



13th November 2019

Via email: Mark.Stoermer@douglas.qld.gov.au Julia.Leu@douglas.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Stoermer,

Congratulations to Council for the acquisition of Lot 83 for the purpose of offsetting greenhouse gas emissions and for biodiversity conservation. We understand this is part of a broader “Healthy Reef” initiative that the shire’s businesses and households can participate in to ultimately make Douglas a carbon neutral locality and visitor destination. We also understand Douglas is applying to become Australia’s first “Ecotourism Accredited Destination” and that this initiative will be a demonstration of the Shire’s commitment to that end.

From our perspective this opportunity delivers multiple benefits, to the environment, society and economy, that could be replicated elsewhere at a time when our natural environment is in global decline:

- Conserving and rehabilitating a World Heritage area
- Promoting the value of conservation, particularly where rainforest can be protected and restored
- Offsetting local GHG footprints
- Adding some of the world’s highest value ecosystems to Australia’s protected area estate
- Engaging the traditional owners in the management of high value landscapes and deriving an economic benefit from it
- Opportunity to improve water quality, (the other major threat to the reef besides climate change) where rehabilitation offers a measurable improvement (eg wetlands and riparian zones)
- Positioning Douglas to showcase best practice for rainforest restoration and conservation
- Offering the local tourism industry an unparalleled promotional opportunity to advertise Douglas as a place, likely the only place, where visitors can contribute to coral reef health, rather than to its demise through tourism’s carbon footprint

- Developing an exciting new, locally based, circular economy in ecosystem services

As a result, we would like to contribute financially in whole or in part to the purchase and rehabilitation of Lot 83 on the understanding this is part of a revolving fund to replicate the Lot 83 acquisition at other appropriate sites in Douglas and possibly elsewhere.

To that end we offer to meet with Council in the near future to discuss the parameters and mechanics of such a partnership.

Yours sincerely,



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