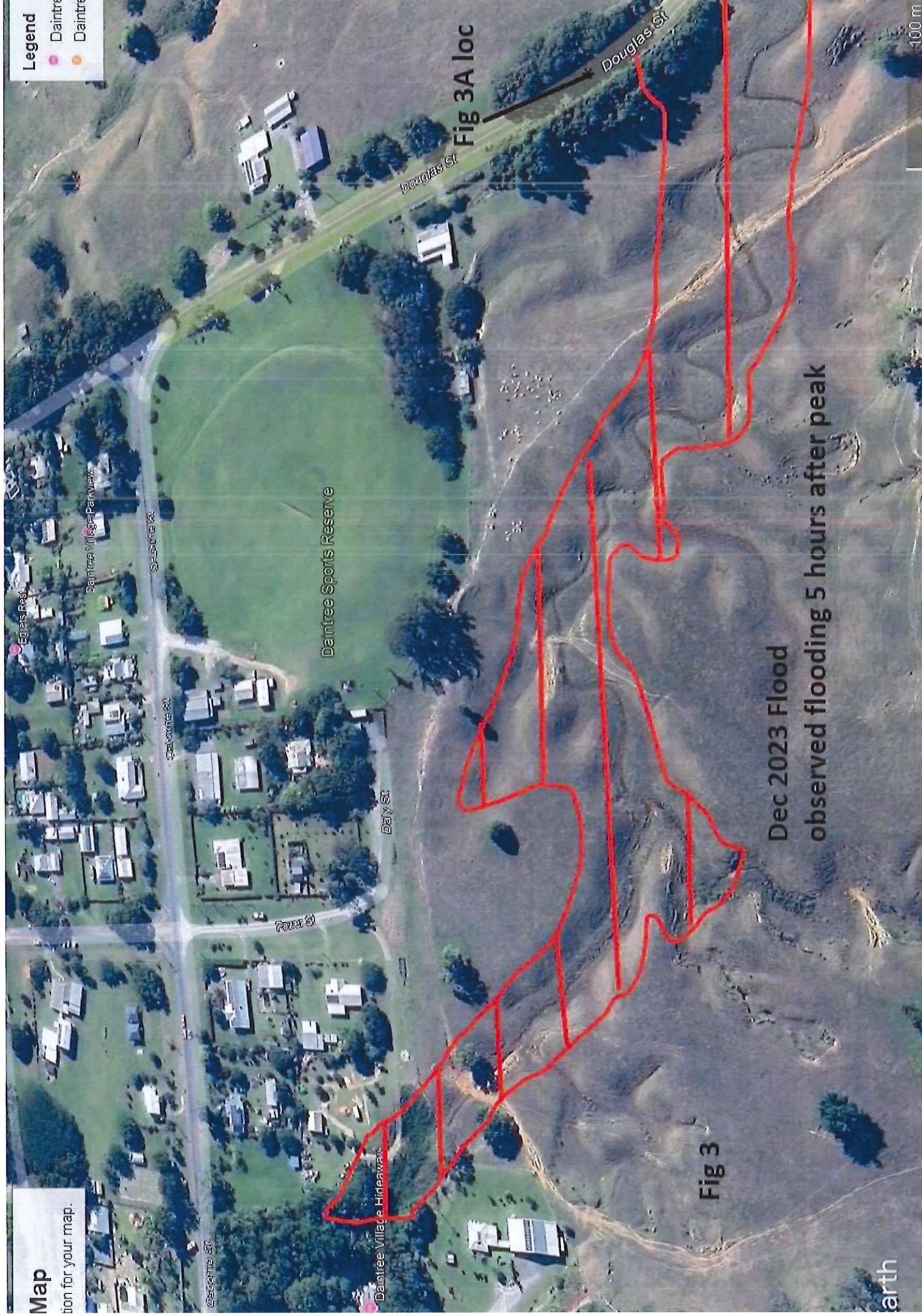
Flood and Storm Tide Inundation Overlay Map Sheet - FST-013



A photograph showing a wide expanse of floodwater. In the foreground, there are dark green trees and foliage on the left side. The water is a light brownish-yellow color. In the distance, there are rolling hills and a small island with a few trees. The sky is overcast and grey.

