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12 October 2025

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

By Email: enquiries@douglas.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Properly Made Submission - Letter of Support – Rainforest Rescue Development Application for Permanent Plantation

I am writing on behalf of the Hartley's Crocodile Adventures (HCA) and our not-for-profit foundation; the North Queensland Wildlife Trust (NQWT) wish 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.)

Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, North Queensland Wildlife Trust and Rainforest Rescue have a long-standing relationship, which has been growing strongly for over 20 years. It began when our NQWT was in its very initial stages and we would provide small batches of funds to support their tree planting projects in the Cape Tribulation area on former rainforest sites which had been cleared, degraded and eventually left abandoned. As our fundraising methods produced greater revenues, we moved into supporting large scale cleaning up of Rainforest Rescue sites from abandoned waste such as tyres and full restoration with their own nursery trees. Now we are providing larger sums for deposits to help secure target sites either in a pristine or highly degraded state.

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.
- **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;



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- Enhances resilience to climate change and natural hazards through nature-based solutions.
- **Ecological Benefits** – restoration of more than 400 hectares of former cane land, protection of nationally significant wetlands, and re-establishment of endangered rainforest ecosystems.
- **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 will continue to support their important work.

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,

