Stop making climate change worse by destroying our forests.

Rainforest Reserves AUSTRALIA

The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is under threat from an increasing number of renewable energy projects proposed for the Great Dividing Range of North Queensland.

If approved, numerous windfarms will create a "ring of steel" around one of the most ecologically unique, biodiverse regions in the world: the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Chalumbin windfarm - proposed
86 industrial-scale windturbines to be placed south west of Ravenshoe, Atherton Tablelands across a 78,000 acre land parcel. Adjacent to Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Mt Fox windfarm - proposed
57 industrial-scale windturbines proposed to be placed across 7,941 acres of land approximately 100km NW of Townsville, near Mt Fox.

Desailly Renewable Energy Park - proposed
Industrial-scale wind and solar farm to be located on the Northern end of Atherton Tablelands adjacent to Australian WIldlife Conservancy's Brooklyn Sanctuary.

Kaban Green Power Hub - under construction
Currently under-construction on the Atherton Tablelands, 28 industrial-scale windturbines are being installed on high biodiverse intact forest.

High Road wind development - proposed
20 industrial-scale windturbines proposed for the Southern End of the Atherton Tablelands.

Upper Burdekin windfarm - proposed
136 industrial-scale windturbines proposed to be placed on remnant vegetation. Located approximately 150km east of Greenvale and 70km inland from Ingham in North Queensland.

Is this the future of our last remaining wild places? Habitat clearance happening now for the Kaban Green Power Hub, Atherton Tablelands FNQ. Threatened wildlife Northern Greater Gliders, Koalas, Red Goshawks, Magnificent Broodfrogs, Northern Quolls and more live here. Habitat is cleared, fragmented and degraded. Material Change of Land Use irreversibly transforms the site from pastoral use to an industrial energy zone. *Images taken May 2022*

WINDFARMS get a free pass. State Code 23 means the usual environmental protections do not apply to windfarms. Plans go straight through to Federal Government for approval.


wildlife of Upper Burdekin

Uniquely biodiverse NQ landscapes destroyed for windfarms?

Cairns

Mount Emerald

Mount Emerald windfarm, operational 53 windturbines.

Highroad

Kaban

Windy Hill

Kaban Green Power Hub, under construction, 28 windturbines.
Windy Hill windfarm, operational, 20 windturbines.
High Road windfarm, proposed, 20 windturbines.

Chulumbin

Chalumbin windfarm, proposed, 86 windturbines.

Nature's refugia: Large areas of the high-elevation Wet Tropics World Heritage Area along the Dividing Range remain untouched and inaccessible. They've historically provided a safe haven for our most vulnerable wildlife: Red Goshawks, Sharman's Rock-Wallabies, Koalas and more. The conservation of cool, high elevation climbs of the Great Dividing Range is crucial in the bid to prevent species extinction from a warming climate. Why sacrifice high altitude pristine landscape for windfarms?

EXTINCTION CRISIS OF OUR OWN MAKING?
The cumulative impacts of renewable developments proposed for high biodiverse NQ habitat have not been considered any State or Federal Government policy. We are risking entire species by clearing habitat for wind and solar farms. Biodiverse landscapes will be desecrated for large scale industrial renewable developments. Corporations will have access to onsite natural resources for exploitation.

