

Topic: Barnwell Rd / KUR-World

KRPG Code: BARN361834

EPBC Ref: 2016/7710

Date: 14 June 2016



Purpose: Review/ comment on the KUR-World EPBC Referral of proposed action application form

Reference: http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/_entity/annotation/ed8beb29-0b26-e611-bb47-005056ba00a8/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1464830277340

To: EPBC Referral Comment, Kuranda Region Planning Group, Mareeba Shire Council, Reever and Ocean Pty Ltd, Urban Sync, Cairns Post, Kuranda Paper, ABC Radio

Online: www.kurandaregion.org/kur-world/

Video Version: available 17 June 2016 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsU4nKXqn6bO_JJOUQ0_gIA



KUR-World

Great Barrier Reef

COMING SOON

...to Barnwell Road.
Myola ?!

TAKE A
CLOSER
LOOK
Click the
screen
to pause at
any time

Prepared as supporting video
presentation of formal written
'comment' on
EPBC Referral of proposed action
2016/7710




Facts at a Glance
4th June 2016

is this an oversight?

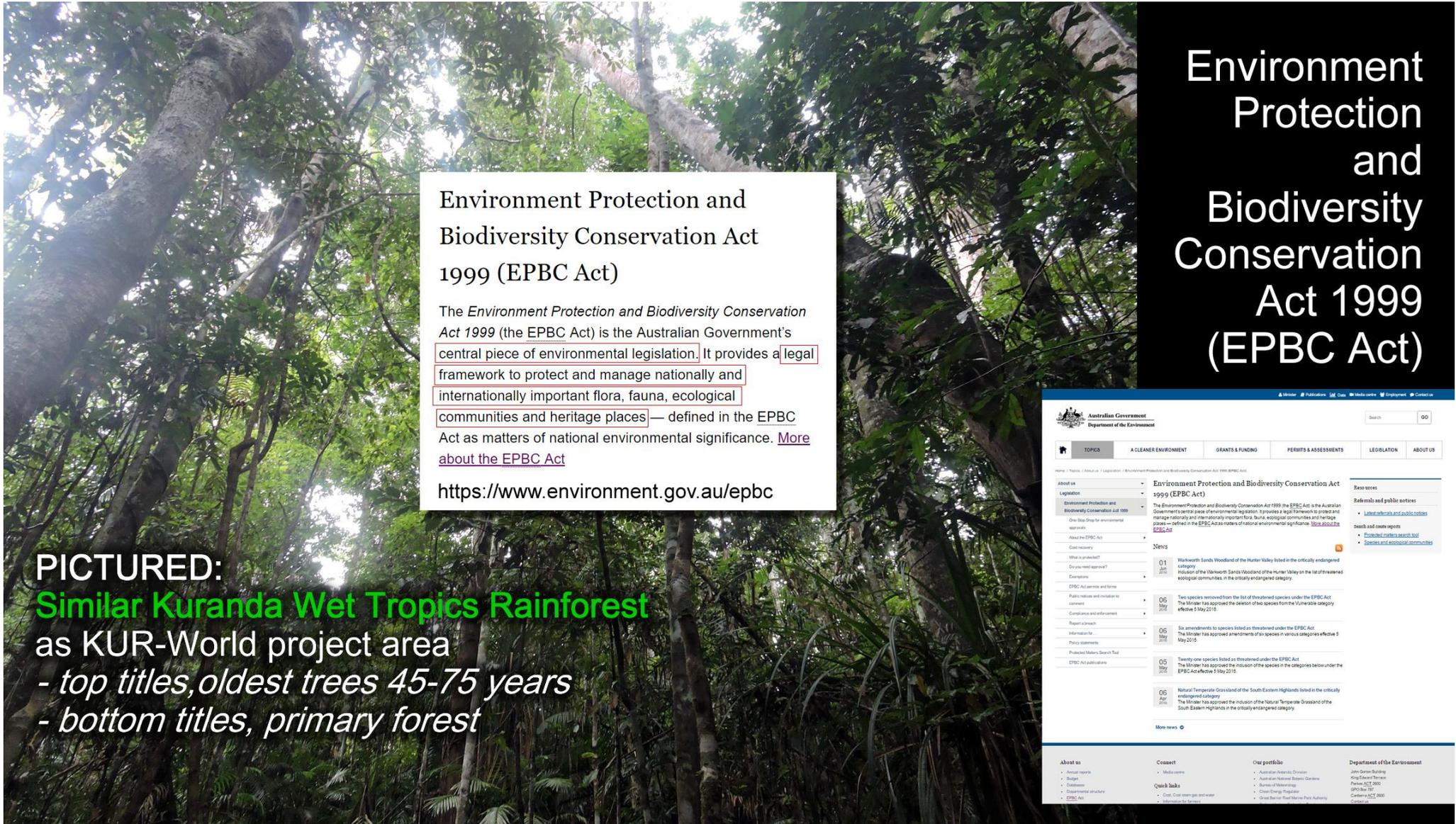
KUR-World is a proposed integrated eco resort and innovation hub in Tropical North Queensland where the World Heritage Rainforest meets the Great Barrier Reef. Conceived by Australian company Reever and Ocean Developments Pty Ltd, the 626 hectare site will be transformed into a luxury tourism, health and education experience, unparalleled in the region.

Located in Myola, just 30 minutes from Cairns International Airport, KUR-World is designed around four lifestyle themes:

1. Luxury eco-tourism
2. Education and business
3. Rejuvenation, health and wellbeing
4. Adventure and recreation
5. **Urban residential development**

373 Residential Lots of up to 2,000m² will be available. **Lifestyle** villas will be on lots ranging from 600m² to 2,000m². **Premium** villas will be on 600m² and border the golf course. It is expected a number of both types of villas will be holiday let throughout the year.

Setting it apart from any other proposal in this region, KUR-World will have an array of different elements including university campus, world class equestrian centre, indoor and outdoor sporting



Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places—defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance. [More about the EPBC Act](#)

<https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc>

PICTURED:
Similar Kuranda Wet Tropics Rainforest
as KUR-World project area
- top titles, oldest trees 45-75 years
- bottom titles, primary forest

The screenshot shows the official website for the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The page layout includes a top navigation bar with tabs for 'TOPICS', 'A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT', 'GRANTS & FUNDING', 'PERMITS & ASSESSMENTS', 'LEGISLATION', and 'ABOUT US'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a 'News' section with several articles, including 'Workworth Sands Woodland of the Hunter Valley listed in the critically endangered category' and 'Six amendments to species listed as threatened under the EPBC Act'. The footer contains 'About us', 'Contact', 'Our portfolio', and 'Department of the Environment' information.

This Commonwealth Act was put in place in 1999 (with amendments since) and seeks to protect our natural environment – including water, air, land, flora and fauna. The act protects our ‘common-wealth’ or natural heritage because we need our natural environment intact to survive – after all, this land we call Australia, this is human habitat too.



EPBC Referral of proposed action Proponent: Reeve & Ocean Pty Ltd

PICTURED:
Similar Kuranda Wet Tropics Rainforest
 as KUR-World project area
 - top titles, oldest trees 45-75 years
 - bottom titles, primary forest

Australian Government
 Department of the Environment
Referral of proposed action

Project title: KUR-World Integrated Eco-resort

1 Summary of proposed action

NOTE: You must also attach a map/plan(s) and associated geographic information system (GIS) vector (shapefile) dataset showing the location and approximate boundaries of the area in which the project is to occur. Maps in A4 size are preferred. You must also attach a map/plan(s) showing the location and boundaries of the project area in respect to any features identified in 3.1 & 3.2, as well as the extent of any freehold, leasehold or other tenure identified in 3.3(i).

1.1 **Short description**
 The project site is located at Myola, approximately 2.5 km due west of the centre of Kuranda and 20 km north west of the Cairns central business district, in Mareeba Shire in North Queensland. The proponent seeks to develop the site into a world class integrated eco-resort, known as 'KUR-World' (the proposed development).

1.2 **Latitude and longitude**
 Points provided in an anti-clockwise direction starting from the north west corner (see map Attachment A)

Location Point	Latitude	Longitude
North West corner	16°48'51.02"S	145°35'45.39"E
Western boundary 1	16°48'58.92"S	145°35'44.80"E
Western boundary 2	16°49'6.58"S	145°35'33.25"E
Western boundary 3	16°49'26.26"S	145°35'31.31"E
Western boundary 4	16°49'26.89"S	145°35'36.48"E
Western boundary 5	16°49'36.62"S	145°35'34.72"E
Western boundary 6	16°49'40.38"S	145°35'38.64"E
Western boundary 7	16°49'41.26"S	145°35'30.61"E
Western boundary 8	16°49'56.20"S	145°35'28.33"E
Western boundary 9	16°49'54.27"S	145°34'59.95"E
Western boundary 10	16°50'0.37"S	145°35'05.39"E
South West corner	16°50'19.03"S	145°34'55.79"E
Southern boundary 1	16°50'20.94"S	145°35'15.14"E
Southern boundary 2	16°50'25.51"S	145°35'14.69"E
Southern boundary 3	16°50'39.32"S	145°35'53.96"E
Southern boundary 4	16°50'21.12"S	145°35'57.58"E
South East corner	16°50'24.55"S	145°36'34.05"E
Eastern boundary 1	16°50'13.04"S	145°36'46.34"E
Eastern boundary 2	16°50'13.60"S	145°36'52.57"E
Eastern boundary 3	16°50'5.65"S	145°37'01.07"E
Eastern boundary 4	16°50'2.71"S	145°36'35.90"E
Eastern boundary 5	16°49'42.34"S	145°36'38.08"E
Eastern boundary 6	16°49'42.08"S	145°36'49.24"E
Eastern boundary 7	16°49'18.23"S	145°36'55.42"E
Eastern boundary 8	16°49'17.83"S	145°36'55.48"E
Road reserve south east	16°49'21.90"S	145°37'29.83"E
Road reserve north east	16°49'20.93"S	145°37'26.88"E
North East corner	16°49'9.25"S	145°36'56.42"E
North boundary 1	16°49'4.89"S	145°36'13.47"E
North boundary 2	16°49'53.47"S	145°36'13.78"E

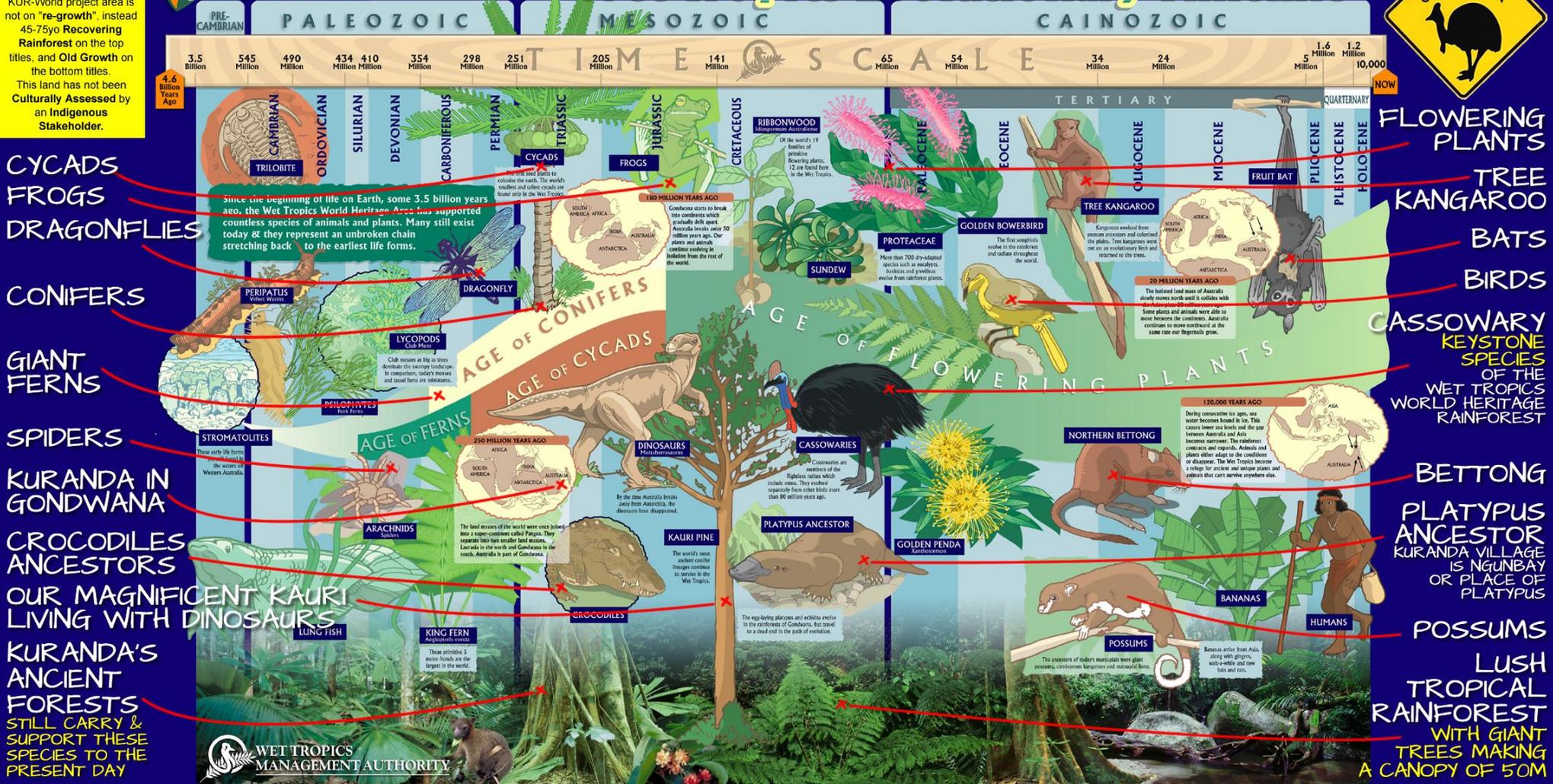
Doc: Referral of proposed action V August 2015 Page 1 of 16

1.3 **Locality and property description**
Provides a brief physical description of the property on which the proposed action will take place and the project location (eg. proximity to major towns, or for off-shore projects, shortest distance to mainland).
 The project site is located at Myola, approximately 2.5 km due west of the centre of Kuranda and 20 km north west of the Cairns central business district, in Mareeba Shire in North Queensland.

