

28 February 2018

Rainforest Trust
7078 Airlie Rd.
Warrenton
VA 20187
USA

Support to create a permanent protected area through Land Purchase

Dear Rainforest Trust members

It is with great urgency that BirdLife Australia expresses their support for the Kuranda Conservation application for funds to purchase the 'Barnwell land', part of the 'Barron River Tributaries (Kuranda)' Key Biodiversity Area (KBA).

BirdLife Australia is the country's oldest national conservation organisation. Since 1901, we use the best available science to protect Australia's native birds and their habitat. We enjoy the backing of over 110,000 members and supporters and thousands of volunteers. Their dedication and that of over 50 staff nationwide allow us to promote conservation and work to prevent extinctions.

Like The Rainforest Trust, BirdLife Australia is also a member of the global Key Biodiversity Area Partnership which aims to identify and conserve the places that matter most to wildlife according to the rigorous scientific KBA standard.

The 'Barnwell land' holds a critical place in the conservation of the biodiversity of the 'Wet Tropics' UNESCO World Heritage Area sitting at the narrowest point of the corridor connecting the Northern and Southern Wet Tropics. The land is already known to be home to globally threatened species such as the Kuranda Tree Frog (*Litoria myola*) and Myola Palm (*Archontophoenix myolensis*) which are endemic to the area and its immediate vicinity, while the Southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius*) has also been confirmed.

BirdLife Australia both as the National Organisation as well through the local branch has in the past supported and funded community group Kuranda Envirocare in their ambitious and successful projects and in their scientific bird monitoring of rehabilitated sites. Should their grant proposal be successful and the land could be secured for the future we would be delighted to work with Kuranda Conservation, Kuranda Envirocare and their partners again to support the management and monitoring of the site.

For the Rainforest Trust as a KBA partner to assist with the protection of a site of such critical ecological importance would be an inspiration to other KBA partners around the world.

Yours sincerely



Dr Golo Maurer

BirdLife Australia
Suite 2-05
60 Leicester Street
Carlton VIC 3053
T 03 9347 0757
F 03 9347 9323
info@birdlife.org.au
birdlife.org.au

ABN 75 149 124 774

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Key Biodiversity Area Program Manager