



1506 Cape Tribulation Rd  
Cow Bay QLD 4873  
[www.rainforestrescue.org.au](http://www.rainforestrescue.org.au)

24 February 2026

Douglas Shire Council  
64-66 Front Street  
Mossman QLD 4873

**Subject: CA 2025\_5786 – Agreement to Extend Decision Period to 26 March 2026**

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your email on Friday 20 February 2026 requesting agreement to extend the decision period to 26 March 2026.

While we are naturally disappointed — particularly given we had already agreed to a previous extension that included additional time to allow distribution of the video to Councillors and had aligned funding, mobilised staff, contractors, and nursery propagation around the February timeframe — we understand that assessment processes can be complex and resource-intensive.

This project is operationally significant for our organisation and, we believe, for the broader economic and environmental sustainability of the Shire. With the closure of the Mossman Mill and increasing financial pressure on marginal agricultural land, there is a clear need for viable alternative and complementary land uses that create employment, attract investment, and strengthen the region's natural assets — which remain the backbone of the local tourism economy. We see this proposal as a practical contribution to the community that brings with it: local jobs, local spend, ecological restoration, and long-term landscape resilience.

From our perspective, the application is complete and decision ready. The independent agricultural land assessment supports the proposed land use transition on this site (which can no longer sustainably support cane production), and moreover the site is constrained by flood and coastal processes, notably comprising part of a listed Nationally Important Wetland located directly adjacent the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – the site is undeniably a major ecological asset to Douglas Shire Council.

Council received 40 letters of support from across the community, including the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people (via Jabalbina Registered Native Title Body Corporate), James Cook University, Wet Tropics Management Authority and numerous environmental and tourism organisations that see this project as a win-win.

We remain committed to working constructively with Council and therefore agree to the requested extension and as discussed with Dominic Hammersley of wildPLAN, request a set of draft conditions at your earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,



Branden Barber

CEO Rainforest Rescue

CC

CEO, [Scott.Osman@douglas.qld.gov.au](mailto:Scott.Osman@douglas.qld.gov.au)

Manager Environment and Planning, [Leonard.Vogel@douglas.qld.gov.au](mailto:Leonard.Vogel@douglas.qld.gov.au)

Mayor and Councillor Support Officer, [executiveoffice@douglas.qld.gov.au](mailto:executiveoffice@douglas.qld.gov.au)