The 'EPBC Referral of proposed action' document has been submitted to the Queensland Coordinator-General, to the person and their team, who currently holds that office, to assess and decide whether this project has environmental consequences for the area where the KUR-World project area is proposed. This act, or legislation – and the *spirit of the agreement* of which it forms – is required at this time to be exercised by the Commonwealth.

This place does matter. KUR-World project area is not on "re-growth", instead 45-75yo Recovering Rainforest on the top titles, and Old Growth on the bottom titles. This land has not been Culturally Assessed by an Indigenous Stakeholder.

Wet Tropics Evolutionary Timeline



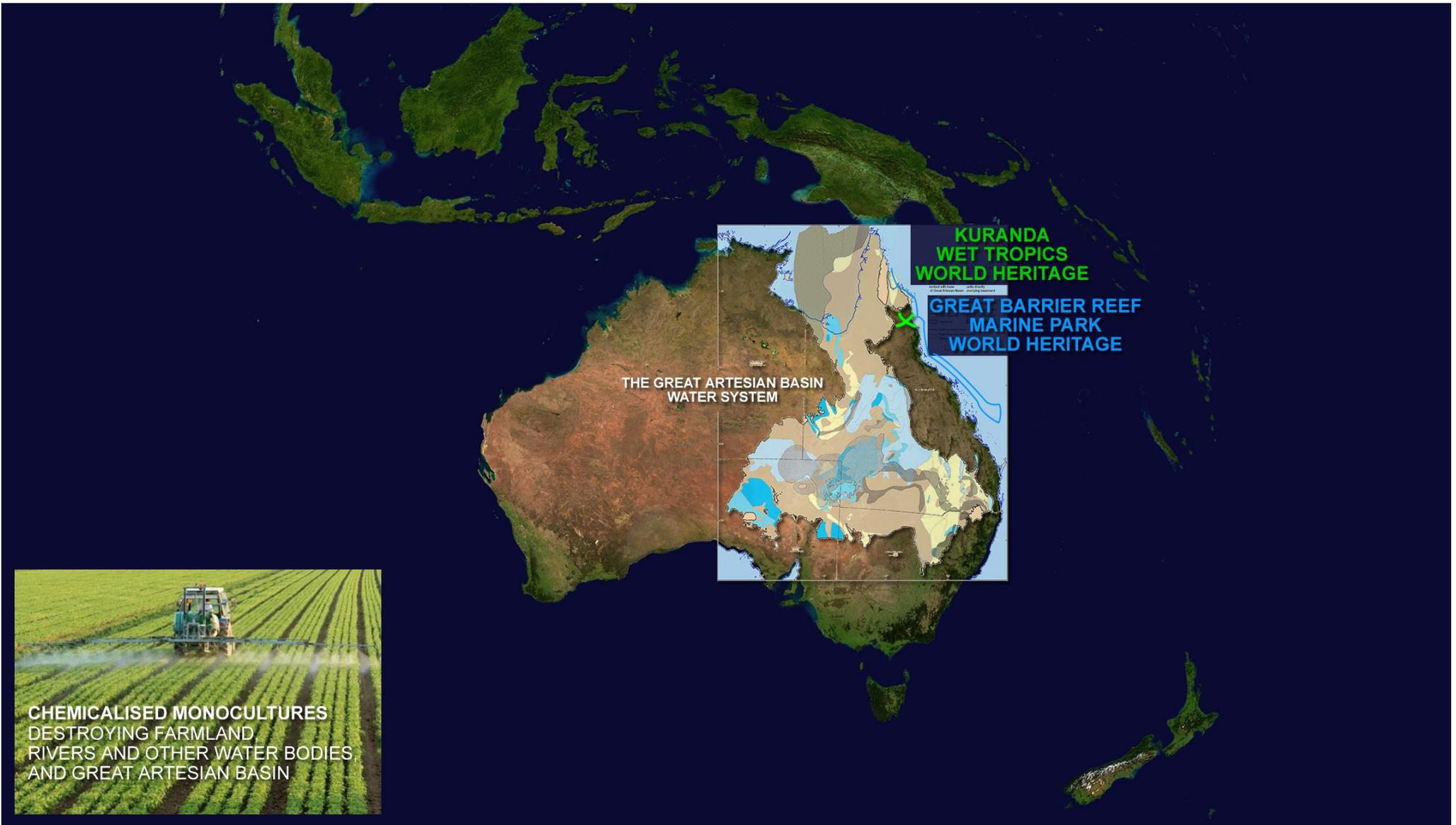
The complex biodiversity of the Wet Tropics ecosystem started 250 million years ago when Australia was part of Gondwana land - along with New Zealand and all the other land masses that form our continents today. Back in prehistory, Gondwana was in the current position of Antarctica and was warm and tropical. The first plants and animals appeared at that time - and some still exist today as time passes - here in our Wet Tropics native forests.

This ancient rainforest - starting north of the Daintree, down the eastern seaboard, and extending to Tasmania form the last remaining vestiges - the remnants - of plants and animals that have survived millions of years of climate change... oceans levels rising and falling and ice ages coming and going, new species and extinctions. With each

climate change the plant and animal species that survived here until today have adapted over millennia. In these ancient native forests nature is exotic, abundant, unique and new discoveries are still possible – in fact probable!

Recharge Zone – the picture is bigger than you think!

Of Commonwealth importance right now is CSG fracking and heavy chemical and monoculture agriculture are laying waste to our Great Artisan Basin with 1000's of chemicals, sand and salt polluting the lands and water tables. The Wet Tropics rainforest and surrounding supporting native forests of Far North Queensland form the 'recharge zone' for this body of water. Clearing these forests have, and will continue to, decrease the ability for the annual monsoonal rains to 'set up' over the region and deliver the 3+ metres of annual rainfall required to flush clean, fresh water through the underground water table that forms the massive underground reservoir that drives rivers and streams and other water bodies over and under the entire landmass of Australia. This water system is integral to the health of the Australian landmass and its people – even our big cities and food bowls so far away.

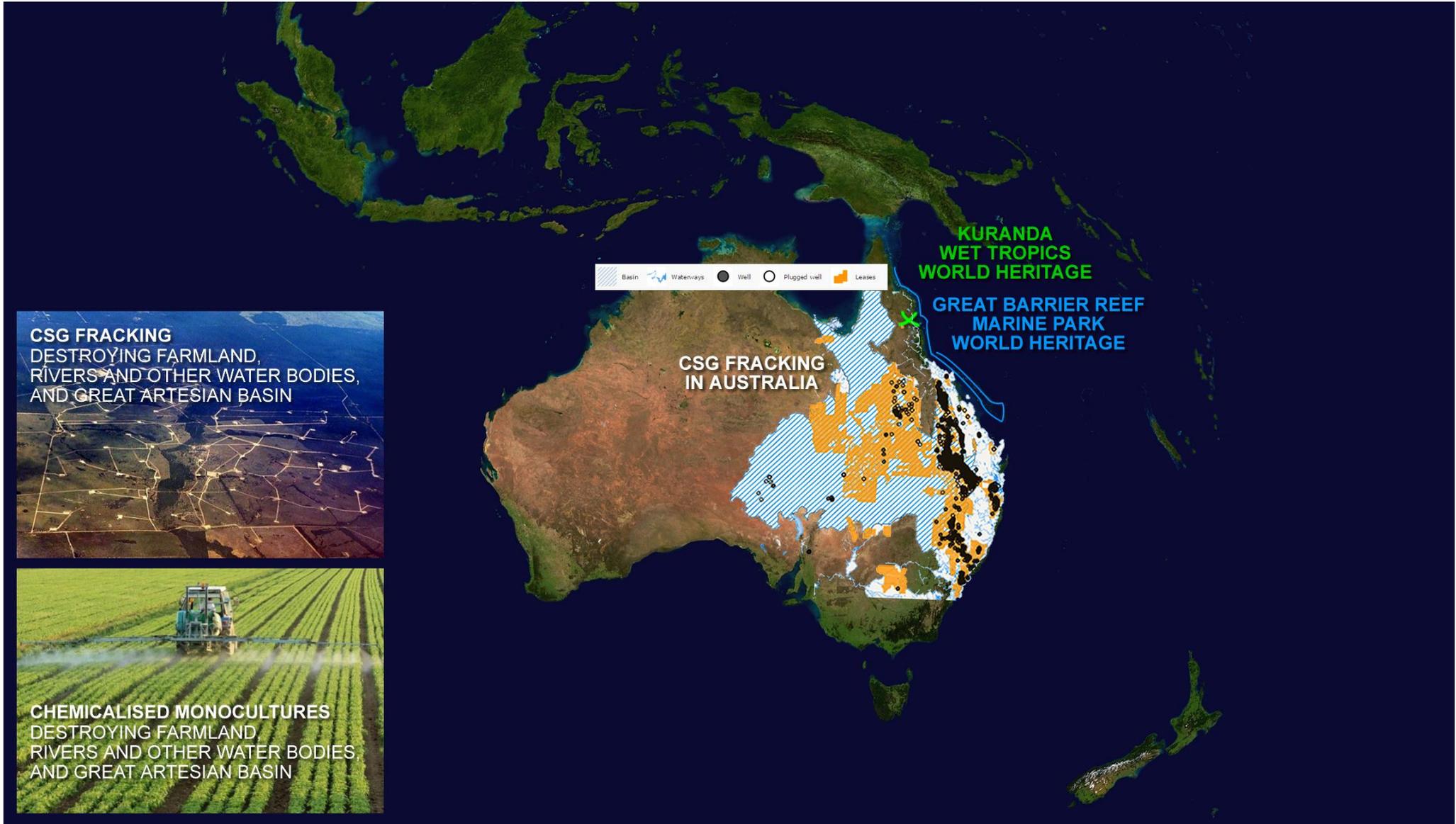


**KURANDA
WET TROPICS
WORLD HERITAGE**

**GREAT BARRIER REEF
MARINE PARK
WORLD HERITAGE**

THE GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN
WATER SYSTEM

**CHEMICALISED MONOCULTURES
DESTROYING FARMLAND
RIVERS AND OTHER WATER BODIES,
AND GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN**



CSG FRACKING
DESTROYING FARMLAND,
RIVERS AND OTHER WATER BODIES,
AND GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN

CHEMICALISED MONOCULTURES
DESTROYING FARMLAND
RIVERS AND OTHER WATER BODIES,
AND GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN



**CLEARING ON BARNWELL PROPERTY/
KUR-WORLD**

**DID YOU KNOW
LAND CLEARING IN QUEENSLAND**

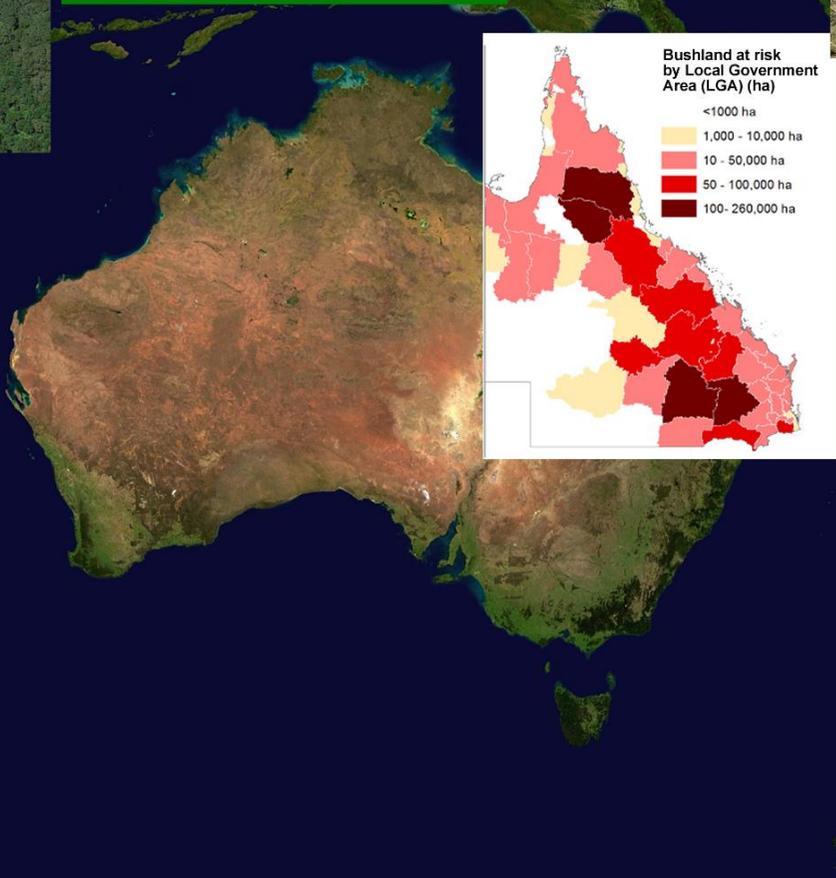
After laws were relaxed under the then Liberal-National state government in 2013, **land-clearing rates tripled**, undermining efforts to conserve wildlife and reduce carbon emissions.



