

From: "Phil Emms" <barrinepark@gmail.com>
Sent: Fri, 16 Feb 2024 14:54:14 +1000
To: "Hinchinbrook Shire Council" <council@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au>; "Phil Emms" <barrinepark@gmail.com>
Subject: OBJECTION TO MT FOX BESS OROPOSAL
Attachments: Mt Fox Caldera 2.jpg, RRA Submission MCU23_0005 (1).pdf

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To Whom it may concern

HINCHINBROOK COUNCIL

council@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au

Please accept my objection to the proposed Mt Fox BESS proposal.

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

- * There has been no survey nor consultation with the broader resident community. The destruction of the Mt Fox forests is not climate action, nor has social license
- * This proposal only benefits a few financial vested interests.
- * 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.
- * The forests of the Mt. Fox area are a refugia for the Great Glider and 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.
- * 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.
- * 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.
- * 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.

- * 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 this unique irreplaceable area, and stronghold for the Greater Glider. Due to the cumulative impacts, I recommend that the Hinchinbrook Shire Council consider the Precautionary Principle and not approve this Material Change of use.

The values of our Wet Tropics is everyone's business.
I would appreciate receipt of my email

Your sincerely
Philip Emms
Farmer and conservationist North Queensland



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



30th January 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**

Rainforest Reserves Australia (RRA) is a volunteer-based conservation organisation located in north Queensland.

Our Board, Members and supporters are 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) We request that Councillor Brown be excluded from any voting rights due to declared Conflict of Interest.
- 8) 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: ¹

Rainforest Reserves Australia therefore recommends that the Hinchinbrook Shire Council consider the Precautionary Principal and not approve this Material Change of Use application.

Thanking You,



Steven Nowakowski
Rainforest Reserves Australia

Rainforest Reserves Australia
2 Pressley road lake barrine QLD 4884

¹ Wet Tropics Management Authority position statement: Wind farm development adjacent to the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area <<https://www.wettropics.gov.au/site/user-assets/docs/WTMA%20postion%20statement%20-%20wind%20farms.pdf>>