



# KUR-WORLD

*PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT*

# INFORMATION

## The environmental values of the Myola region

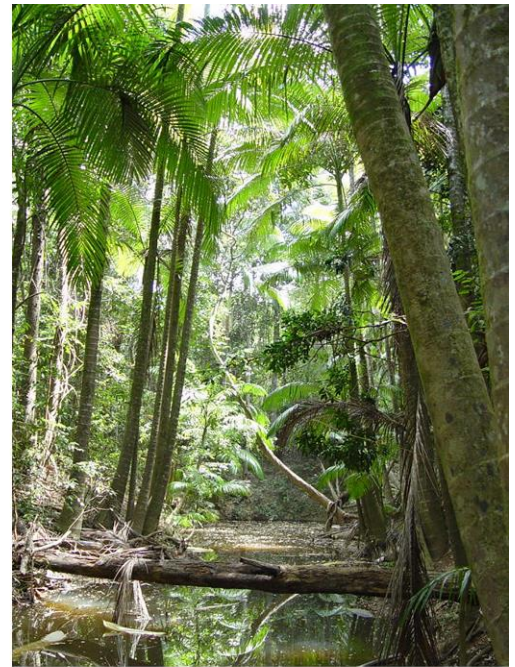
"The Kuranda treefrog is but one of the treasures of the Myola region. Remarkably, the Myola Palm is also restricted to the Myola region, occurring at some of the same stream sites as the Kuranda treefrog. We don't know the evolutionary history of this endangered palm, but the fact it is restricted to the same small area as the frog suggests some shared history.

More broadly, diversity in the Kuranda region is very high due to its position in the middle of the Wet Tropics. Its mid-altitude elevation, and the fine scale mix of a diverse array of habitats.

For example, I have recorded 16 species of frog at the Kuranda tree frog sites, including two endangered species: the Australian lace-lid and the common mistfrog. The cassowary and the red goshawk are two spectacular and threatened birds that I have had the privilege of encountering in the Myola region.

Another key value of the Myola region is its location at a narrow neck between the major northern and southern blocks of the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. It acts as an important area of gentle terrain connecting the rainforests of these two regions."

**Source: Extracted from "In the zone: the origin and future of the Kuranda treefrog" (p13. Wildlife Australia magazine, summer 2007) by Dr Conrad Hoskin**



TOP Myola Palm  
*Archontophoenix myolensis*

MIDDLE Common mistfrog  
*Litoria rheocola*

BOTTOM Red goshawk  
*Erythrorhynchus radiatus*



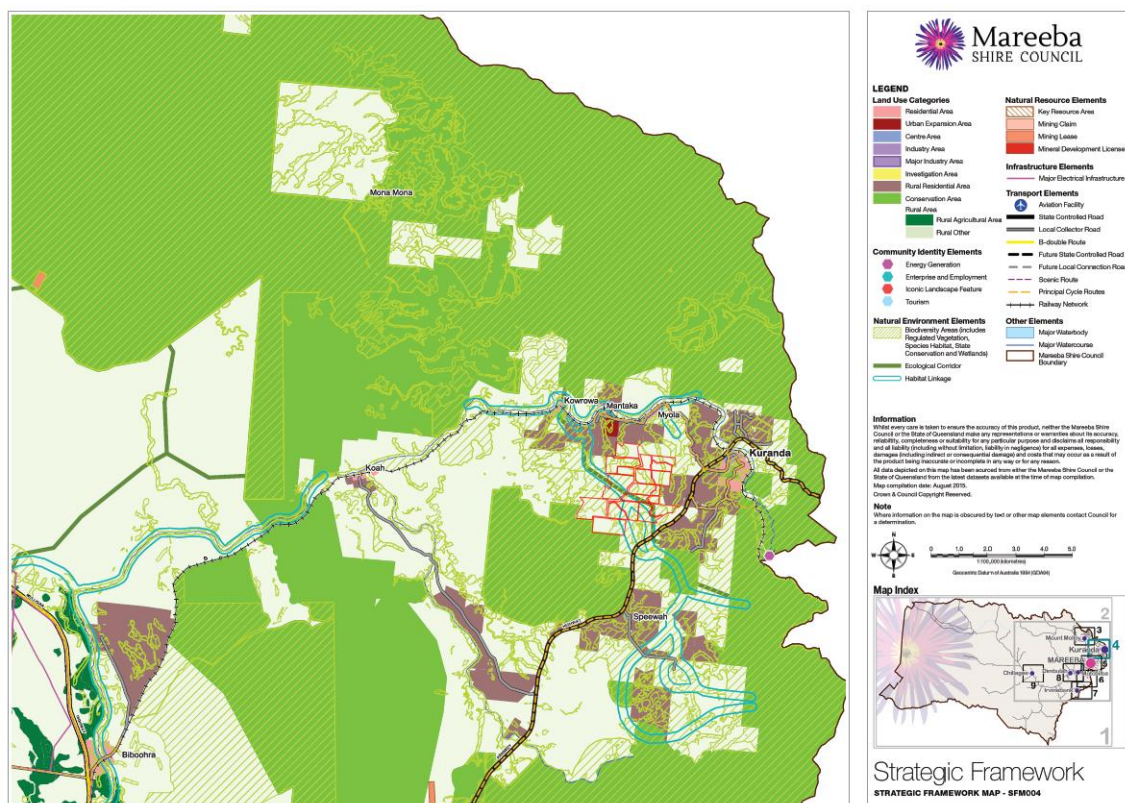
LEFT Southern cassowary  
*Casuarius casuarius*