**CSG FRACKING
DESTROYING FARMLAND,
RIVERS AND OTHER WATER BODIES,
AND GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN**

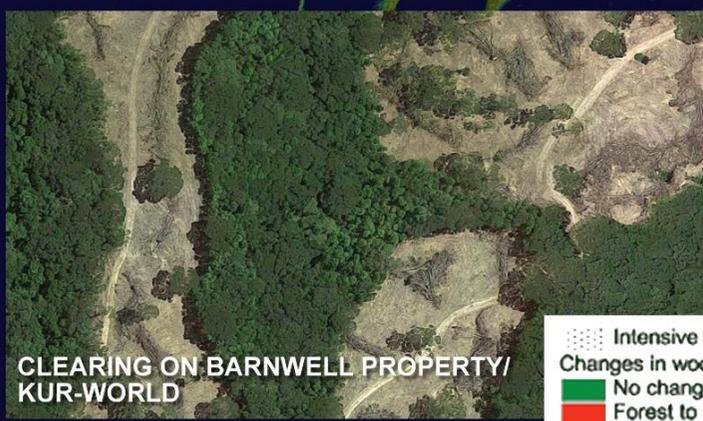


**CHEMICALISED MONOCULTURES
DESTROYING FARMLAND
RIVERS AND OTHER WATER BODIES,
AND GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN**



**Bushland at risk
by Local Government
Area (LGA) (ha)**

- <1000 ha
- 1,000 - 10,000 ha
- 10 - 50,000 ha
- 50 - 100,000 ha
- 100 - 260,000 ha



**CLEARING ON BARNWELL PROPERTY/
KUR-WORLD**

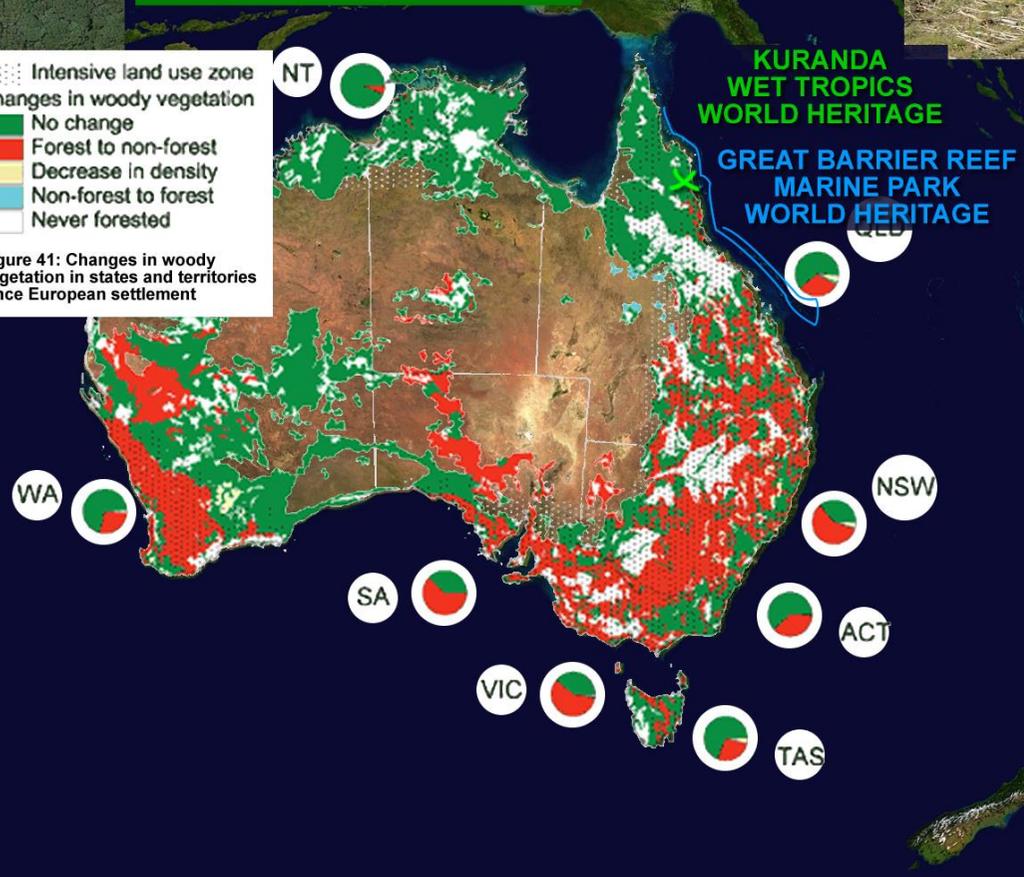
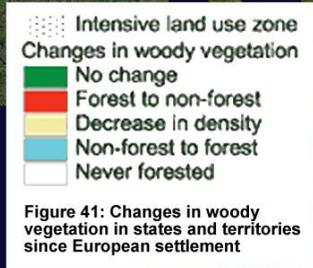
**DID YOU KNOW
LAND CLEARING IN QUEENSLAND**
After laws were relaxed under the then Liberal-National state government in 2013, **land-clearing rates tripled**, undermining efforts to conserve wildlife and reduce carbon emissions.

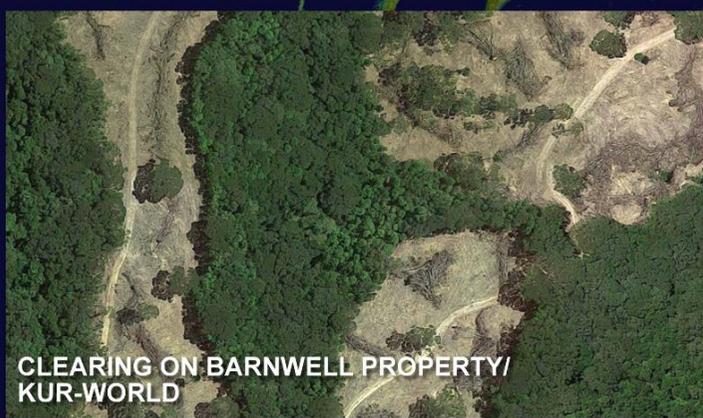


**CSG FRACKING
DESTROYING FARMLAND,
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**CHEMICALISED MONOCULTURES
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CLEARING ON BARNWELL PROPERTY/
KUR-WORLD

DID YOU KNOW
LAND CLEARING IN QUEENSLAND
After laws were relaxed under the then Liberal-National state government in 2013, **land-clearing rates tripled**, undermining efforts to conserve wildlife and reduce carbon emissions.



KURANDA WET TROPICS WORLD HERITAGE

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK WORLD HERITAGE



CSG FRACKING DESTROYING FARMLAND, RIVERS AND OTHER WATER BODIES, AND GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN



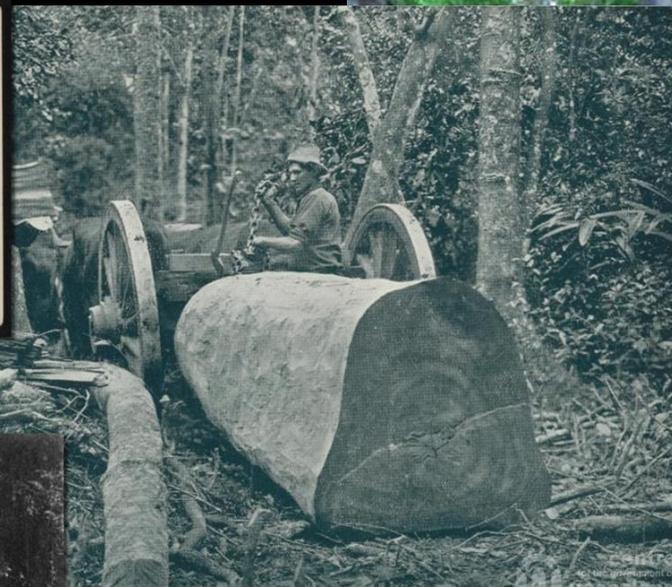
CHEMICALISED MONOCULTURES DESTROYING FARMLAND, RIVERS AND OTHER WATER BODIES, AND GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN

THESE ONGOING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS *SERIOUSLY* THREATEN HUMAN HABITAT TOO



GREAT BARRIER REEF BLEACHING MINING, CHEMICALS & DEFORESTATION IS KILLING THE REEF

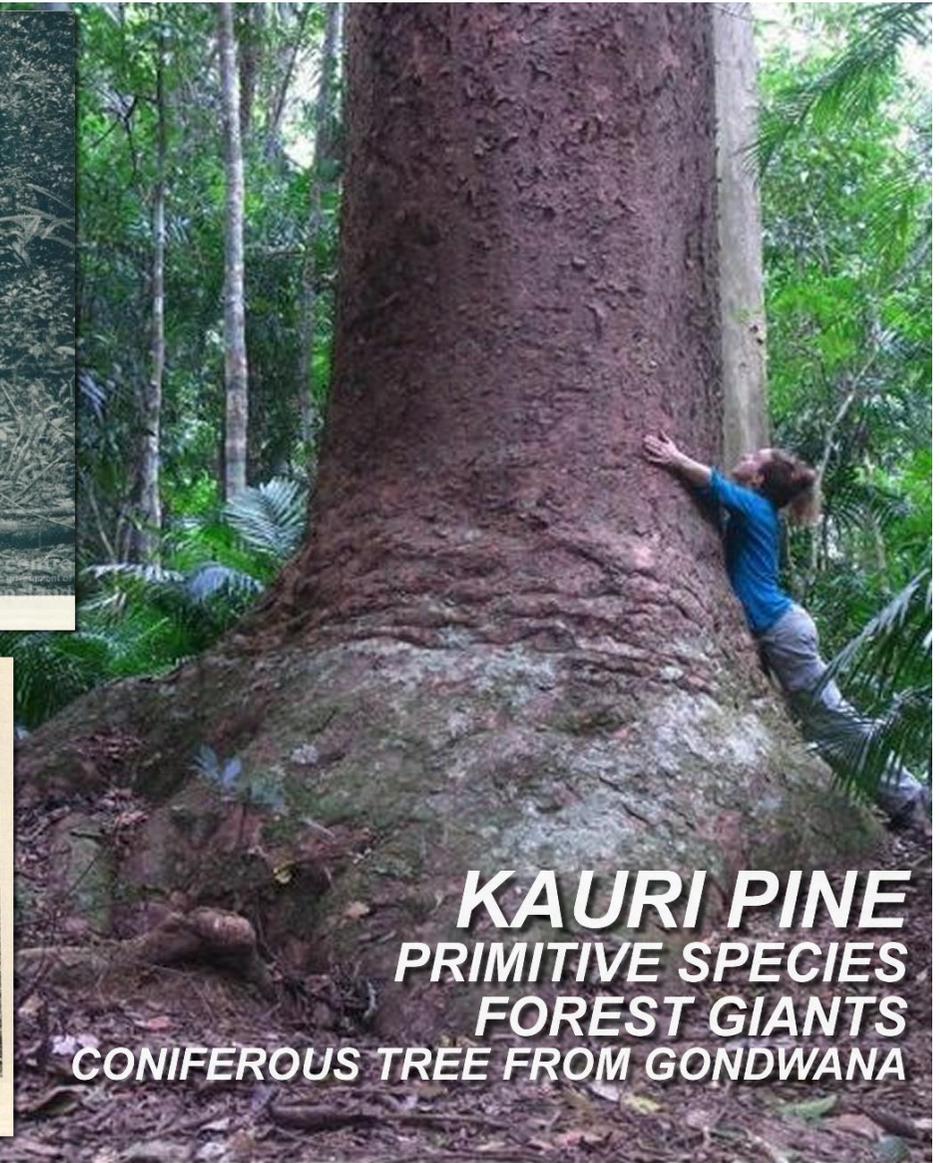
In the 100 years since *colonialism* reached the far north of the Australian continent we have cleared approximately 50% of our Wet Tropics native forest country. The native forests were severely logged removing just about all the 'giants' – old hardwoods 100's and 1000's of years old - and with that 'free' timber we built the North!



One Walnut log in the heart of the forest, Atherton Tableland.



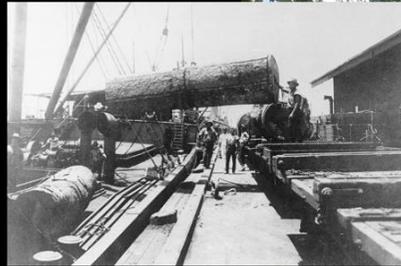
SCRUB CLEARING BY BURNING, ON MR. FRASER'S FARM, AT MALANDA (ATHERTON TABLELAND).



KAURI PINE
PRIMITIVE SPECIES
FOREST GIANTS
CONIFEROUS TREE FROM GONDWANA



STATE FARM AT KAIRI (ATHERTON TABLELAND).



**KAURI PINE
PRIMITIVE SPECIES
FOREST GIANTS
CONIFEROUS TREE FROM GONDWANA**



Openland
Bullock Team Hauling Timber at Mill
Historical Atlas

The timber provided energy, fuels and warmth, the railways, building materials, furniture, and in the world before plastic – no doubt an integral part of everyday life. The cleared land became agriculture, pasture and urban housing - and the region expanded – on the back of our ancient rainforest giants.



Log Timber at Kulara Railway Station (Atherton Tableland, North Queensland).



