[date]

Wet Tropics Management Authority

By email: wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au

**Submission on the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review**

[insert details about why you are making this submission]

**The Wet Tropics Zoning System**

1. *Incorporate Zone B into Zone A.*

Fully support.

1. *Zone B as 500m buffer around infrastructure.*

Support.

1. *Inclusion of existing clearings in Zone C for potential visitor sites/community infrastructure.*

Support with caveats. Specifically, only in suitable locations where unlikely to cause further damage to surrounding areas.

**Changes to Zone D visitor Sites**

Support, though local feedback required for these sites.

**Roads in the World Heritage Area**

Support, though local feedback required for changes to specified road classifications.

**Community services infrastructure**

1. *Do you agree that all permit applications for building or upgrading community services infrastructure (not just roads) should be assessed against requirements of Section 65?*

Support.

1. *Do you know of any future need for essential community services infrastructure within the WTWHA?*

No comment at this time. Local community feedback required in this matter.

1. *Do you support a 500m zone B buffer around existing community services infrastructure?*

Support

**Recognising Rainforest Aboriginal tradition**

Strongly support.

**Activities allowed under permit**

1. *Should the plan regulate subdivision of a lot in the WTWHA?*

*S*trongly support the regulation of lot subdivision.

1. *Should the plan regulate landing of motorised aircraft or aircraft flying low?* *If so, what criteria should be used to assess permit conditions for landing in or flying low over the area?*

The Nature Conservation Act (1992) already regulates landing and flying below 1500ft, with provisions for emergencies, and exclusion zones around bird breeding sites. Drones should be treated differently from manned aircraft, but still be regulated to allow for authorised scientific, conservation, maintenance and emergency uses.

1. *Should permit conditions be allowed to include offset requirements for any remaining adverse impacts.*

Support on the proviso that permits are not granted where they previously would have been denied (as stipulated in the proposal), as it provides a means for delivering positive environmental outcomes, where no recourse was previously provided.

**Mining - an allowed activity**

1. *Should the Authority seek to phase out mining licenses permits and other mining authorities in the Wet Tropics WHA?*

Strongly support.

**Undesirable plants and animals**

1. *Should the plan regulate translocation and release of large predatory fish such as barramundi and sooty grunter into dams and waterways within the area, outside their natural range?*

Fully support regulation. Recreational fishing is not a sufficient excuse for damaging the ecosystem, especially given the prevalence of fishing spots outside the area that can be utilised by recreational fishers.

1. *Should residents be able to keep a dog or cat if their house is located in a rainforest?*

Please see section “Comments about Domestic Dogs and Cats”

1. *Should dogs be able to be walked on lead in certain designated areas, where there are no feasible alternatives for the local community?*

Support, with usual waste removal caveat, as required in most juristictions.

1. *Should cattle grazing outside of rainforest be regulated under the Plan?*

Support the WTMA Policy Statement “Grazing in the Wet Tropics WHA, 2003” to seek to have grazing phased out of the Wet Tropics WHA, except where it can be demonstrated the grazing activity is beneficial to World Heritage

management and no prudent and feasible management alternatives are available.

Cattle grazing outside of rainforest should be regulated by permit.

1. *Do you agree with prohibiting animals such as deer, goats and pigs from being kept in the World Heritage Area?*

Strongly support.

**Comments about Domestic Predatory Animals (DPA)**

Please consider the current threats and risks posed by domestic dogs to the endangered Southern Cassowary, and how difficult it is for Council, QPWS and EHP to do compliance and enforcement activities related to dog management and public safety. With Councils and QPWS generally working regular office hours, and most offences happening weekends and after hour in zones adjoining Wet Tropics, it is near impossible an issue for agencies to manage. **Removal of the danger and the identified risks is the only solution and will reduce all agencies liability and by doing so create a safer environment.**

Suggestions:

1. No dogs of any breed allowed in Wet Tropics or any protected area or any area adjoining. Anything less is a farce to Wet Tropics values and responsibilities.
2. Properties zoned residential and council access roads and that are adjoining or entering Wet Tropics should be zoned Domestic Predatory Animal free.
3. If you currently own a DPA (dog and cat) a grandfather clause would apply (ie: not be replaced when deceased). Individuals could apply for exemptions if they could demonstrate a need eg. Special needs, guide dog etc.
4. Wet Tropics neighbours zoned rural or rural residential would be allowed to own DPA if they were kept contained to the house yard or a secure enclosure. Heavy fines would apply for failing to keep pets contained or under effective control.
5. This exclusion zone would only be for direct Wet Tropics neighbours. These neighbours would be responsible to help ensure all DPA lost, roaming or hunting dogs that escape could not gain entry into the Wet Tropics.
6. Specifically, on the matter of hunting dogs:
	1. All dogs to be registered for a fee unless rural working dogs (eg: livestock management)
	2. All dogs used for the purpose of hunting to be declared dangerous by owner on Council registration papers.
	3. Failure to declare a heavy offence.
	4. Costs for dangerous dog to be determined by Councils, approx $400 per dog (this should result in less lost hunting dogs).
	5. Maximum of two dogs per property.
	6. All hunting dogs can be exempt if the owner shows certificate of temperance and obedience training.
7. Specifically, on Daintree solutions:
	1. Every dog to be fitted with a microchip, registering it to live the in Daintree.
	2. No dog will be permitted on ferry unless registered to live in Daintree.
	3. Heavy fines for trying to get unauthorized dogs on ferry.
	4. Awareness and an educational campaign to commence stating the Daintree will be declared dog free, unless dogs are authorized and registered to live in area.
	5. A grandfather clause for all existing DPA (dogs and cats). (when dies it can not be replaced).

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[address]