



Cairns and Far North Environment Centre

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Cominos House, 27-29 Greenslopes Street

P.O. Box 323N | North Cairns Qld 4870

09 October 2025

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

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

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) to express our support for Rainforest Rescue's Development Application. Please accept this written notice as a properly made submission in support of the Permanent Plantation development in the Lower Daintree (Council Ref: MCUI 2025_5809/1.).

CAFNEC is a not-for-profit incorporated association, founded in 1981, that acts as conservation council for the region from Cardwell north to Torres Strait and from the east coast to the Gulf of Carpentaria. We work to protect the environment by enhancing the capacity of local groups and community members to act for conservation, strengthening networks within FNQ, facilitating region-wide cooperation to identify and coordinate action on issues of regional significance and when necessary, engaging in campaigns that are strategically important for the region.

We commend Rainforest Rescue for their 25-year history of conservation leadership in the Daintree, which demonstrates a deep commitment to ecological integrity and community partnership. Their approach reflects the kind of locally led, evidence-based conservation that CAFNEC seeks to champion across Far North Queensland - restoring connectivity between fragmented habitats, protecting biodiversity, and demonstrating that environmental restoration and sustainable land use can go hand in hand.

We agree that this initiative will deliver wide-ranging benefits for the Douglas Shire:

- **Regional Plan Alignment:** 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.



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- **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;
 - 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 ecotourism 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.

This project is an important step in aligning land use with Council's vision for a sustainable and resilient Shire.

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,