RIGHT Kuranda tree frog  
*Litoria myola*





**KUR-WORLD DEVELOPMENT SITE – 12 RURAL TITLES - OUTLINE IN RED**



**CLOSE UP – NOTE LOCATION OF ‘Natural Environment Elements’**

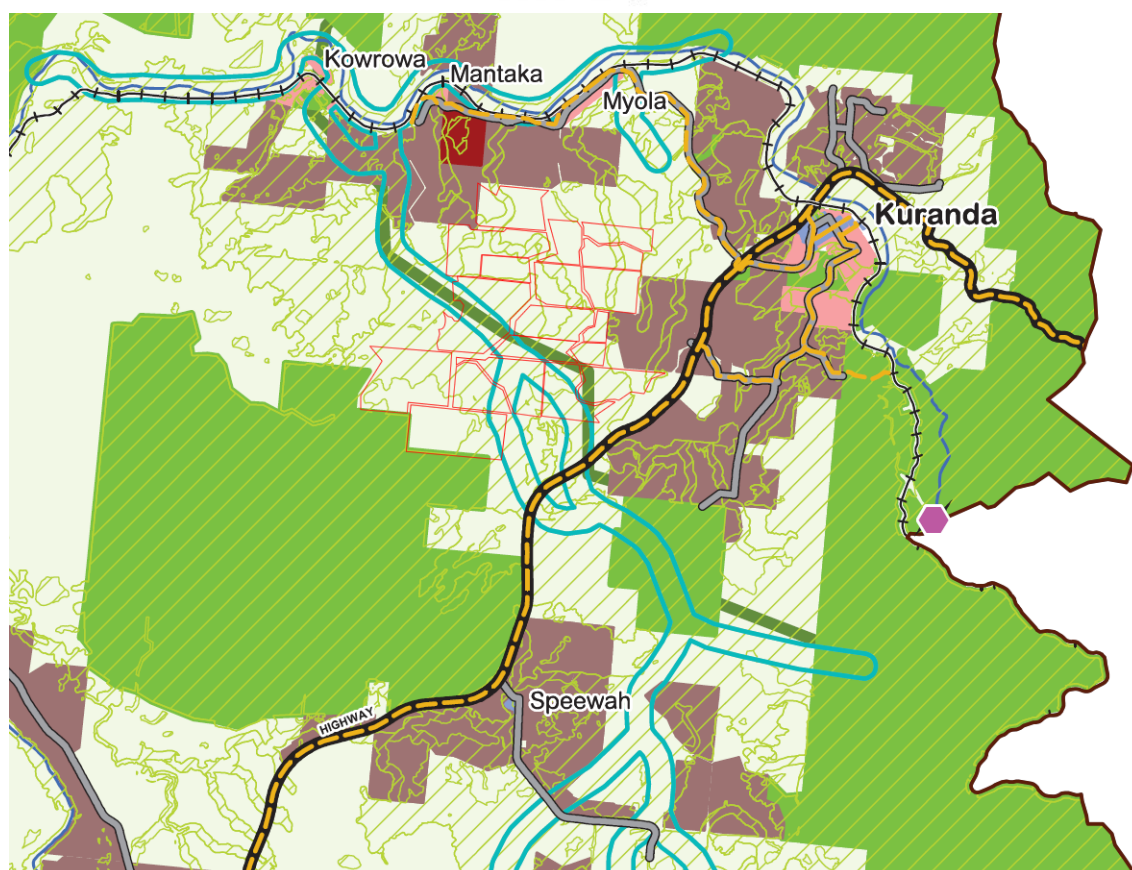
**KUR-WORLD DEVELOPMENT SITE – 12 RURAL TITLES - OUTLINE IN RED**

**Natural Environment Elements**

Biodiversity Areas (includes Regulated Vegetation, Species Habitat, State Conservation and Wetlands)