KAURI PINE
PRIMITIVE SPECIES
FOREST GIANTS
CONIFEROUS TREE FROM GONDWANA

In 1988, the remaining uncleared Wet Tropics wilderness areas were inscribed into World Heritage.

In just over 100 years we have managed to clear an astonishing amount of native forests in this region – all the coastal areas and flat tablelands *useful for humans*.

WHAT WILL REMAIN OF THIS ANCIENT FOREST IF WE CAN'T PROTECT IT NOW?

THE PROPOSED KUR-WORLD DEVELOPMENT IS UNSUITABLE IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENTALLY *HIGH RISK AREA*



1988, the remaining uncleared Wet Tropics wilderness areas were inscribed into World Heritage.

The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area **IS NOT** a collection of patches of ancient forest. It is a whole interwoven system of water, land, plants and animals.



The *actual extent* of Wet Tropics non-wilderness areas, or margins, need to be preserved to ensure survival of the entire forest.

If our government was really serious about it – this map would better represent the '*hands-off areas*' for unsuitable developments.

The land our machines have yet to reach, access and rape our remaining native forests – whether it be for mining or urban subdivision – the result is the same. The reduction in overall forest cover is serious, but loss of *old growth* or *primary* rainforest has been even more drastic. The region's old growth has been severely logged – degrading the habitat of many forest-dependent species. The only way to get it back is to allow recovering rainforest - to fully recover – a process that will take centuries to complete. We need to start this process now. We need to stop here.

WHAT WILL REMAIN OF THIS ANCIENT FOREST IF WE CAN'T PROTECT IT NOW?

THE PROPOSED KUR-WORLD DEVELOPMENT IS UNSUITABLE IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENTALLY *HIGH RISK AREA*



**IRREPLACEABLE
EXTREMELY RARE
ANCIENT FOREST**

once it's gone, it's gone forever

The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area **IS NOT** a collection of patches of ancient forest. **It is a whole interwoven system of water, land, plants and animals.**



If our government was really serious about it – this map would better represent the **'hands-off areas'** for unsuitable developments.



Ecotone

Newsletter of the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre Inc.
Vol 27 Number 4 December 2007

The Fate of the Myola Valley

Sarah Rizvi

On the 24th of October, a public meeting was held at the Kuranda district school on Mareeba Shire's draft amendment to their planning scheme, to accommodate for an additional 10,000 new residents, mostly on 450 m² blocks, in the Myola Valley. The meeting was attended by the MP for Bamson River, Steve Wenterhall, who responded to the community concerns. Over 150 Kuranda residents attended the meeting, the majority of whom were overwhelmingly against the controversial amendment. Mick Bore, the mayor of Mareeba Shire was invited to attend, as were staff of the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the FNQ2025 team, but they all declined the invitation.

This meeting was organized by a coalition of community groups and concerned individuals, who are referring to themselves as the "Save Myola" group. This group includes representatives from Kuranda Enviro-care, Friends of the Earth Kuranda, and CAFNEC.

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.....and much more	

Myola Today



Suburbia Tomorrow?

IT'S NOT too late to SAVE MYOLA

The fate of the Myola valley is still very much on the FNQ2025 agenda. Mareeba Shire has received over 100 submissions on the controversial draft amendment. They are currently processing and collating these submissions, and expect to be completed around mid-December. After the proposal has been altered in regards to the submissions, it gets sent off for its State heritage checks, meaning it will be sent around and ticked off by all the relevant state agencies and Departments. This will include Regional Planning under the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, who are developing the FNQ 2025 Regional Plan. The amendment will need their approval if it is to proceed.

There is strong community opposition to the plan, and existing residents, which includes the two Aboriginal communities of Maritaka and Korowa, have not been adequately consulted about the proposal.

CAFNEC is making representations to the FNQ2025 team and the Minister of Infrastructure and Planning to reject this proposal, and look for sustainable, and efficient ways to cater for urban growth through the new regional plan. At present we have been informed by the planners that the state government will not challenge the reasoning and merit behind the proposal develop Myola into the next "Forest Glenelg". However CAFNEC, and the Save Myola group will continue to lobby for a better planning and environmental outcome for this unique corner of the world, in the hope that good sense will eventually prevail.

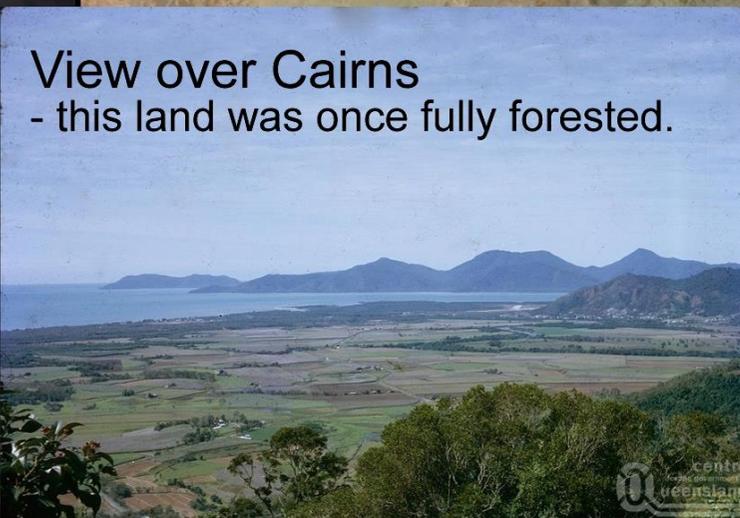
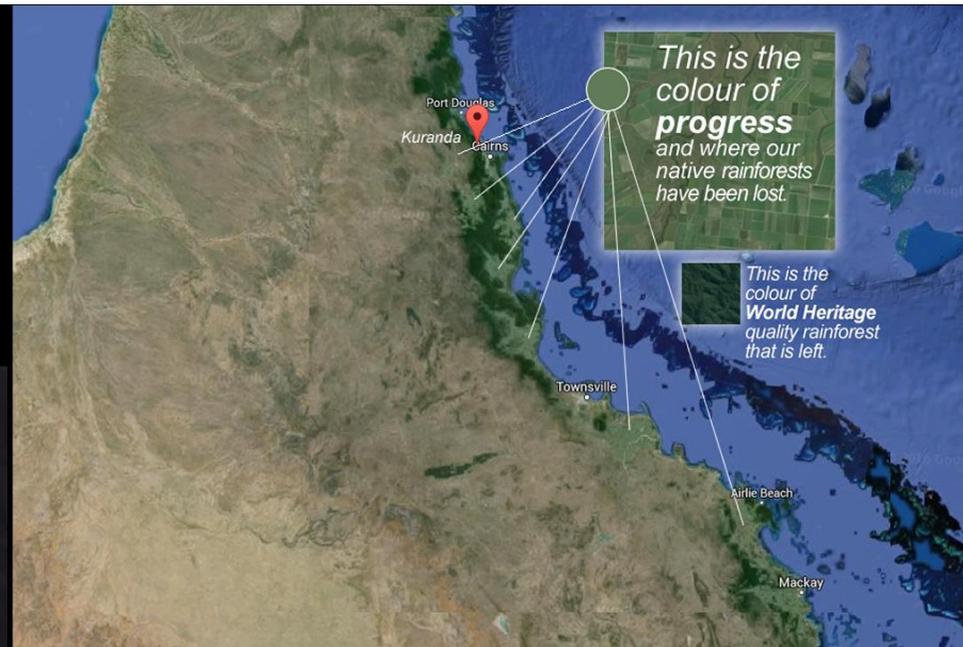
If you are concerned about the fate of Myola Valley, please contact CAFNEC at info@curandaenvirocare.org.au or secretary@envirocare.org.au

Portions against the Myola development are available at Environment, the Green Shop, Neveburn Cafe and the Kuranda Neighbourhood centre and at CAFNEC.

#1 Wet Tropics Rainforest in Kuranda averts first major urban residential subdivision hit in 2007 with the MYOLA PLAN.



#2 The KUR-World Master Plan includes major urban residential subdivision - scheduled to start in 2017.



Looking at this map top right, the extensive light green areas were *once* Wet Tropics rainforest country – now human settlements and agriculture. The dark green is all that remains of one of the oldest, continuous rainforests on Earth. Of course, these ancient native forests extend far south of this region right down the eastern seaboard to Tasmania. Well – what is left – the inaccessible country.

Our location in the greater Wet Tropics scheme of things is in the very narrow neck. The rainforest to the inland side of Kuranda has undergone extensive clearing over a long period of time due to human settlement – and hasn't been included on the official Wet Tropics map for this reason – **not because it's not worth protecting and replanting to improve the conservation corridor.**

The oldest rainforest

THE AUSTRALIAN | AUGUST 22, 2011 12:00AM



Graham Lloyd
Environment Editor
Sydney

THERE is good reason why the **Daintree** rainforest of Far North Queensland is one of the world's most precious botanical treasures.

An estimated 180 million years old – tens of millions of years older than the Amazon rainforest in South America – the Daintree is a living museum that catalogues the evolution of plant life on Earth. Long celebrated as the place where the rainforest meets the sea, it is the world's last remaining example of warm, moist rainforest from the time of the Gondwanaland supercontinent. And it contains living examples of ancient plant lineages that are found nowhere else on the planet.



The Daintree contains a third of Australia's frog species. Picture: Vanessa Hunter. Source: Supplied



Daintree Rainforest [edit] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daintree_Rainforest

The tropical rainforest ecosystem of the Daintree Rainforest is one of the most complex on Earth. Its plant diversity and structural complexity is unrivalled on the Australian continent and represents the origins of its more familiar 'Australian' flora.

The rainforest is named after **Richard Daintree**, an Australian geologist and photographer (1832-1878).

The area includes the Daintree National Park, some areas of State Forest, and some privately owned land, including a residential community of upwards of 5 people. Some of the privately owned land north of the Peninsula Range is being progressively purchased for conservation purposes under a \$15 government scheme involving equal contributions from the municipal (Cairns Regional Council, which includes the former Douglas Shire council), State (Queensland) and Australian Federal governments. As of May 2011, 72% of the properties earmarked for buyback or compensation had been secured. These 'buyback' areas of tropical rainforest included 215 blocks of land purchased by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, and 13 purchased by private conservation agencies.^{[3][4]}

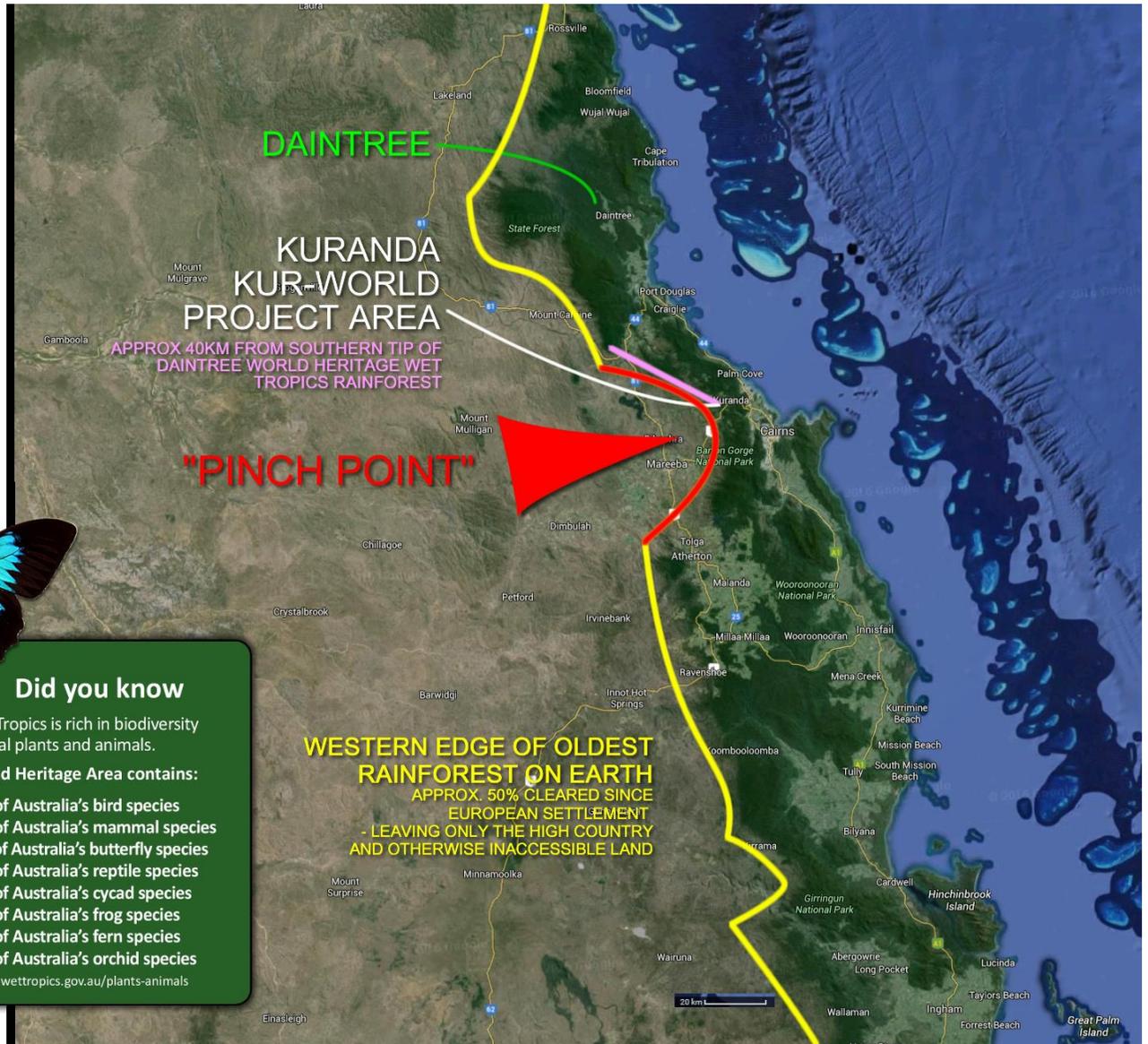
Did you know

The Wet Tropics is rich in biodiversity and special plants and animals.

