

POB 795

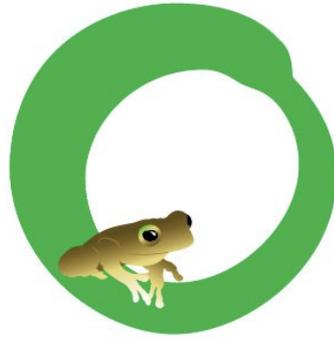
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Friends of the Earth

Far North Queensland

Letter of Support for

APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW PROTECTED AREA THROUGH LAND PURCHASE OR DESIGNATION AS AN OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED PROTECTED AREA

Friends of the Earth FNQ is an environmental and human rights group. We have been supporting the campaign to protect the Myola valley for many years. The latest threat to this ecologically fragile valley are three proposed developments on the Barnwell land as outlined in the letter sent by Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery.

Barnwell Rd Estate is 626 hectares comprising 12 rural titles. It lies in the Myola valley between Warril Drive and Barnwell Road and is owned by Ken Lee of Reeve & Ocean. Ken Lee bought the property in January 2014. It was previously a lightly farmed dairy farm with regenerating rainforest. Our interest in the property- and we hope yours- is that it lies at the narrow neck of the Wet Tropic Bioregion.

Further fragmentation of this region could easily split the Wet Tropics Bioregion into two distinct regions with no effective wildlife corridor between the two. This would impact negatively and probably disastrously on the wildlife- especially the iconic and endangered Southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*) and the recently discovered and IUCN listed critically endangered Kuranda Tree Frog (*Litoria myola*). This frog is believed to be endemic to a very small area in the Myola valley which includes the property in question.

There is also a rich and biodiverse wildlife population (federally listed by EPBC 49 Threatened species, 23 Migratory species) ¹

If the KUR-World application does not proceed, the aim is to purchase the land and restore it to its natural state. We fully support the preliminary application to you to secure your interest in this project and hope you will help us protect this very special region and its wildlife.

Regards,

Sarah Isaacs

Campaigner Foe FNQ

¹ EPBC Act, Matters of National Environment Significance, within 10km of SITE, -16.828320, 145.600551