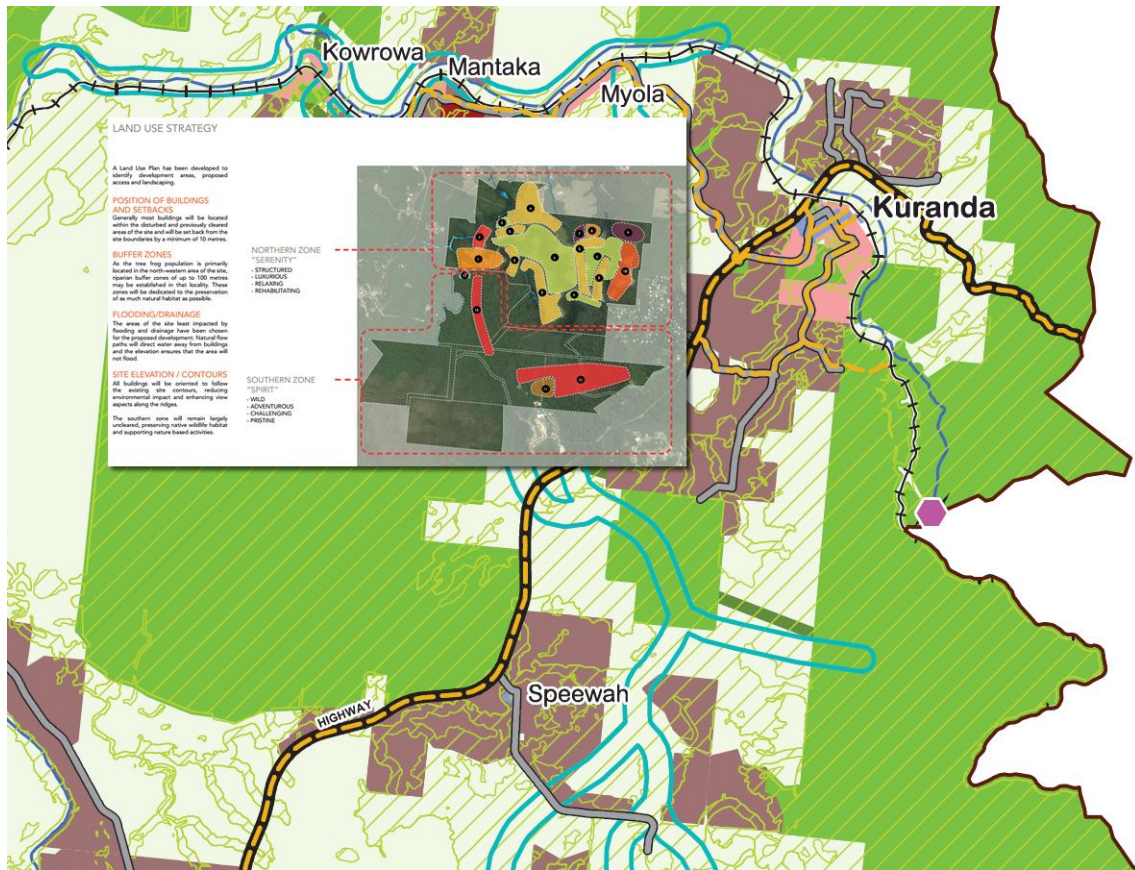
Ecological Corridor

Habitat Linkage






## WITH KUR-WORLD MASTER PLAN OVERLAY



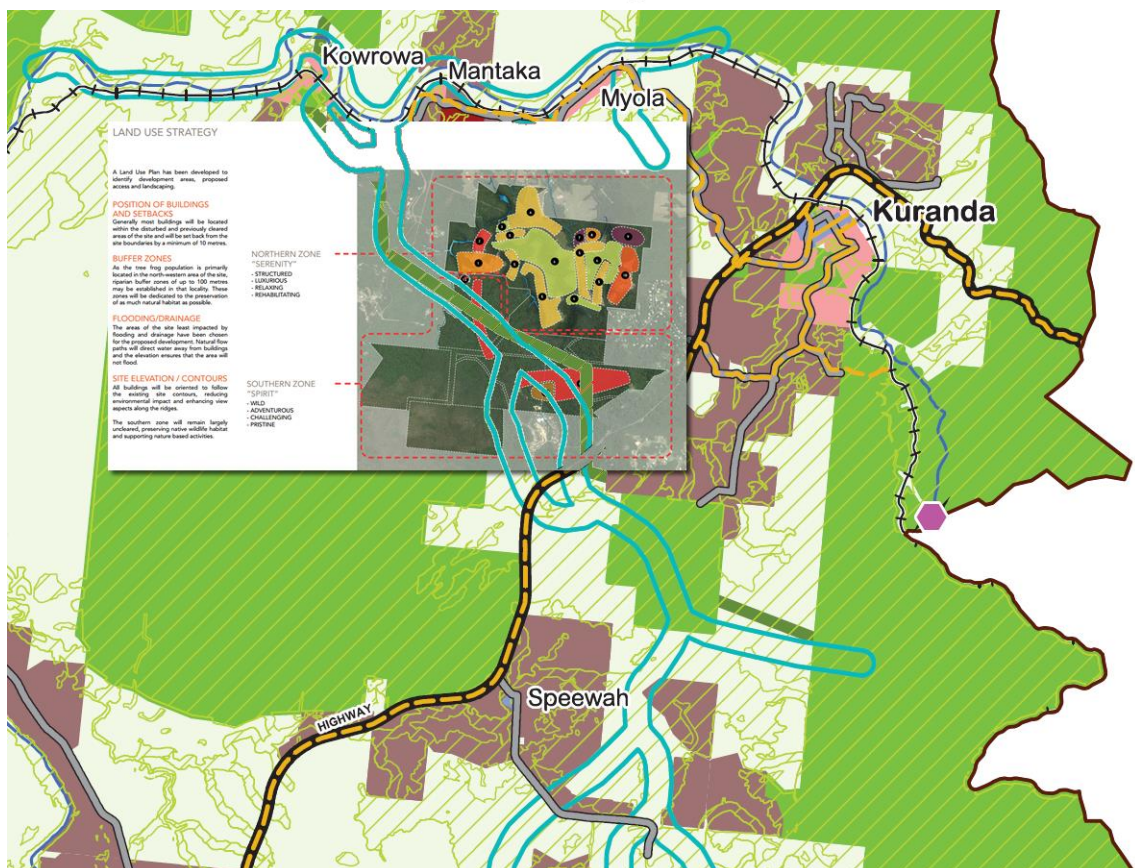
## WITH KUR-WORLD MASTER PLAN OVERLAY AND 'Natural Environment Elements' OVERLAY

### Natural Environment Elements

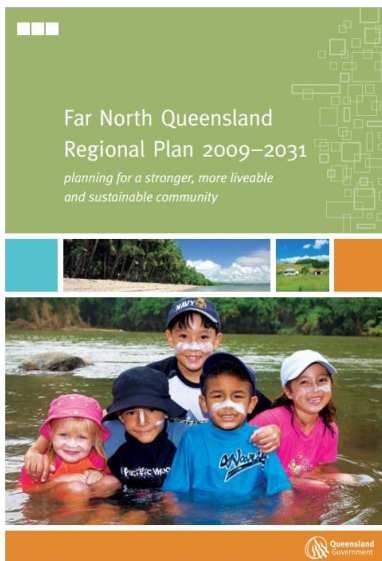
 Biodiversity Areas (includes Regulated Vegetation, Species Habitat, State Conservation and Wetlands)

 Ecological Corridor

 Habitat Linkage



## KUR-World proposed development conflicts with State and Local planning instruments



### FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL PLAN 2009-2031

#### PAGE 24

Myola has been the subject of significant investigation and consultation in the past, including the Myola Feasibility Study in 2001, the Myola Planning Study completed in 2006 and detailed studies on the Kuranda Range Road. Myola is not considered necessary for urban development in the life of this regional plan.



### MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCIL PLANNING SCHEME 2016

#### PAGE 34

Growth is focused within the broader Kuranda district. Further residential development in the Myola corridor is not supported within the life of the planning scheme.



## KUR-WORLD PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE IN RELATION TO VEGETATION

ZONE A – STATE FOREST / FOREST RESERVE AND ZONE B - NATIONAL PARK

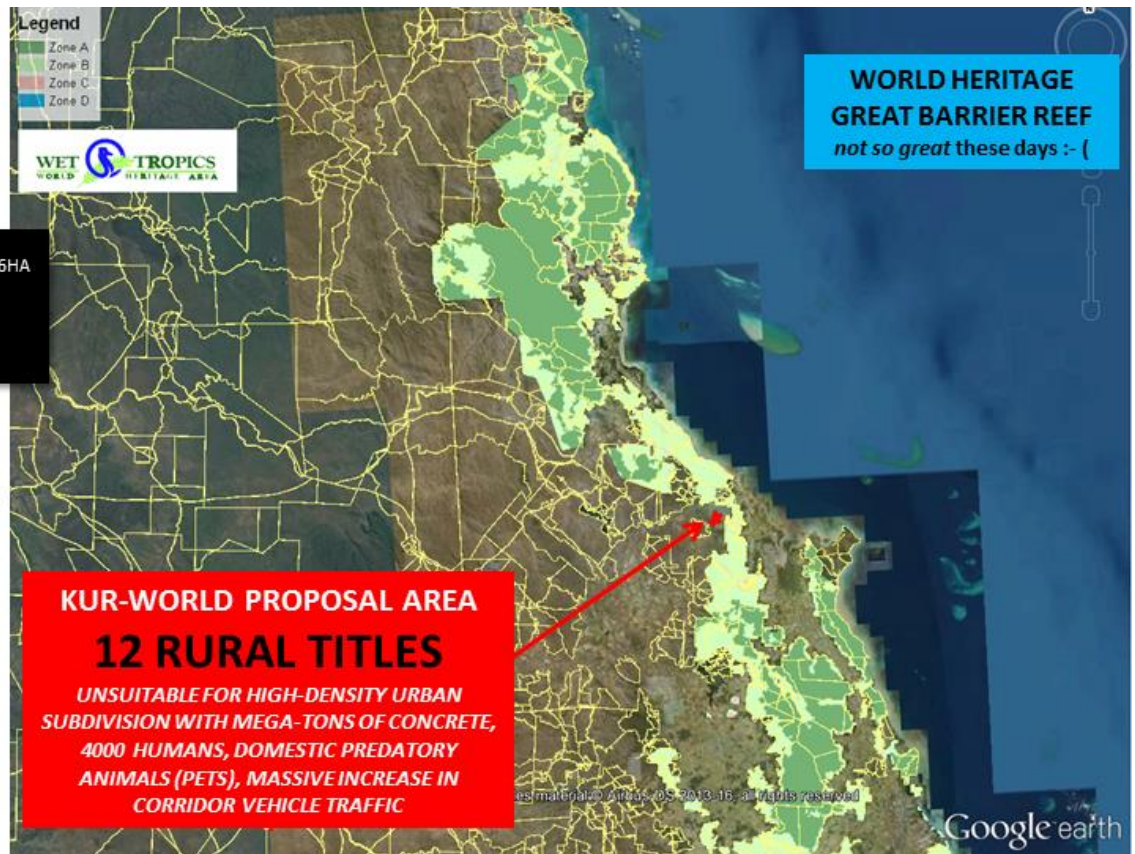
VITAL ENVIROLINK WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR ALREADY SEVERELY  
FRAGMENTED AND COMPROMISED  
BY HISTORICAL LAND CLEARING

**BARNWELL** 12 RURAL TITLES 626HA

**KUR-WORLD** 230HA

**KUR-COW** ?\_HA

IN RELATION TO  
ZONE A AND ZONE B  
WORLD HERITAGE  
NATIONAL PARK



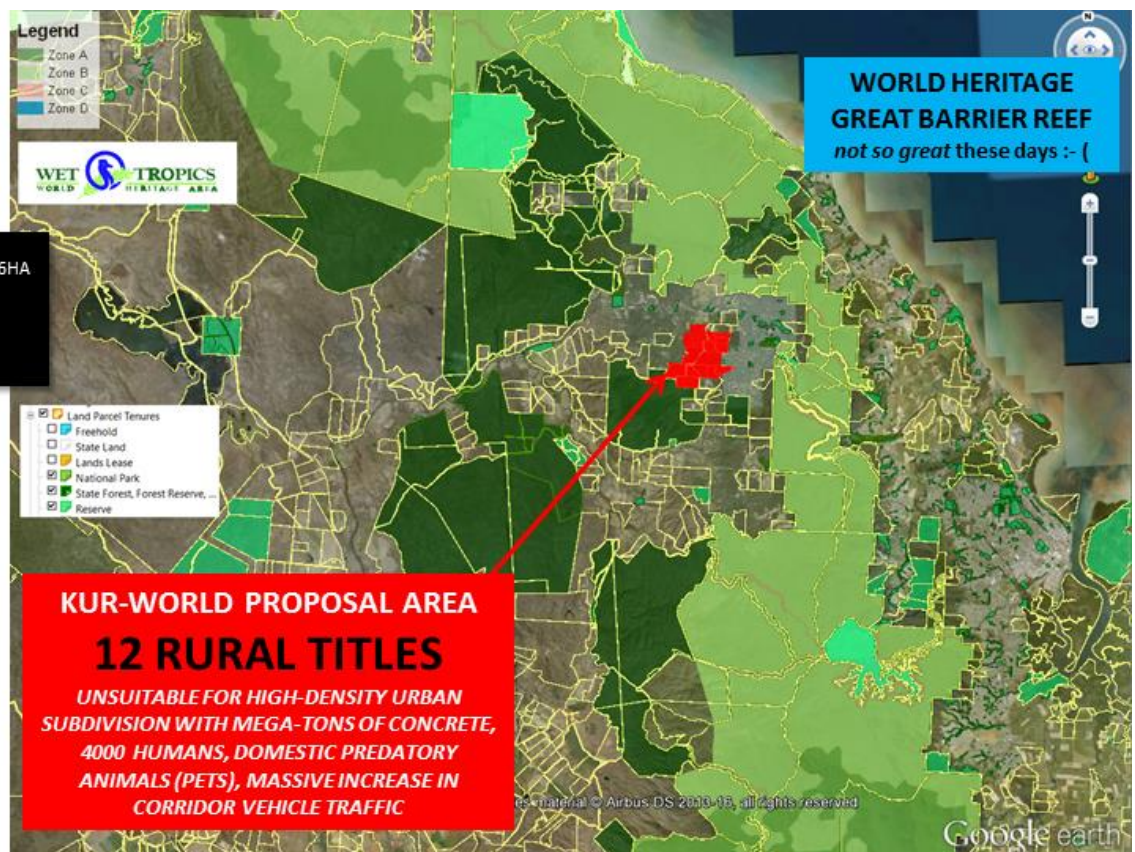
VITAL ENVIROLINK WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR MUST BE PROTECTED  
IN THIS PLACE TO ENSURE  
CONTINUITY OF NORTH/SOUTH  
WORLD HERITAGE WET TROPICS  
NATIVE FORESTS