The World Heritage Area contains:

- ✦ 40% of Australia's bird species
- ✦ 35% of Australia's mammal species
- ✦ 60% of Australia's butterfly species
- ✦ 20% of Australia's reptile species
- ✦ 21% of Australia's cycad species
- ✦ 29% of Australia's frog species
- ✦ 65% of Australia's fern species
- ✦ 30% of Australia's orchid species

<http://www.wettropics.gov.au/plants-animals>



The land of the proposed action – KUR-World – is located in what scientists call a ‘pinch point’ – the narrow neck that remains connecting the greater northern and southern parts of this ancient forest. The Wet Tropics forests of North Queensland are in a ‘contraction’ phase with the continual clearing of native forests – no longer just for agriculture – now under urban residential subdivision attack. This type of development is at odds with the natural environment of this place – the way it *actually needs to stay* - to operate its function as a recharge zone for the Great Artisan Basin – which services the greater water supply for all Australians. The ecological values are simply too sensitive to take a development of this scope.

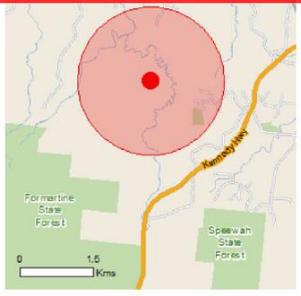
The EPBC Act Protected Matters Report for your property shows:
KUR-WORLD PROJECT AREA HAS:
Listed Threatened Species: 25
Listed Migratory Species: 16

plus thousands of other species that will become threatened and endangered with the thrust of progress

Click to download a full list of sensitive species on your EPBC Act Protected Matters Report, including a plant species, one of which is the Myola Palm *Archontophoenix myolensis*:



"... species of flowering plant in the Arecaceae family. It is endemic to Queensland, Australia. It is threatened by habitat loss. It occurs in the Myola area and the Black Mountain in the Kuranda range in the Atherton Tablelands, Queensland. The total population is seriously threatened by habitat clearance and is estimated to contain fewer than 100 mature trees and remains unprotected. Regeneration is good."
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archontophoenix_myolensis



A very small selection (there's books devoted to our amazing diverse wildlife) of common neighbours here in our native forests:



The masked bandit – raids our European Honeybee hives.
Rainbow Bee-eater
Merops ornatus



One of our very brightest butterflies.
Ulysses Butterfly
Papilio ulysses guban



Elegance personified.
Great Egret
Ardea alba



Moving around in mated pairs and small family groups you can hear their calls through the night as they talk to each other foraging through the forest.
Orange-footed Scrubfowl
Megapodius reinwardt



Couple of close friends here:-)
Graceful Treefrog
Litoria gracilenta wubun



Darting in and out of the cover of the forest – a splash of colour.
Spectacled Monarch
Monarcha trivigatus



"PINCH POINT"



Southern Cassowary *Casuarus casuarus johnsonii*
 Bundarra *Endangered



Spotted-tailed Quoll or Yarrri
Dasyurus maculatus gracilis
 *Endangered



Kuranda Tree Frog *Litoria myola*
 *Endangered



Australian Lace-lid, Lace-eyed Tree Frog *Litoria dayi*
 *Critically Endangered



Waterfall Frog, Torrent Tree Frog *Litoria nannotis*
 *Endangered



Mountain Mistfrog *Litoria nyakalensis*
 *Critically Endangered



Common Mistfrog *Litoria rheocola*
 *Endangered



Red Goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*
 *Vulnerable



Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis*
 *Endangered



Masked Owl (northern) *Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli*
 *Vulnerable



Northern Quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus*
 *Endangered



Often found nesting under verandahs and around homes – they've figured out human habitat is safer than the wild!
Yellow-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*



So called for the sound you hear through the forest every day
Wompoo Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus bagam*



Drumming at 120 decibels everyone knows these guys are on the move
Northern Double Drummer Cicada *Thopha sessiliba*



We call this guy a "grassy" and they're friendly enough – unless you're a frog.
Green Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulata wuwala*



We could do nighttime wildlife tours – plenty of action at night in the rainforest!
Striped Possum *Dactylopsila trivirgata gubuguru*



Another reptile relic
Lace Monitor *Varanus varius ngunal*



A migratory friend that comes to us in the Wet Season to nest and raise their young.
Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher *Tansysiptera sylvia gira-gira*



These guys come into our homes and try to eat our pets! Stunning company though.
Amethystine Python *Morelia amethystina wungul*



One of the more unusual characters living in our waterways.
Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus kuranda* (our village name 'Ngunbayi' is 'platypus' in the local Bama language)



Spectacular show to get the girls – this is one handsome bloke! The female is multi-tone brown and plain in comparison.
Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae*



Magical to see these fluttering by most days in their season – this is the male – the female is plainer.
Cairns Birdwing *Ornithoptera euphorion guban*



How's this for an ancient reptile – from Gondwana 200 million years ago
Boyd's Forest Dragon *Hypsistilus boydii djalandjul*



Semon's Leaf-nosed Bat, Greater Wart-nosed Horseshoe-bat *Hipposideros semoni*
 *Endangered



Black-footed Tree-rat *Mesembriomys gouldii rattoides*
 *Vulnerable

Thanks to Friends of Kuranda Region and <https://www.facebook.com/Koahwildlife/>, photographers for sharing their favourite neighbours! And thanks to the other photographers for your awesome photos to help our worthy cause.

When progress cuts down any rainforest, in or near this narrow corridor, the outcome is known. Habitat loss = inevitable extinction. It's just a matter of how long – 30 years? 60 years before we get the news story about the last cassowary standing amid progress? Like down in Cairns – the last cassowary was killed by dogs on Mount Whitfield Conservation Park. The local population of cassowary is now extinct in that ancient remnant forest.

WET TROPICS WORLD HERITAGE IS
CASSOWARY COUNTRY
BUNDARA BULMBA





WET TROPICS WORLD HERITAGE IS CASSOWARY COUNTRY BUNDARA BULMBA

With thanks to the
Mission Beach
Cassowary
Conservationists
for sharing their
stories and photos
with our Kuranda
community



MEMORIAL
FOR ALL THOSE CASSOWARIES, AND THEIR YOUNG,
THAT HAVE SUFFERED IN THEIR WET TROPICS HOME SINCE EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT
THROUGH HABITAT LOSS, ROAMING PET DOGS, VEHICLE STRIKE.

Urban residential development will never be ok for the cassowary. Or the other endangered species on the project area. Habitat loss, roaming pet dog attacks and vehicle strike are the biggest threats to cassowary survival.

Recovering Rainforest

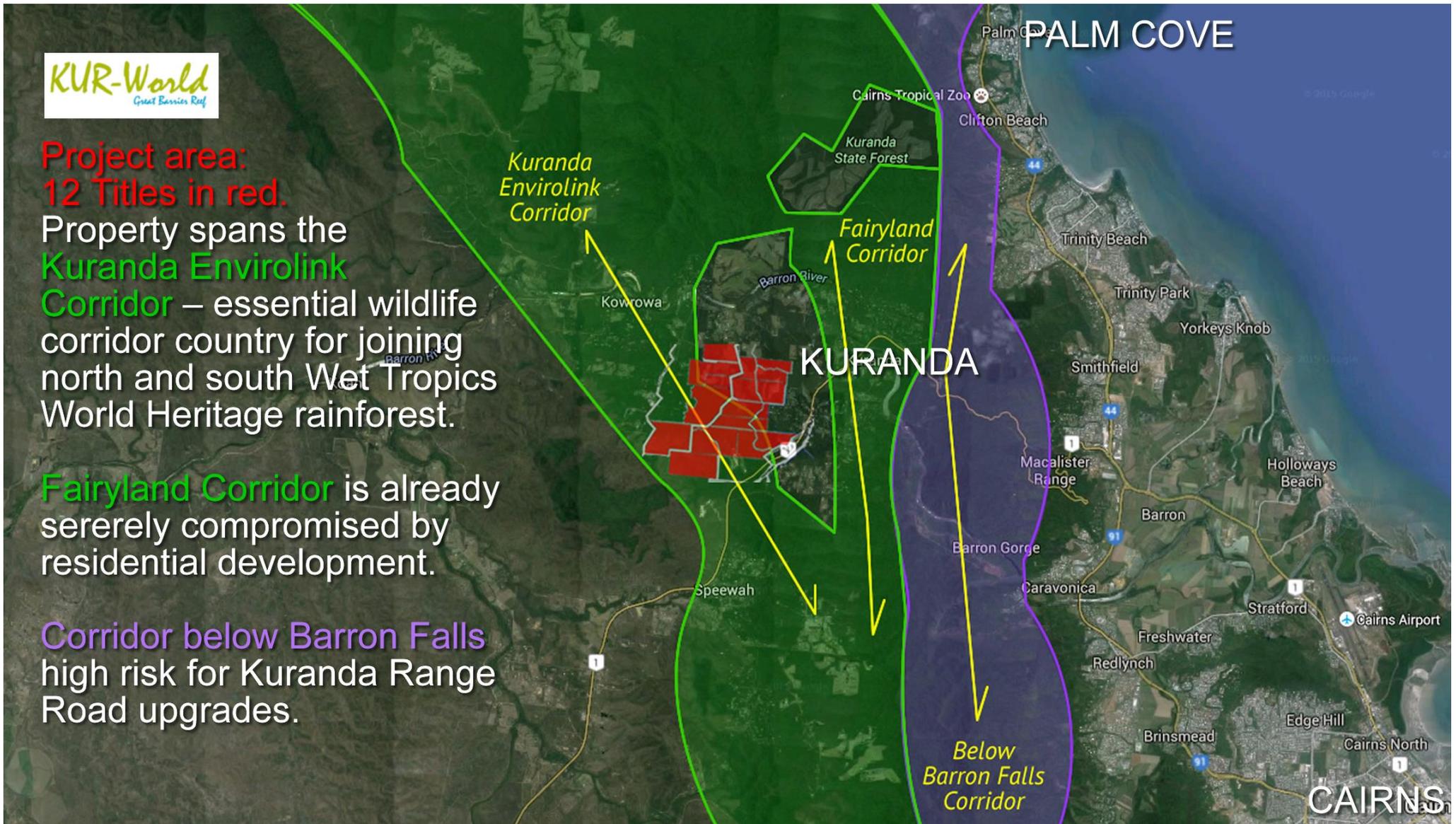
This forest should not be classified as 're-growth' and pushed down for urban residential development.

KUR-World is not an environmentally suitable development for Kuranda, Far North Queensland.

PICTURED:
Similar Kuranda Wet Tropics Rainforest
as KUR-World project area
- top titles, oldest trees 45-75 years
- bottom titles, primary forest

This is what *so-called* 're-growth' forest looks like when 45 - 75 years old. This is 'Recovering Rainforest'.

How can we assess the 'quality' of the Recovering Rainforest and ascribe *a new value system to assist conservation?*



One more project. Just one more...

When does the clearing of native forests stop? Ken Lee – Reever and Ocean Pty Ltd based in Macau – purchased this historically zoned land parcel of 12 rural titles, 626ha, for a paltry \$2 million – 30 minutes from Smithfield and 50 minutes to the Cairns International Airport and Cairns City Centre. That works out to be around \$1300 per acre... quarter acre around \$325.

Recovering Rainforest

This forest should not be classified as 're-growth' and pushed down for urban residential development.

KUR-World is not an environmentally suitable development for Kuranda, Far North Queensland.

PICTURED:
Similar Kuranda Wet Tropics Rainforest
as KUR-World project area
- top titles, oldest trees 45-75 years
- bottom titles, primary forest

If it sounds too good to be true it probably is!

Kuranda residents are not at odds with *development* per se. Kuranda residents seek appropriate development in line with the *agreed matters of environmental significance* of this land. The profit margin won't be nearly as great as chopping the land up into tiny residential pieces – but still a profitable project that we would welcome within the appropriate framework.

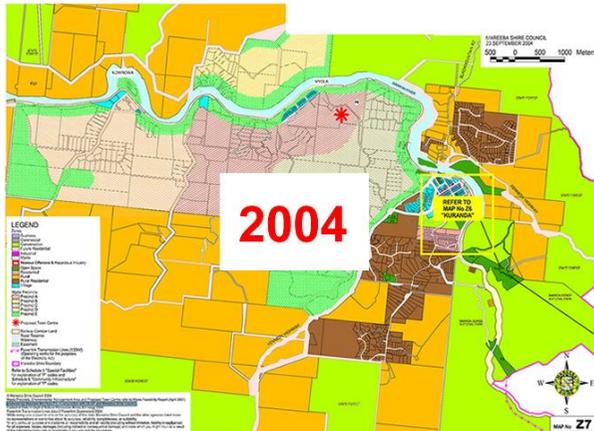
HOW DO OUR LOCAL COUNCIL PLANNING SCHEMES CONTROL DEVELOPMENT?



