

7/10/2025

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

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of myself [REDACTED] at James Cook University in Cairns to express my 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.)

As a plant ecophysiologicalist I have worked closely with Rainforest Rescue over several years to advance research on rainforest restoration and ecosystem recovery in the Australian Wet Tropics. Our collaborative projects have investigated soil regeneration, canopy structure, and carbon sequestration potential in restored landscapes—knowledge that directly informs best-practice restoration planning and climate adaptation strategies. The proposed Permanent Plantation development represents a significant opportunity to extend this science-policy partnership, enabling applied research that links ecological restoration with local economic resilience.

This initiative will deliver wide-ranging benefits for the **Douglas Shire**:

- **Strategic Land Use & Climate Adaptation:** The proposal responds directly to the Far North Queensland Regional Plan's call for climate-responsive land use, by restoring degraded cane land, improving flood resilience, and supporting biodiversity corridors. These actions enhance landscape connectivity and contribute to regional climate adaptation goals.
- **Planning Act 2016 Compliance:** The development upholds the intent of the Planning Act 2016 by facilitating **ecological sustainability** through the

integration of environmental protection, economic opportunity, and community wellbeing. Specifically, it will:

- Restore degraded land and safeguard Matters of State and National Environmental Significance;
- Support local employment and economic diversification through nature-based industries;
- Build resilience to climate change and natural hazards through nature-based solutions.
- **Ecological Benefits:** The restoration of more than 400 hectares of former cane land will re-establish endangered rainforest ecosystems, enhance habitat for native species, and protect nationally significant wetlands adjacent to the Daintree River.
- **Community & Economic Benefits:** The project will create local employment in seed collection, nursery propagation, and land management, while opening new opportunities for environmental education, eco-tourism, and sustainable revenue streams.
- **Climate & Resilience Benefits:** By enhancing biodiversity corridors, sequestering carbon, and improving water quality flowing to the Daintree River and Great Barrier Reef, the development contributes directly to Council's sustainability and climate-resilience objectives.

Rainforest Rescue has a **25-year record of conservation leadership** in the Daintree, underpinned by strong community partnerships and transparent environmental stewardship. This project represents a transformative step toward a more **sustainable, climate-ready Douglas Shire**, integrating ecological restoration, science-led land management, and local community benefit.

I strongly encourage the Council to **approve this Development Application** and support Rainforest Rescue's continued leadership in restoring the ecological and economic vitality of the Lower Daintree for the benefit of the environment, the community, and future generations.

Yours sincerely,