**BARNWELL** 12 RURAL TITLES 626HA

**KUR-WORLD** 230HA

**KUR-COW** ?\_HA

IN RELATION TO  
WORLD HERITAGE  
NATIONAL PARK,  
STATE FOREST,  
FOREST RESERVES





# FACT CHECK: ENDANGERED SPECIES

MATTERS OF  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
SIGNIFICANCE

## HIGH PROFILE ENDANGERED SPECIES

### KURANDA TREE FROG

*Litoria myola*

### AUSTRALIAN LACELID FROG

*Litoria dayi*

### NO DATA MISTFROG

*Litoria rheocola*

### MYOLA PALM

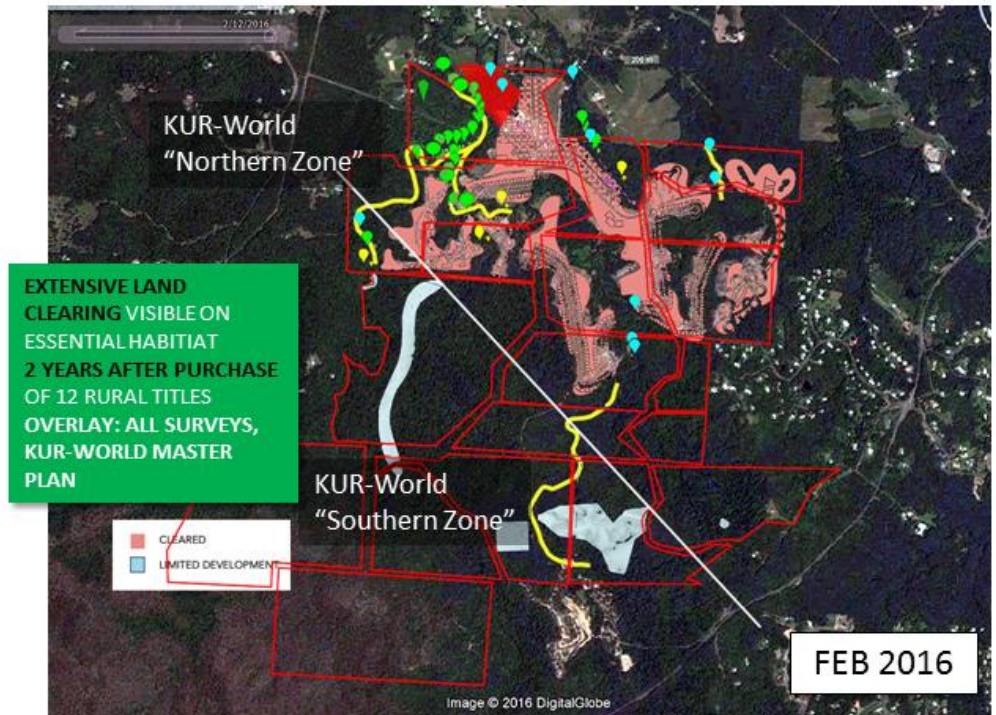
*Archontophoenix myolensis*

### SOUTHERN CASSOWARY

*Casuarus casuarus*

### NO DATA NORTHERN QUOLL

*Dasyurus hallucatus*



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment

## EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected.

Information on the coverage of this report and qualifications on data supporting this report are contained in the caveat at the end of the report.

Information is available about [Environment Assessments](#) and the EPBC Act including significance guidelines, forms and application process details.

POSTCODE 4881

Report created: 24/11/15 13:39:29

[Summary](#)

[Details](#)

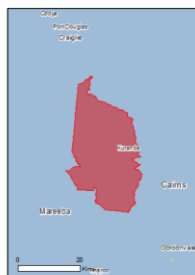
[Matters of NES](#)

[Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act](#)

[Extra Information](#)

[Caveat](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)



This map may contain data which are  
©Commonwealth of Australia  
(Geoscience Australia), GFSMA 2010