Dec 2023 Flooding
Proposed site 6 hours after flood peak
Flood level had dropped 2-3metres since peak

Fig 2



Map

ion for your map.

Legend

- Daintree
- Daintree

Fig 3A loc

Fig 3

Dec 2023 Flood
observed flooding 5 hours after peak

earth

100 m

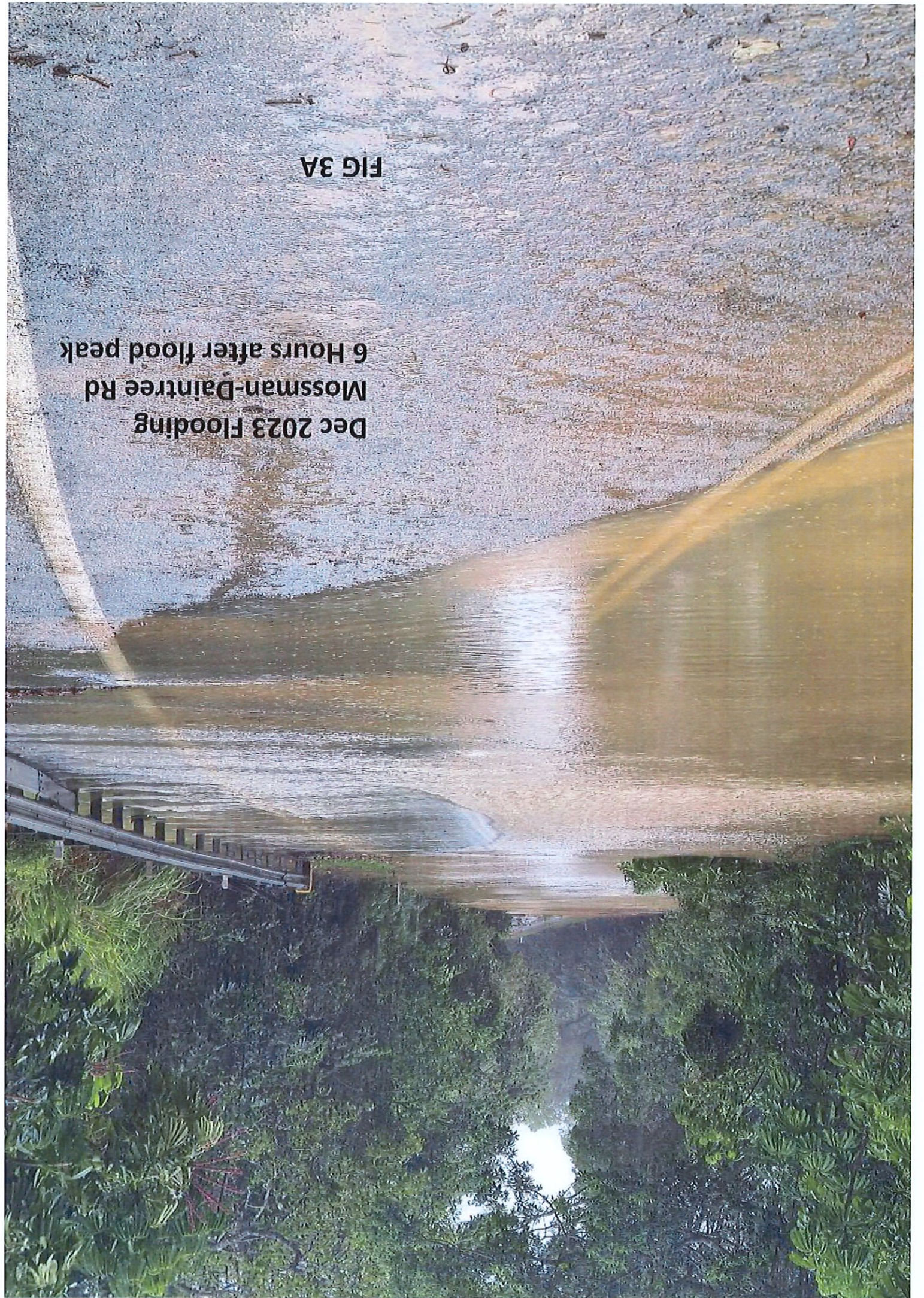


FIG 3A

**Dec 2023 Flooding
Mossman-Daintree Rd
6 Hours after flood peak**