

Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Attn: Planning and Development Team
PO Box 366
INGHAM
QLD 4850

14 Feb 2024

**RE: MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE AND RECONFIGURATION OF A LOT
ENERGY FACILITY EWAN ROAD, FURBER ROAD AND KNUCKLEDOWN ROAD, MT. FOX
REFERENCE NUMBER MCU23/0005, RC23/0016, OPW23/0007**

I am deeply distressed by this first step of industrialising the Mt. Fox region for the following reasons:

1. There has been no survey nor consultation with the broader resident community. The known demand (and vocal support for the project) is commercial and business interests and these interests will be the only beneficiaries.
2. This is the first stage of an incremental industrialisation of a place that has escaped clearing and modification for sugar and improved agriculture. The landscape is wholly intact, and it is these places that deserve to be left untouched.
3. The forests of the Mt. Fox area are a refugia for a myriad of threatened and vulnerable species because of the absence of clearing. It is an oxymoron to think climate change can be tackled by pushing species to extinction with inappropriate 'green' developments.
4. The carbon storage and biodiversity contained in the forests to be cleared for the BESS and the proposed Wind Factory is far more important than a row of lithium batteries.
5. The BESS is a precursor to the Mount Fox Wind Factory. The BESS is only useful when sited with energy generation such as a wind factory. It will not be used to store energy from Kidston Pumped Hydro nor Upper Burdekin Wind Farm as suggested by the developers.
6. The developers have been untruthful in their application in regard to the purpose of the BESS. The BESS, as shown in other developments is primarily used in firming the grid. This will be used for the proposed adjacent Mt. Fox Wind Factory to firm the energy

generation (which is intermittent, unreliable and therefore an expensive source of energy). The developers are being sneaky by pushing the BESS first for approval so the adjacent Wind Factory component can be pushed through as a fait accompli.

7. The fire risk is real. Proposing a BESS in some of Australia's most spectacular and highly biodiverse forests is mind-numbingly stupid.

These forests surrounding the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area at Mount Fox are considered some of the world's most precious ecosystems. The presence of remaining areas of high value forests suggest that a business-as-usual approach might not be appropriate for a power project in a sparsely populated area of high environmental value. We applaud the Wet Tropics statement position on wind farms and their reference to cumulative impacts, no-go zones, and in which the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been highlighted. Wet Tropics Management Authority position statement:

I strongly urge that the Hinchinbrook Shire Council consider the Precautionary Principal and not approve this Material Change of Use application.

Thanking You,

1 Maria Bortolotti
& Simpson St
Jingarn
4850.