## EPBC ACT PROTECTED MATTERS REPORT

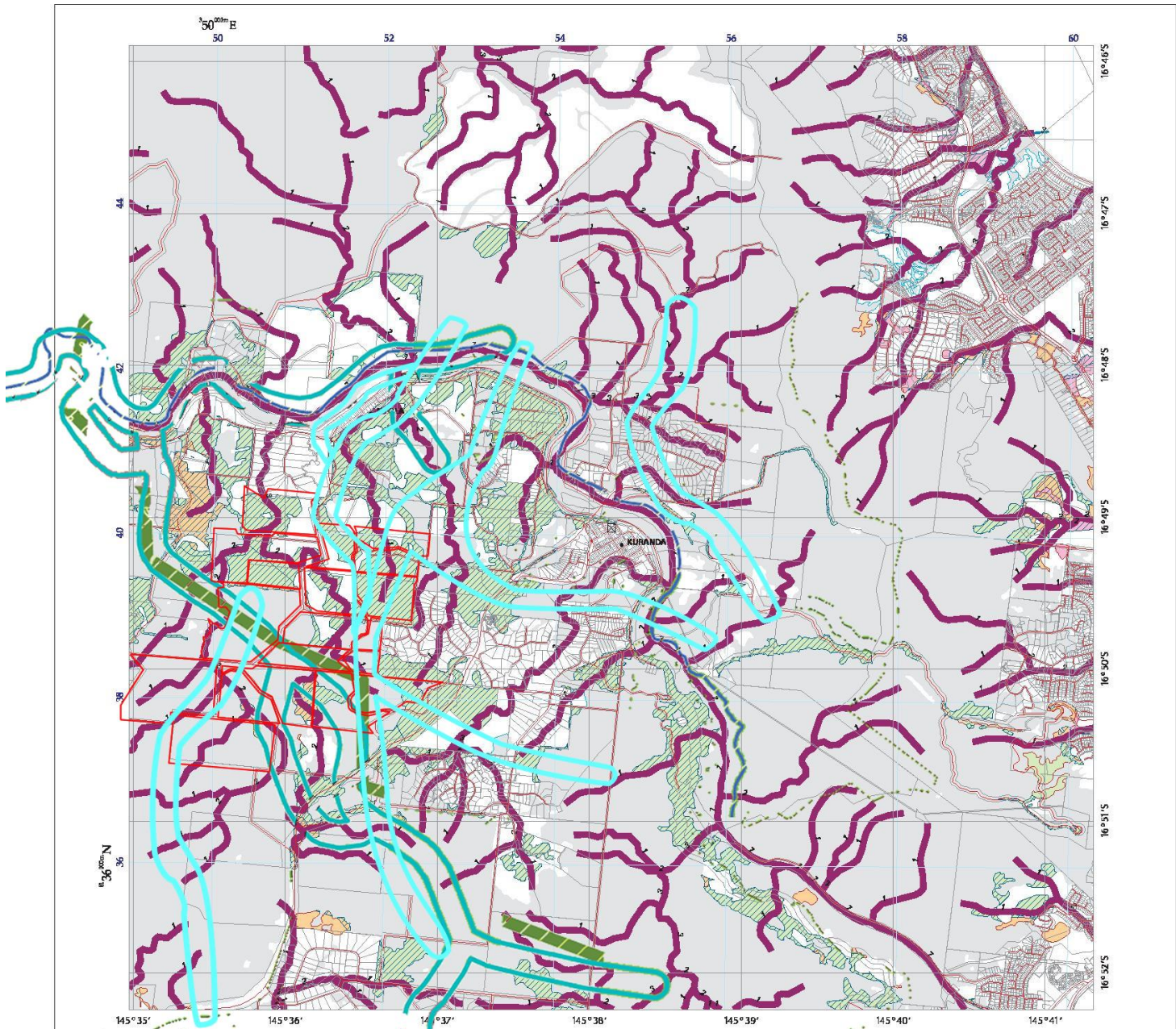
22 ENDANGERED SPECIES

13 THREATENED SPECIES

ON OR AROUND THE DEVELOPMENT AREA

\*LIMITED FAUNA AND FLORA SURVEYS DONE TO DATE





## REGROWTH VEGETATION MAP - Version 2.1

- 1087 Vegetation Management Act Essential Regrowth Habitat with example label number
- Great Barrier Reef Wetland Protection Area
- High value regrowth vegetation containing Endangered regional ecosystems
- High value regrowth vegetation containing Of Concern regional ecosystems
- High value regrowth vegetation that is a Least Concern regional ecosystem
- Remnant Vegetation (Refer to the Vegetation Management Act Regional Ecosystem and Remnant Map also available from the Department of Environment and Resource Management website for further information on these areas)
- Non-remnant
- PMAV Category X area
- Regrowth watercourse (Stream order shown as black number against stream)
- Other watercourse (Stream order shown as black number against stream where available)
- Subject Lot
- Roads
- Pitney Bowes Business Insight 2012
- Cadastral line
- Property boundaries shown are provided as a locational aid only.
- Towns
- Coordinate entered

Requested By: NADINE\_OBRIEN@YAHOO.COM.AU  
Date: 24 Feb 12 Time: 13:59:29

Centered on Coordinate:  
Latitude: -16.8178 Longitude: 145.8358 (decimal degrees)

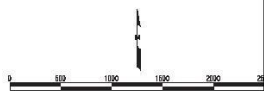
Labels for Vegetation Management Act Essential Regrowth Habitat are centred on the subject lot.  
Labels correlate to the label field in the attached essential regrowth habitat database.

The high value regrowth, regrowth watercourse, other watercourse, Great Barrier Reef wetland protection area and essential regrowth habitat data shown on this map are representations of the preliminary data.

Some watercourse lines are derived from GeoScience Australia 1:250 000 mapping.