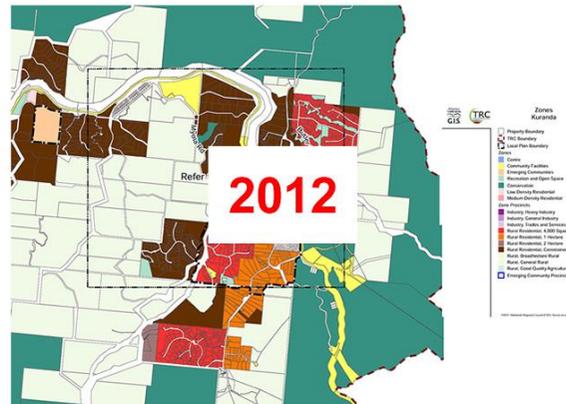
2008
AMALGAMATION



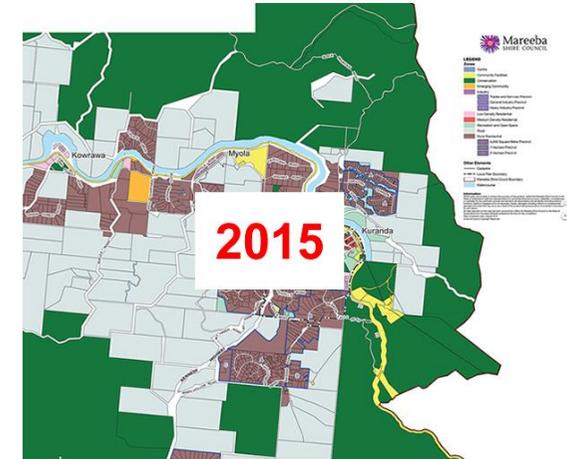
2013
DE-AMALGAMATION



This is our current plan.
Because it is **OLD**,
it is **totally inadequate**.
This is no fault of the environment.
The fault lies with our **Bureaucracy**.



This plan was "signed off" by Kuranda Environmental Community Groups and ready to go... then de-amalgamation happened :-(
DID YOU KNOW:
76% of Kuranda residents voted NO to DE-AMALGAMATION.



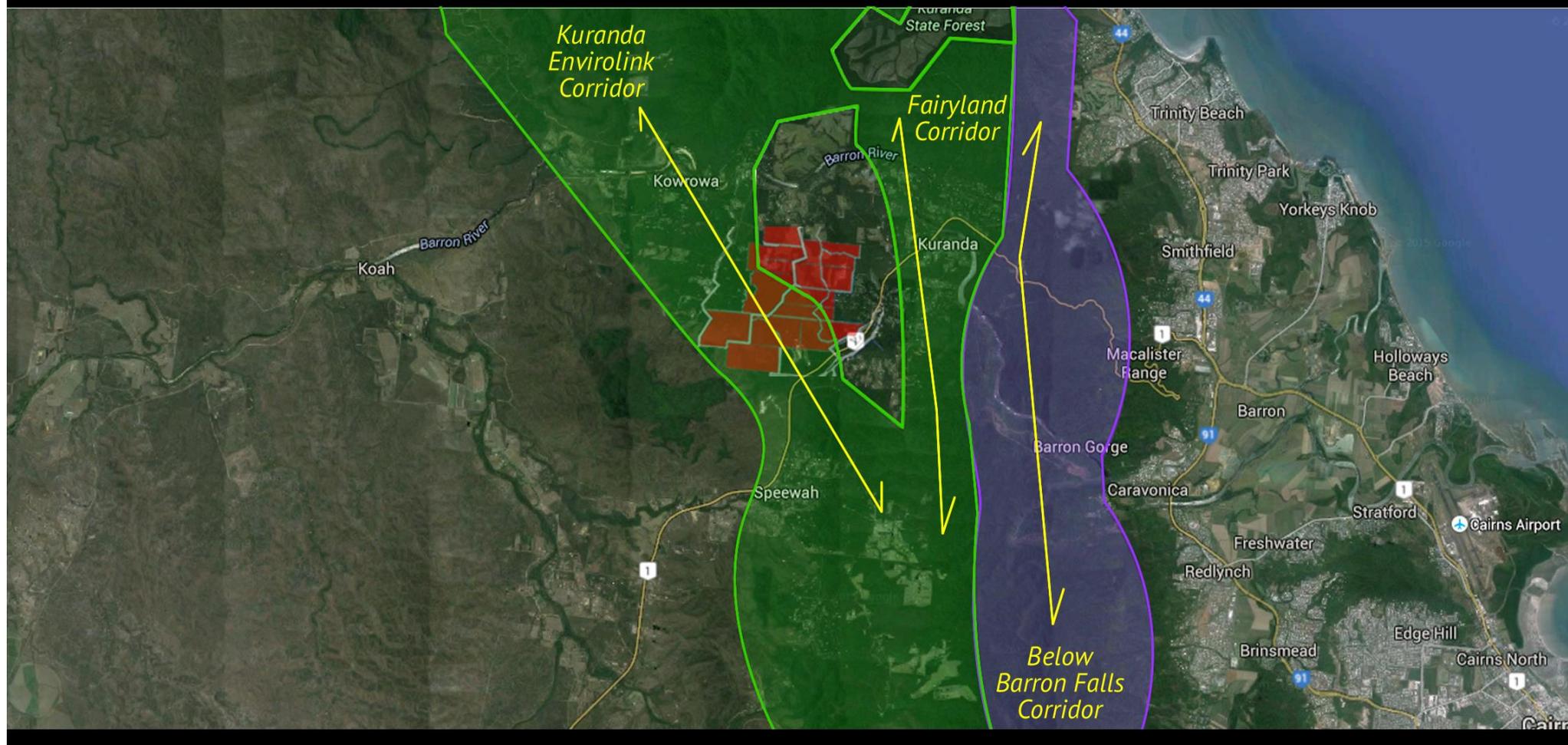
Proposed new plan to replace 2004 plan.
The environmental matters of significance mapping is INADEQUATE.
MSC says they can't use the 2012 version and says we should sign off anyway, and then retrospectively add the environmental layers.

Our local council and state government have failed to assist in protection of the Kuranda Region via our local planning scheme mechanism to this point - despite the consistent, earnest and voluntary efforts of our local community groups to intervene in a meaningful way, ie. via constant letter writing to local and state government departments asking for assistance to recognise the environmental overlays in the mapping that is used to define our Shire's plan. Community documents can be supplied on request.

The environmental overlays were 'rolled back' from the *community consulted 2012 TRC Planning Scheme* that was formed under the Tablelands Regional Council. De-amalgamation and the return to Mareeba Shire Council in 2014 saw the re-writing, re-mapping and, currently attempting, re-implementation of the flawed 2015 MSC

Planning Scheme that has had NO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION process and no environmental overlays – despite community groups repeated attempts to engage with council on this matter.

PLEASE HELP US SAVE THE HEART OF KURANDA



In the case of the historically-zoned Barnwell Rd / KUR-World, our preference would be for the Commonwealth to step in – pay compensation of \$2 million plus costs to the proponent Reever and Ocean Pty Ltd – and our local conservation groups will replant the land that has been *cleared-in-anticipation-of-development - under the guise of 'clearing for cattle grazing'* - the proponent has undertaken in the time since purchase. The land will be returned to the Commonwealth and kept in trust for future

generation's water supply and serve to protect this ecologically sensitive area. This easily accessible forest can be made available to universities for study and discovery - an investment in the 'brains-trust' of our nation.

PLEASE HELP US SAVE THE HEART OF KURANDA

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Updated: 31 July, 2015

Help save the Daintree - contact Douglas Shire Council

Please save The Daintree

The Daintree is a magnificent place of international importance and is of value to all Australians. I support the Douglas Shire Council's visionary step in introducing a Draft Planning Scheme to control development north of the Alexandra Range.

I also support the Council's decision to bring immediate effect to the Draft Scheme by introducing the Temporary Local Planning Instrument to restrict development applications

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

SEARCH

ABOUT THE SHIRE | COMMUNITY | DEVELOPMENT | ENVIRONMENT, WATER & WASTE | BUSINESS | PAYMENT OPTIONS | CONTACT US

Daintree Buyback Scheme

It started in the late 1980s when the State Government overruled Council's decision to refuse an application to subdivide the Daintree Rainforest into more than 900 one-hectare, housing lots.

The applicant then took out an advertisement in the Wall Street Journal advertising 998 blocks of tropical rainforest for sale.

For \$25,500 (\$US18,000 in those days) buyers saw it as their opportunity to own a piece of tropical paradise – either for their dream retirement property, or as a great investment.

Two decades after the Daintree became a rallying point for the conservation movement, the work continues to ensure it remains a special part of the world.

POPULAR LINKS

- Alerts & Notifications
- Forms & Applications
- Payment Options
- Employment Opportunities

kurandaregion.org

Kuranda Region Planning Group

Wet Tropics World Heritage Vital Corridor Buy Back Scheme

Northern Star

Rescuing a world heritage rainforest from developers

Russell Eldridge | 3rd Nov 2012 5:00 AM

Byron-based Rainforest rescue's pictures of Daintree rainforest development

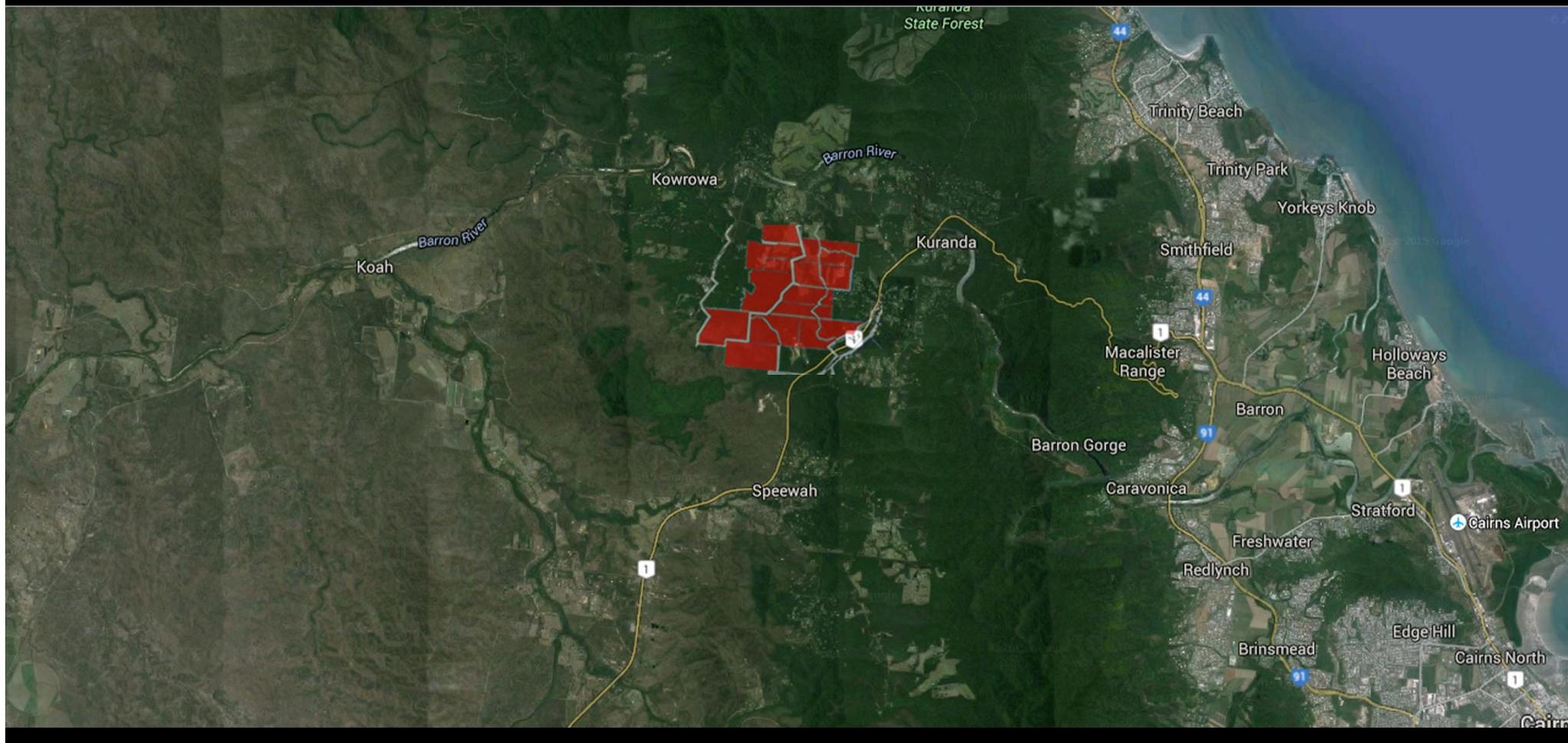
RELATED ITEMS

If you think Australia's tropical rainforests are safely under National Park protection, think again. As you read this, bulldozers and chainsaws are ripping into what may be the world's oldest existing rainforest.

It's all legal, and they're not after timber. They're clearing for housing.

Community in the Daintree have been working since the 1980's to reclaim historically zoned rural land parcels on the equally important Wet Tropics margins – the land cleared by colonialism 100 years ago. Our community is addressing a new initiative called “Kuranda Region Wet Tropics World Heritage Vital Corridor Buy Back Scheme”. The aim of this program is to identify ‘at-risk’ historically zoned land parcels (such as the KUR-World project area) and list their conservation value in terms of their location in the ‘pinch-point’ of our narrow Fairlyland and Kuranda Envirolink conservation corridors, vegetation, water and cultural values.

