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27 August 2021

Chief Executive Officer
Douglas Shire Council

RE: Development Application MCUI2021_4231/1 - 35-39 Port Street PORT DOUGLAS, 23-33 Port Street PORT DOUGLAS - Material Change of Use (Helipad and Caretaker's Accommodation)

I do not support this application for the following reasons:

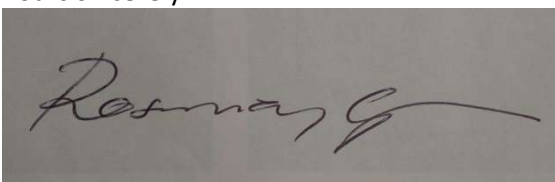
- The applicant proposes to develop two helipads and considerable associated buildings and infrastructure to provide passenger transport including connections from Cairns Airport to support the local tourism sector. Associated uses are said to include medical transfers, aerial firefighting and search and rescue operations as required. I am under no illusion that this is a commercial venture for an elite few who can travel between the airport and Port Douglas along the Cook Highway like the rest of us. I feel that the inclusion of associated uses is somehow meant to assist in the approval of this proposal and do not consider that this proposal will enhance those activities which can be conducted from other sites.
- Please review the existing arrangements for hangar, refuelling and security at the Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas, approx 1.4km south of the proposed site. I think dealing with whatever issues are occurring at that site would be less complicated than building a new facility with its associated issues.

I have significant concerns about noise and activity levels, environmental issues and safety.

- Noise: At busier times of the year, the maximum number of flights per day is anticipated to be approximately 22. If the service is operating for 11 hours daily, this means a take-off and a landing at least twice every hour. Nearby houses and businesses and people using the area for recreation etc will be exposed to very intrusive and unacceptable noise levels.
- Environmental issues: I request a current and evidence base environmental and ecological impact statement on the size and scope of this proposal and the impact of the high level of daily functioning over time on air and water quality, habitats in land and sea and mangrove ecosystems. Douglas Shire prides itself on its eco credentials. I see this proposal as directly undermining this intent.
- Safety concerns: I am concerned about the large amount of aviation fuel and other chemical storage proposed for the site and the obvious environmental and safety issues associated with this.

I trust that my concerns will be taken seriously.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a grey background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Rosey Cummings'.

Rosey Cummings