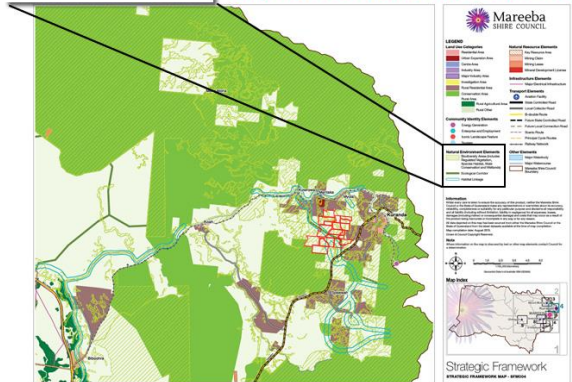
### LOCALITY DIAGRAM



Horizontal Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 19

- Natural Environment Elements**
- Biodiversity Areas (includes Regulated Vegetation, Species Habitat, State Conservation and Wetlands)
  - Ecological Corridor
  - Habitat Linkage

**Proposed Additional Habitat Linkages**  
- ensure no more fragmentation of narrow Kuranda EnviroLink and Fairylands Conservation Corridors





## Why so many people in the Kuranda region oppose KUR-World

1/ We have just been through a lengthy, time-consuming planning process that eventually steered development away from the Myola Valley. Yet here we are, back again, campaigning to stop urbanisation of the Myola Valley. **It is very tiresome the proposal is being considered at all.**

2/ We believe the initial Master Plan is an attempt to fit a large grab-bag of ideas - which, if implemented, would amount to highly intensive development - on a site of high environmental sensitivity that should NOT be abused in this way. If implemented, it would severely impact on the wildlife values of the property itself and would impact on the region's wildlife, by cutting one more surviving corridor link between the north and south of the Wet Tropics.

3/ The Kuranda region is a narrow neck of the Wet Tropics, where the northern and southern parts have repeatedly separated and rejoined over recent geological time. *Every* remaining forested linkage is of high value for N-S migration of our very diverse wildlife, including the endangered Southern cassowary.

4/ The high ecological significance of the land is highlighted by the fact that no less than TWO species found on this property are Federally-listed as endangered AND endemic to the Myola Valley. There is a case for the land being a nature reserve; it's highly inappropriate to develop it intensively if we truly care about conserving biodiversity.

5/ The money-making core of Mr Lee's proposal is real estate development. Most locals would not oppose a ***genuine*** Eco-Resort, but the developer's proposal is, in essence, an attempt to circumvent the recently affirmed rural zoning of this property and implement a large new subdivision.

6/ The developer has already been responsible for several acts of environmental vandalism - most notably large scale "clearing" of residual native vegetation and damage to creeks that are habitat to the Kuranda Tree Frog and other key environmental values. He apparently has no track record as a land developer; we have no confidence that his recently claims to be developing an "Eco-Resort" is anything more than PR flim-flam - a ploy to help get approval for a large-scale housing development. Note that if ever approval is granted, the developer will be free to on-sell the land, making a large windfall profit from in the process. We suspect this chance to make easy money is driving his interest in the proposal.

7/ The KW development proposal would put great strain on local services such as water infrastructure, transport infrastructure, sewerage and health services. We suspect the community would pay for much of this and there are indications this is already happening. Note, for instance, a recent Mareeba Shire Council commitment to significantly upscale Kuranda's water supply - investments which do nothing to address long-standing community concerns about the *quality* of drinking water derived from the polluted Barron River.

8/ For decades, the appeal of Kuranda to tourists has been bound up with the unique, artistic and conservation-oriented culture of this community - both indigenous and non-indigenous - which over time crafted a "Village in the Rainforest" atmosphere. This culture has been eroded - and much could be done to support and strengthen it - but it still exists. A huge implanted enclave within this region is not conducive to this core attraction and might well destroy it forever.

9/ There are indigenous heritage issues that have not been appropriately addressed (Willie Brim to speak to these – Cultural Heritage Duty of Care breaches report)

- FoE FNQ



## Recent History of Planning and "Democracy" in the Kuranda region

To appreciate the anger in much of the Kuranda community over the Kur-World proposal, it's useful to review - in brief - the history of planning in the Kuranda region in recent times.

This history indicates a deep disparity between local community sentiment and the schemes of those in a position of decision-making power who have effectively determined Kuranda planning. Effectively, Kuranda residents have had little power over our future - with decisions largely made elsewhere by people without empathy for our special environment or the wishes of this environmentally-conscious community. Time and again decisions have been foisted on Kuranda by people who view this region as primarily a source of wealth to be exploited - and whose concern for sustainability is tokenistic at best. Time and again Kuranda residents have had to stave off foolish and inappropriate decisions made elsewhere that undermine our aspirations for a sustainable future. Needless to say, we have had only partial success in resisting these external forces of money and greed.

Although it runs to two pages, this summary only scratches the surface of a long game of Snakes and Ladders, in which occasional progress towards sensible planning and greater sustainability has been subject to recurrent externally-imposed setbacks.

In the first decade of the 20th century, the Mareeba Shire Council was determined to develop the biodiverse Myola Valley as a centre for new urban growth. Until its demise in early 2008, the old Mareeba Shire Council pushed a plan to house some 10,000 new residents in a new, densely-settled housing development in the Myola Valley. This was opposed by large numbers of people in Kuranda but our opinions, apparently, were of no importance to the Mareeba Shire Council.

The years 2008 and 2009 were potentially a turning point in our fortunes - and a time of considerable optimism in the Kuranda region.

Firstly, amalgamation of the four Tablelands councils into a larger and more professionally-run 'Tablelands Regional Council' meant that for the first time Kuranda residents felt some confidence in our local governance. This was also the first time in many years that a Councillor from Kuranda was actually on the Council (the united TRC operated on a ward basis, so a local rep was guaranteed for the first time in living memory).

The TRC commenced a new planning process and showed capacity for meaningful public consultation. Kuranda residents participated enthusiastically in public consultation as the new Shire plan was developed.