PLEASE HELP US SAVE THE **HEART OF KURANDA**





Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Referral of proposed action

Project title: KUR-World Integrated Eco-resort

Commonwealth

The EPBC Act is the only known Commonwealth legislation from which this project requires approval.

2.5 Environmental impact assessments under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation

An IAS has been prepared and is to be formally submitted to assist the Coordinator-General determine whether the project will be declared a 'coordinated project' for which an environmental impact statement will be required in accordance with Section 26(1)(a) of the SDPWO. This declaration initiates the statutory environmental impact assessment procedure of Part 4 of the

001 Referral of proposed action v August 2015 Page 7 of 16

SDPWO Act which requires the proponent to prepare an EIS for the proposed development. Various pre-lodgement works have been undertaken in respect of the KUR-World project with representatives of the State and Local Governments relevant to the project.

The Project Manager from the Queensland Coordinator-General's office (Department of State Development Infrastructure and Planning) with which the project team is liaising is Mr Stephen Tarte (ph. 07 3452 7455).

13 July 2015
Dragon's Lair
published on Youtube



The 'EPBC Referral of proposed action' application form submitted by the proponent is required to be submitted and assessed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. The form submitted by the proponent has errors and omissions that renders the form INCOMPLETE for assessment by the Commonwealth at this stage. We ask the Coordinator-General to return the form to the proponent Reeve and Ocean Pty Ltd and Urban Sync, the engaged Town Planner, to complete the form for re-submission.



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13 July 2015
Dragon's Lair
published on Youtube

August 2015
Footer date on
Referral of proposed
action document



Actual clearing on property
of "re-growth" for cattle grazing

The date in the footer of the original document included in the EPBC Referral of proposed action document is August 2015. That's nearly 12 months ago. During that time, the proponent has had machines clearing Recovering Rainforest (45-75 year old trees on some of the titles) under the guise of 'cattle grazing' – that is – returning the property to its former use for pasture. Residents adjoining the property have been reporting constant machine and helicopter traffic on the property for over 12 months now.



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13 July 2015
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August 2015
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Referral of proposed
action document

August 2015 -
Present
Residents on adjoining
properties and
conservation groups
are contacting council
with concerns -
including sediment
run-offs to endangered
frog streams.

Actual clearing on property
of "re-growth" for cattle grazing



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Since purchase
Kee Lee
Maintains the story
he is only clearing
for cattle grazing.



In January 2016, Urban Sync, through Cairns Post, communicated the various options being considered for the land. Cattle grazing and avocado farming were cited as options – even though Reeve and Ocean had engaged a Town Planner, Urban Sync, at least before August 2015 as authors of the document, that forms the publicly available proposed action application. Why do you need a town planner for an agricultural project?

12 months is plenty of time to have completed ALL SECTIONS of the EPBC Referral of proposed action form.



Australian Government
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Since purchase
Kee Lee
Maintains the story
he is only clearing
for cattle grazing.

**Mareeba
Shire Council**
"There is no Development
Application for the property
as yet."

**Actual clearing on property
of "re-growth" for cattle grazing**





Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Referral of proposed action

Project title: KUR-World Integrated Eco-resort

7 Environmental record of the responsible party

NOTE: If a decision is made that a proposal needs approval under the EPBC Act, the Environment Minister will also decide the assessment approach. The EPBC Regulations provide for the environmental history of the party proposing to take the action to be taken into account when deciding the assessment approach.

	Yes	No
7.1 Does the party taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management?	X	✓
Provide details This is the proponent's first development and so there is no record of prior environmental management		



Section 7.1 asks the question 'Does the party taking the action have a 'satisfactory record' of responsible environmental management?' The proponent has ticked 'Yes' indicating that he has a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management'. Then, instead of providing details of an actual 'satisfactory record' – it says this is the proponent's – Ken Lee's – first development so there is 'no record'. Correction required.

Taking a look at this - which does give us an indication of *environmental management* to date of the project to some degree – the proponent has *retrospectively* submitted a basic council application for a rural dam on the project area. As you can see on the sign – the HAVE YOUR SAY period commenced from the 8 June and ends on the 28 June – and here is the dam! The photo was taken on 8 June. This video was created prior to 15 June. A time-warp in the middle of Kuranda!

VIDEO OF DAM - <https://youtu.be/O5EKX-Cgg8g>

Lack of consultation, and acquisition of appropriate permits, has meant the checks and balances of a proper site plan for the dam - prior to earthworks and council inspections was not adhered to. In this action, the proponent and his planner have indicated their flagrant disregard for local government protocol. The location and interaction of the dam – as decided and executed *only by the proponent* – has resulted in environmental consequences in adjoining sensitive water habitats – as observed by Cathy Retter from Kuranda Envirocare.

Cathy Retter from Envirocare on ABC Radio Far North - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aXziVyGkEg>

The project area is on high terrain in the broader local area and all disturbances and erosion of soil have the potential to be catastrophic to sensitive ecological habitats – on water and on land. The scandalous disregard for the ecological consequences of the proponent's actions to date indicate the clever wording on 'eco-resort'. If the proponent truly understood the land he now owns – he simply could not rip the land apart. There's no 'eco' in this deal for the Kuranda Region.



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Referral of proposed action

Project title: KUR-World Integrated Eco-resort

3 Description of environment & likely impacts

3.1 Matters of national environmental significance

3.1 (a) World Heritage Properties

Description

The project boundary is located two kilometres west and south of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area (WTQWHA) and 8.5 km west of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park World Heritage Area (GBRMPWHA) (see Attachment C). In both cases, the project is located upstream of these World Heritage properties via the Barron River and its tributaries, chiefly Owen Creek.

Nature and extent of likely impact

The WTQWHA and GBRMPWHA will not be impacted by this project because:

- The project will not be visible from any readily accessible location within the WTQWHA.
- Best practice sediment and erosion management measures will be implemented to ensure that impacts from sedimentation are not experienced downstream.

The Great Barrier Reef is in enough strife already without adding KUR-World to its list of THREATS.

Our World Heritage treasures are too important - for Australia and the World - to even consider a project like KUR-World for this ecologically sensitive area.

Forest clearing, dam construction and what else ?
The proponent has already started work on the property without ANY WATER PLAN IN PLACE.

5 Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

Measures proposed to avoid or reduce impacts are:

- Complete expert investigations into habitat for *Litoria myola*, *L. dayi* and *L. rheocola* to determine suitable buffers and reflect the development elements accordingly to protect that habitat from clearing.
- Design and implement best practice sediment and erosion management measures to protect water quality within the catchment.
- Undertake water quality testing to determine background (pre-project) water quality, so as to set a baseline against which future monitoring can occur.
- Design and implement a water quality monitoring program.
- Where cassowary essential habitat occurs in areas for which clearing is unavoidable (for instance, roads), offsets meeting federal and state government requirements will be provided.
- A traffic management plan will be implemented to manage the possible impact of local traffic on the southern cassowary.
- The identity of all potential Myola palms within the development footprint will be determined and their locations mapped.
- A Myola Palm Management Plan will be implemented to protect these palms from any impact during the development and operation of the KUR-World project.

"Avoid or reduce impacts" ?

No KUR-World = no impacts at all
Why are we risking this again? Anyone?



Referral of proposed action

Project title: KUR-World Integrated Eco-resort

3.3 (b) Hydrology, including water flows

The project area is located in the Barron River catchment, within two ecologically important local catchments.

Owen Creek

Owen Creek catchment (approximately 1,625 ha overall) dominates the site, occupying approximately three quarters of the project area. This includes Haren Creek, which occupies the central section of the project area (Attachment F and G map and name these creeks). Owen Creek itself is located along the western boundary of the project area.

Both are predominately rocky creeks with a number of closely spaced, moderately to deeply incised tributaries in a convergent tributary channel pattern. Owen Creek becomes a third order stream when it meets Haren Creek (that is, both Haren and Owen Creeks are second order streams upstream of their confluence). The Owen Creek catchment flows north and joins the Barron River approximately 900 m from the northern boundary of the project area. Both Owen and Haren Creeks were observed to flow all year in 2015, although flow in both was reduced to a near trickle in the mid-dry season.

Warril Creek

Warril Creek catchment (approximately 505 ha overall) occupies the majority of the remaining one quarter of the project area. Warril Creek, a second order stream for most of its length, is located to the east of the eastern boundary of the project area. A first order tributary of Warril Creek drains the far north eastern corner of the project area.

Within the project area, this first order tributary is predominately a deeply incised sandy creek with a number of closely spaced drainage lines/gullies forming a convergent tributary channel pattern. It did not hold water in the dry season of 2015, and was only observed to flow in the 2015-16 wet season after rain. It converges with Warril Creek approximately two kilometres after leaving the northern project area boundary.

**\$\$\$ cannot buy back
what will be lost in this place**

**KUR-World project area
has Mt Haran – highest point in Kuranda and is
on catchments for Owen, Haran, Warril and
Unnamed Creeks - Precious endangered frog habitat.**

Unnamed creek

An unnamed, first order stream has its upper catchment extent in the centre of the northern boundary of the project area. Its total catchment area is approximately 80 ha and it flows directly into the Barron River 850 m after leaving the project area. It has a similar substrate and channel characteristics to the Warril Creek tributary to the east – it is a deeply incised, sandy creek. It crosses Barnwell Road near the northern project area boundary and was observed to run at this point (albeit at a mere trickle in the late-dry season) all year. This is surprising given its relatively short length and the lack of water in the larger stream to its east at the same time, and may represent baseflow from a local aquifer to which this stream is perhaps connected.

	Owen Creek Catchment	Warril Creek Catchment
KUR-World	470ha	156ha
% Total of Catchment	29%	31%

3.3 (f) Gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area)

The topography of the site is dominated by Mt Haren, a 490 m peak that is located at the far eastern point of the project area, and that is also the highest point in the Myola/Kuranda area. The lowest point on the site is 340 m elevation, where Owen Creek leaves the northern boundary of the project area. Topography on the site can be adequately predicted from the vegetation patterns. In general, the areas mapped as remnant vegetation were not cleared because the topography was unsuitable for farming/grazing – it is either steep, rugged hills (as in lots 131 and 290) or deeply dissected by closely spaced drainage lines and creeks (as on lots 20, 43, 95 and 129). More suitable terrain is found where regrowth and cleared pasture is located – here, the land is undulating to rolling and clearing has occurred along the gently sloping ridgelines. The usually steeply incised drainage lines/watercourses have not been cleared (although everything in these areas was cleared pre-1990).

In general, the cleared areas are located between 340 to 380 m elevation and the remnant vegetation sections are located between 380 and 450 m elevation, with Mt Haren rising to 490 m. The highest points (those areas above 420 m) are located along the southern boundary and the south western corner, with the only exception being Mt Haren.



Referral of proposed action

Project title: KUR-World Integrated Eco-resort

3.3 (j) Other important or unique values of the environment

The KUR-World project site is located two kilometres west of Barron Gorge National Park, and two kilometres south of Kuranda State Forest (both of which fall within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area). It is located precisely on the transition zone or ecotone between the wetter rainforest communities of the Lamb and MacAlister Ranges to the east, and the drier sclerophyll dominated woodland communities to the west, with this transition evident in the south western lots of the project site (lots 131 and 290 in particular contain extensive areas of ironbark and forest red gum open forest).

critical conservation zone

Its rainforest is also contiguous with one of the Wet Tropics Heritage Area 'pinch points' – areas where the rainforest narrows considerably, constraining movement in a north-south direction by fauna that are restricted to rainforest habitats. Dr Hoskin (2007) has previously identified the central Wet Tropics area, and Kuranda in particular, as a 'suture' or contact zone between areas of historic refugia for rainforest species, where 'evolutionary novelties' (i.e. new species and phenotypic variations) can arise relatively rapidly. Therefore, he ascribes some conservation significance to this contact zone.

narrow conservation corridors

can't wait to see this!

Nature and extent of likely impact

Frogs

No significant impacts are expected on any of the listed frog species (*Litoria myola*, *L. dayi* or *L. rheocola*) either confirmed present or that are likely to or may occur in the project area, because:

- Habitat for these species will be confirmed and set aside from development. *Litoria rheocola* is not as wide-ranging as the other *Litoria* mentioned above – therefore, protecting habitat for those species will also protect habitat that may possibly be used by *L. rheocola*.
- Water quality in the streams utilised by *L. myola* and possibly by *L. dayi* will be managed and maintained. Best practice sediment and erosion management measures will be designed in a Sediment and Erosion Management Plan to be approved by a suitably qualified engineer. An ongoing program of water quality monitoring and reporting to government authorities will be designed and instituted for the life of the project.

Our fragile Wet Tropics plants and animals are already ENDANGERED. KUR-World is not a suitable development for their habitat.

