

Rainforest Trust
7078 Airlie Road
Warrenton, VA 20187
UNITED STATES

28 February 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Support for development of a protected area through Myola land purchase

The Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) was established by local conservation groups in 1981, seeking to elevate the profile of the values of the rainforests of Far North Queensland (FNQ) and to seek protection for what is now known as the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. For over a decade, CAFNEC has supported the efforts of local conservation groups and concerned Kuranda residents to protect the Myola valley from subdivision and inappropriate land use.

The area is of high ecological significance containing critical habitat of a range of threatened species including the Kuranda tree-frog (*Litoria myola*) and the Myola palm (*Archontophoenix myolensis*) both of which are listed as Endangered and are endemic to the Myola area. Additionally, the area provides critical connectivity between the northern and southern regions of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, particularly important for the iconic and Endangered Southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*).

The Barnwell property has undergone clearing for grazing in the past and successfully regenerated with little, if any active restoration. The inadequacy of current vegetation management laws in Queensland have allowed this mature regrowth to be recently cleared by the current landholders, much to the dismay of the local conservation groups actively restoring sites within the Kuranda Envirolink corridor.

Conversion of the property to a protected area is supported by all key local conservation groups operating in the area and would allow the regeneration and restoration of the site, helping to secure connectivity and protect critical habitat for not just the threatened species, but the many other species that exist in the area.

For these reasons we strongly support the proposed purchase and protection of the Barnwell property.

Sincerely,



Roz Walden
CAFNEC Director



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