



WET TROPICS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

An administrative history of the proposal to upgrade Kuranda Range Road

- In September 2001, the Queensland Government announced its intention to upgrade the Kuranda Range Road to four lanes over the next 10-15 years.
- On 30 September 2004 the Queensland Department of Main Roads submitted a permit and rezoning application to the Authority to upgrade the 7km section of the road that is within the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area.
- On 12 July 2005 the WTMA Board undertook a preliminary assessment of the permit application and concluded that, if the road were to be upgraded in accordance with the proposed design, there will be significant long-term benefits for the Area's biodiversity, mainly through improved landscape connectivity for wildlife and stream flows.
- In July 2005 the Board sought specific commitments from the Queensland Government to mitigate or offset some visual and consequential impacts on World Heritage values.
- On 22 November 2005 the Department of Main Roads advised that the Queensland Government had agreed to meet the commitments sought by the Authority. These commitments were to ensure that that the road would be constructed to the high standard in the proposed design, to implement planning controls to protect the significant environmental values in the Myola area and to remove the Kuranda to Smithfield powerline.
- On 1 December 2005 the Board agreed to commence the process to rezone 25ha of the Area. The Board consulted widely and considered over 400 submissions about the rezoning to accommodate the proposed upgrade.
- On 22 April 2006 the Board recommended to the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council that it submit the rezoning for approval by to Governor in Council.
- On 25 May 2007 the Australian Minister for the Environment and Water Resources approved the construction of the road upgrade under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) with specified conditions. These conditions include requirements



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to conserve 150ha of suitable cassowary habitat and to develop a national recovery plan for the endangered fern *Diplazium pallidum*.

- On 12 July 2007 the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council agreed to recommend the zoning map amendment to Governor in Council for approval.
- Governor in Council approved the rezoning on 6 September 2007.
- On 26 September 2007 WTMA issued a permit to the Department of Main Roads to undertake construction of the Kuranda Range Road upgrade subject to specified conditions consistent with the conditions of the Commonwealth approval under the EPBC Act.