Southern cassowary

No significant impacts on the southern cassowary are expected because:

- In general, cassowary essential habitat will be retained, and much of the existing rainforest regrowth vegetation in the project area will also be retained.
- Where vegetation mapped as essential habitat for the southern cassowary lies within the development footprint, clearing will be mitigated through a habitat offset that will comply with Commonwealth and Queensland government requirements.
- Cassowaries are not believed to access the site anymore and its main value in conservation of the species is in maintaining a western habitat corridor that stretches from the Windy Hollow area (approximately 1.5 km south east of the project area) north west to Kowrowa/Mantaka (see Attachment I).
- The Windy Hollow-Kowrowa corridor will be retained - it incorporates mostly lots 20, 43, 95, 129 and 131, all of which have no infrastructure proposed on them under the Masterplan. It should be noted that there is no evidence that cassowaries actually use this corridor – it is bisected by a major impediment to cassowary movement – the Kennedy Highway – and is theoretical only.
- No dogs will be kept on the site as a result of this project. good luck with 1000 residents living in suburbia !
- Fencing will be designed to be cassowary friendly.
- Traffic within the proposed entrance road from Myola Road will be speed restricted. ditto

Myola palm

No significant impacts on the Myola palm *A. myolensis* are expected because:

- Most confirmed and potential habitat for this species is co-located within habitat (below the high bank of streams in riparian rainforest and riparian rainforest regrowth) that will be protected for *L. myola* and *L. dayi*.
- Some potential habitat for this species exists along Haren Creek – all sections of this creek will be surveyed for Myola palm and all individuals will be protected.
- Water quality in the streams utilised by the Myola palm will be protected. Best practice sediment and erosion management measures will be designed in a Sediment and Erosion Management Plan to be approved by a suitably qualified engineer. An ongoing program of water quality monitoring and reporting to government authorities will be designed and instituted for the life of the project.

The EPBC Referral Pro forma has section 2.6 for 'Public consultation'. How is it marked as 'No public consultation has occurred at this stage'? Including no consultation with Indigenous stakeholders?



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Referral of proposed action

Project title: KUR-World Integrated Eco-resort

> **2.6 Public consultation (including with Indigenous stakeholders)**

No public consultation has occurred at this stage.

Disregarded by proponent and incomplete

> **3.3 (h) Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values**

No sites listed on the Register of the National Estate, World Heritage list, National Heritage list or the Commonwealth Heritage List or the Queensland Heritage Register are present on the site.

Please add Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003

> **3.3 (i) Indigenous heritage values**

The KUR-World project site is located within Djabugay country. No indigenous heritage values have been identified on the site to date.

Correction: Bulwai country. Cultural Survey disregarded by proponent and incomplete

**Short Stature
Rainforest People
Adult Grown Men,
pictured centre at
Mona Mona Mission**



Indigenous heritage

On 9 November 2012 the Australian Government announced the inclusion of the national Indigenous heritage values as part of the existing National Heritage Listing for the Wet Tropics of Queensland.

The Aboriginal Rainforest People of the Wet Tropics of Queensland have lived continuously in the rainforest environment for at least 5 000 years and this is the only place in Australia where Aboriginal people have permanently inhabited a tropical rainforest environment.

The Aboriginal Rainforest People developed a distinctive cultural heritage determined by their dreamtime and creation stories and their traditional food gathering, processing and land management techniques. Reliance on their traditions helped them survive in this at times inhospitable environment. The distinctiveness of the traditions and technical innovation and expertise needed to process and prepare toxic plants as food and their uses of fire is of outstanding heritage value to the nation and are now protected for future generations under national environmental law.

<https://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/wet-tropics>

2016 revision

Doesn't the fact that the 2.6 section exists at all means that it has some relevance at this EPBC Referral of proposed action at stage in the scope of the project, within the framework of the EPBC Act? Isn't the purpose of the Act to assess all SECTIONS as integral to the proposed action as specified on the submission pro forma?

How is it that the proponent of a \$650 million proposal can submit an incomplete form and anticipate a properly informed decision by the Commonwealth?

Why is the '2.6 Public consultation', '3.3 (h) Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values', and '3.3 (i) Indigenous heritage values' the ONLY SECTIONS the proponent has failed to complete for the submission of the form?

Doesn't the fact these sections remain incomplete indicate that this submission is in fact not the final version and therefore shouldn't be accepted, published or assessed at this point by the Coordinator-General?

The original Rainforest People still live in here, in Kuranda

NEWS LOCATION: Brisbane, Qld Change

Science News

LIVE NOW Live coverage of the aftermath of the Orlando nightclub shooting

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Stone tools found on Sulawesi in Indonesia 'made by ancient humans at least 118,000 years ago'

Updated 14 Jan 2016, 12:10pm

PHOTO: Sediment surrounding stone tools found in Sulawesi has been dated between 118,000 and 194,000 years old. (Supplied: Erick Setiabudi)

Ancient stone tools from an archaeological site on Sulawesi have pushed back the date of the earliest human occupation of the Indonesian island to at least 118,000 years ago.

The discovery, published today in *Nature*, overturns the view that humans first entered the island between 50,000 and 60,000 years ago as *Homo sapiens* dispersed out of Africa on the way to Australia.

Instead the finding suggests an ancient human species inhabited the island well before *Homo sapiens* arrived.

Lead author Dr Gerrit van den Bergh, from the University of Wollongong, said it was likely this earlier inhabitant was related to the dwarf-sized hobbit (*Homo floresiensis*) — whose fossils were found more than a decade ago on the nearby island of Flores.

Dr van den Bergh, from the Centre for Archaeological Science, who also worked on the Flores discovery, uncovered the open-air site at Talepu in Sulawesi's south-west in 2007, while surveying the area with Anwar Akib, from the local Cultural Heritage Department.

"This new road was cut in the area and I walked there with a local colleague [Mr Akib] and we stumbled upon this accumulation of stone artefacts in a gravel deposit," he said.

Between 2009 and 2012 Dr van den Bergh and colleagues worked at the site excavating two trenches with the deepest reaching down 10 metres. More than 200 artefacts were recovered from the site.

However, it was only the development of new dating techniques by colleague Dr Bo Li at Wollongong University in 2011 that allowed them to date the site.

It must have been archaic humans

Key points

- Dating of excavation site on Sulawesi indicates artefacts are at least 118,000 years old but may be up to 200,000 years old
- Discovery suggests ancient humans inhabited island long before *Homo sapiens*
- Ancient human may have been related to the hobbit found on nearby Flores

MAP: Indonesia

present-day mainlands
mainland extensions by lower sea levels during the ice ages



Referral of proposed action

Project title: KUR-World Integrated Eco-resort

Hopes of 4 Environmental outcomes

Proposed environmental outcomes for MNES are as follows:

Frog species *Litoria myola*, *L. dayi* and *L. rheocola*

- There will be no net-loss of habitat for these species as a result of this project.
- Water quality within habitat for these species will not be reduced below current baseline levels (to be identified).

Southern cassowary

- There will be no net-loss of essential habitat for the southern cassowary as a result of this project.
- Traffic will be managed to reduce the likelihood of impact on the southern cassowary.

Myola palm

- There will be no net-loss to the population of this species as a result of this project.

Northern quoll

- There will be no net-loss to habitat for the northern quoll as a result of this project.

What the proponent hopes for and what is at risk

The KUR-World project area is TOO HIGH RISK for this land.

6 Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

6.1 Do you THINK your proposed action is a controlled action?

- No, complete section 5.2
- Yes, complete section 5.3

This project is a controlled action because:

Litoria myola, *L. dayi* and *L. rheocola*

- The KUR-World site occupies approximately 13.7 ha of known *L. myola* habitat and a further 39.5 ha of suitable habitat that is contiguous with known habitat and within which the species is likely to occur). This represents 15% of the total known occupancy of the species.
- The KUR-World site involves development that is upslope of this habitat, and a further approximately 30-35 ha of *L. myola* habitat located outside of the project area. Therefore, it is acknowledged that development actions has the potential to effect habitat quality within nearly 25% of the total known occupancy of the species through changes to water quality.
- Two other species of endangered frog, *L. dayi* and *L. rheocola*, also occupy similar habitats (there is 86 ha of potential habitat for *L. dayi* within the KUR-World site).

Casuarus casuarus johnsonii

- The KUR-World site contains large areas of mapped essential habitat for the southern cassowary, in an area where movement corridors for the species contract significantly. Some clearing of essential habitat for this species is likely.
- Traffic, a threatening process for this species, is likely to increase on local roads as a result of this project.

Archontophoenix myolensis

- The KUR-World site contains an unmapped population of this highly restricted species in areas potentially to be affected by this project.

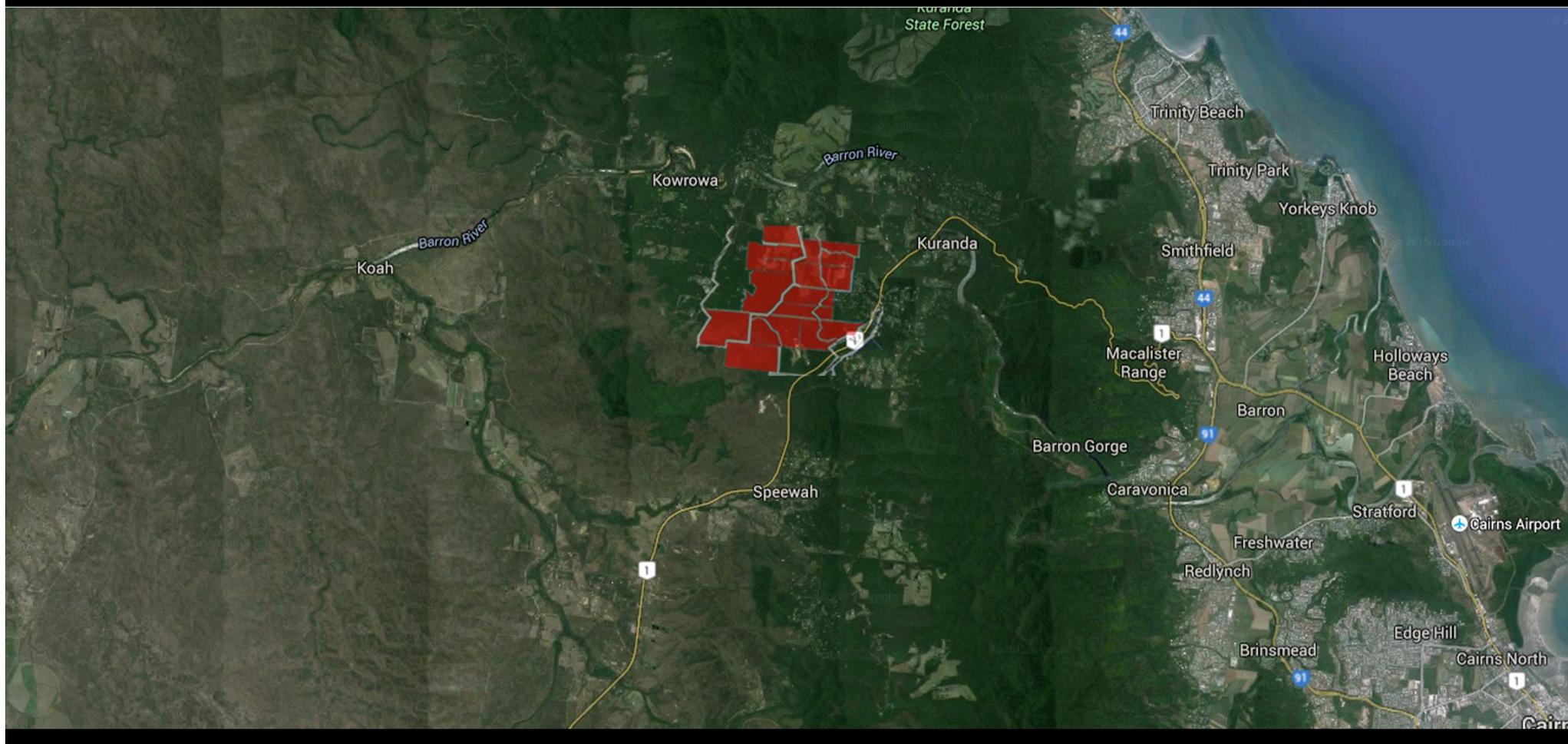
Section 4 under Environmental outcomes notes the four main endangered species under threat in the project area. Against each of these species is the proponent's and his town planner's 'hopes of environmental outcomes' written as statements of fact.

Anyone can tick the 'Yes' box and THINK it's true – but is it true?

The hope is there will be no net-loss of habitat for the endangered Myola frog – and on the actual side – the project area contains 13.7ha of known habitat, 39.5ha suitable habitat, development is upslope of habitat, development has the potential to effect habitat quality within 25% of the total known occupancy of the species.

So just writing it in SECTION 4 makes it true? Please check SECTION 6 – Conclusion of the likelihood of significant impacts carefully.

PLEASE HELP US SAVE THE **HEART OF KURANDA**



In Kuranda – like other small towns and villages across Australia – we see development and progress as economic necessities. Our local community is ‘keyed’ to our Far North Queensland tourism industry to engage domestic and international travellers to visit one of the truly ancient wonders of the world – our Wet Tropics World Heritage Rainforest. We’re proud and happy to do our bit for the greater region – but not KUR-World - in any of its guises. Chopping down Recovering Rainforest in Wet Tropics World Heritage for the purpose of gross financial gain by any individual or legal entity is plainly immoral.



We ask the Commonwealth to help our community to protect this land for future generations of Australians enjoyment, health and wealth. Please declare KUR-World a 'coordinated project' under The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act).

The 100 year gold rush is over.
The **free-land and free-old-growth timber is no more.**
This place was declared World Heritage for a reason.
Ancient rainforests and all their natural treasures
will become extinct, if we don't stop now.

**The Myola Precinct *was not a suitable development* for this land.
KUR-World *is not a suitable development* for this land.**

The KUR-World project area of 626ha is currently 12 rural titles. This land must never be re-zoned.

There are other more suitable places for urban residential subdivision. While it seems to suit our local and state governments to forsake this precious conservation land to the insistent and continual push for urban development and massive profits – there is no amount of profit that can amount to a good deal here – locally, regionally, for all Australians.

We ask the Commonwealth to help our community to protect this land for future generations of Australians enjoyment, health and wealth. Please declare KUR-World a 'coordinated project' under The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act).

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