In addition, the FNQ Regional Plan (FNQ 2031) was published in early 2009. This regional plan tightened restrictions on subdivisions and identified agreed areas for population growth. New suburbs south of Cairns were flagged as the primary areas for large-scale new housing developments. Kuranda residents were overwhelmingly relieved when the regional plan stated that during the lifespan of the regional plan, the Myola Valley wasn't considered "necessary" for major population growth.

Sadly, the old guard of anti-conservation and development interests, centred around Mareeba, never accepted these new arrangements. The former Mayor of Mareeba Shire Council, Mick Borzi, reportedly cut a deal with Campbell Newman in the run-up to the 2012 State election. When the LNP won the election, it moved fast to implement this backroom deal. David Crisafulli, a Minister with the Orwellian title "Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience", ignored Treasury advice that de-amalgamating the united TRC was inadvisable, and pushed ahead with a de-amalgamation referendum. This occurred in March 2013.

Kuranda residents voted overwhelmingly against de-amalgamation (roughly 4-5 against), but once again the Kuranda electorate was out of step with most of the broader Mareeba Shire electorate, which voted in favour of de-amalgamation (by a much slimmer majority).

This triggered a huge campaign in Kuranda during 2013, opposing our forced inclusion in a revamped MSC. Like the local LNP MP Michael Trout, Minister Crisafulli appeared to consult only business interests



and effectively ignored the great bulk of the Kuranda electorate. Once again, Kuranda was being pushed around by outsiders who look on the place as a cash cow - not an exceptional environment to conserve and treasure.

The ward system was abolished when the MSC reformed in late 2013. We did, however, take some comfort that Mr Borzi did not succeed in being elected once again as Mayor. Tom Gilmore (and host of his team) won the November 2013 election.

FoE was especially pleased that the new Mayor, Tom Gilmore, had given a written pledge, during the election campaign, that the new Shire Plan - which was now to become an MSC rather than a united TRC plan - would be subject to another round of community consultation before finalisation.

This pledge gave us the false belief that while Council was working on the new Shire plan, we'd all have a chance to comment on it before it was sent to the State Government for approval.

Unfortunately, the Mayor reneged on his promise. When the new draft Shire Plan was released in September 2015, it was sent straight to the State Government. We were told there was no opportunity for accepting new submissions. Once again, we were presented with a *fait accompli*.

Between September 2015 and mid-2016, Kuranda conservationists lobbied for an opportunity to comment on and amend the new Shire Plan - in fulfilment of the mayor previous written pledge. Once again, we were ignored. Eventually, the State Government gave final approval to the new, 10-year Mareeba Shire Plan which came into effect on 1st July 2016.

Less than two weeks later the Minister for State Development announced that developer Ken Lee's Kur-World proposal would be considered in an EIS process run by the State Government. This proposal is contrary to the latest Shire Plan (the land in question is zoned "rural"). It's also contrary to the FNQ 2031.

Once again, the wishes of the Kuranda community are being sidelined - when in a sane society, our above-average concern to protect our environment would surely be encouraged, not treated as a nuisance to circumvent.

This background - we hope - goes some way to explain the deep sense of frustration in the Kuranda community. If the planning process is to be respected, Mr Lee's Kur-World proposal should not be considered by Government for at least another 15 years.

We are thoroughly fed up with the arbitrary rorting of due process to serve development interests and the contempt that all levels of government have shown, to date, for the Kuranda region's community and environment.

To restore confidence in the integrity of our planning system this proposal should not be fast-tracked. It should not even be under consideration - and the time and energy of our community should not be squandered opposing this inherently unacceptable development scheme.





# KUR-WORLD RESIDENT SURVEY SNAPSHOT

Data excerpt to January 2017  
Residents surveyed so far - approx 400

1. Do you think KUR-World is an appropriate development for the Kuranda Region?

- ☐ Strongly Agree 17
- ☐ Somewhat Agree 8
- ☐ Neutral 10
- ☐ Somewhat Disagree 48
- ☐ Strongly Disagree 356

6. In what way do you think the KUR-World project will impact on our communities' rural lifestyle, environmental and cultural (art, music, indigenous, nature, etc) values?

- ☐ Positive 16
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Negative 385

9. Based on the KUR-World facilities above, do you see employment opportunities for you?

In the Build phase

- ☐ Yes 26
- ☐ No 354

At project completion

- ☐ Yes 41
- ☐ No 344

Overwhelming *negative* in responses so far.  
\* More respondents required.

2. What do you think would be the benefits of the KUR-World project for the Kuranda Region?

Jobs

3. What do you think would be the negative impacts of the KUR-World project for the Kuranda Region?

Environment / Community / Range Road / Infrastructure

8. Rate your sentiment on the following proposed KUR-World facilities:

MOST LIKED Rainforest Education Centre  
University Campus

LEAST LIKED 373 high-density Residential  
Helipad

## About KUR-World Resident Survey

Data collection started September 2016.  
Submissions via paper form or website form.

**WE ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENT VIEWS**  
ONE SURVEY PER ADULT RESIDENT

Call 0402 810 411 for a paper copy of the survey to be delivered. Online: [www.kurandaregion.org](http://www.kurandaregion.org)

See full Resident Survey for all questions. Interim data snapshot after approx. 4 months.



# Indigenous Heritage

Indigenous cultural heritage found to be present on site. At what point is a survey is required?

***Willie Brim, Bulwai Cultural Custodian tabled the following letters:***

**REPORTING EARTHWORKS ACTIVITY BARNWELL KURANDA TO MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCIL**

<http://kurandaregion.org/content/uploads/2016/12/Reporting-Earthworks-Activity-Barnwell-Kuranda-MSC-9-Dec-2016.pdf>

**REPORTING BREACH CULTURAL HERITAGE DUTY OF CARE TO DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
PARTNERSHIPS**

<http://kurandaregion.org/content/uploads/2017/02/Reporting-Breach-Cultural-Heritage-Duty-of-Care-31-Jan-2017.pdf>