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

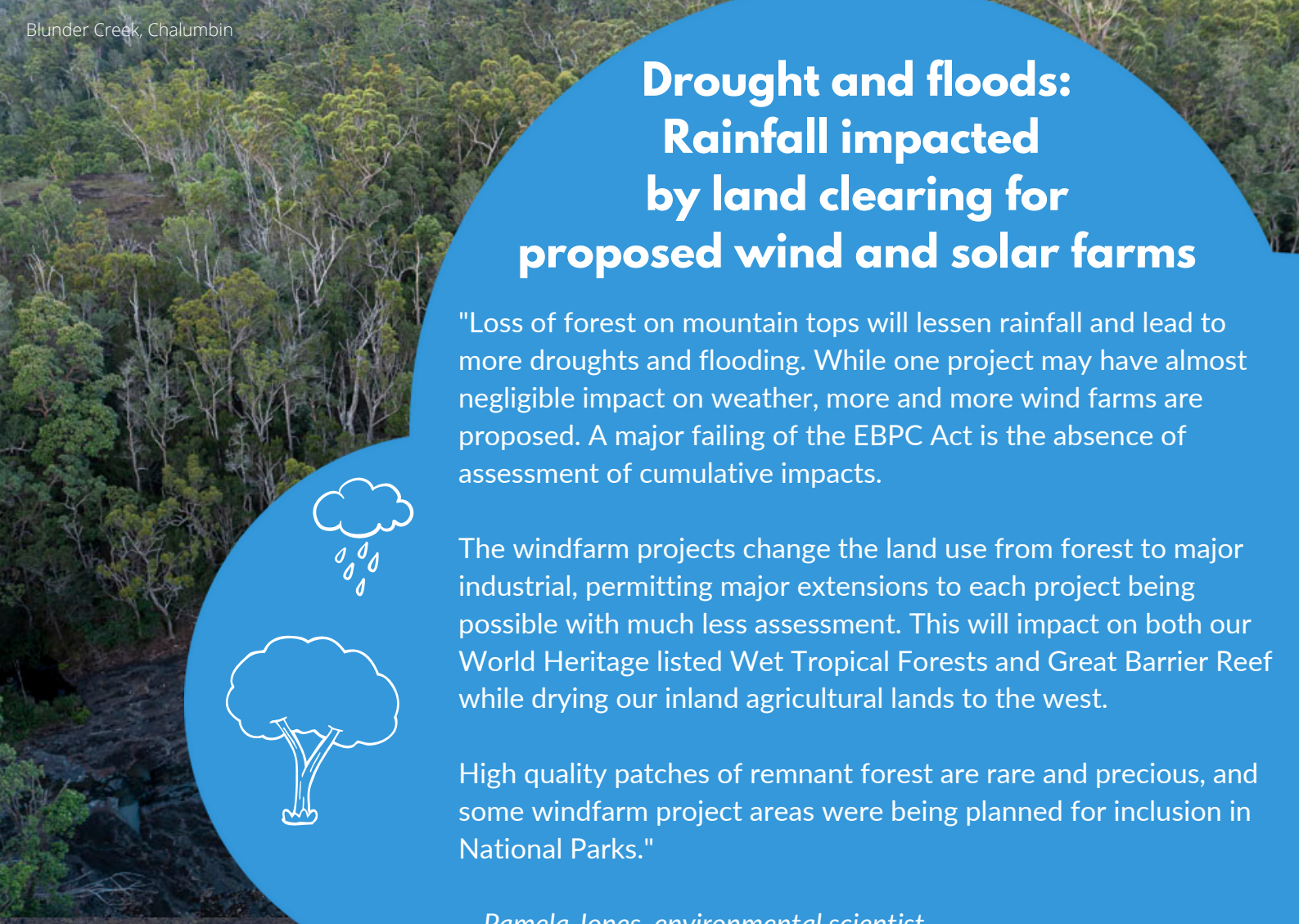
Upper Burdekin + Mt Fox windfarms. Proposed, around 157 windturbines combined.

Upper Burdekin

Mount Fox

Ingham

- High Voltage Powerlines
- Proposed Renewable Footprint
- National Park
- National Park (Scientific)
- National Park (CYPAL)
- Conservation Park
- Resources Reserve
- Forest Reserve
- State Forest
- Timber Reserve
- Nature Refuge
- Cadastre



Drought and floods: Rainfall impacted by land clearing for proposed wind and solar farms

"Loss of forest on mountain tops will lessen rainfall and lead to more droughts and flooding. While one project may have almost negligible impact on weather, more and more wind farms are proposed. A major failing of the EBPC Act is the absence of assessment of cumulative impacts.

The windfarm projects change the land use from forest to major industrial, permitting major extensions to each project being possible with much less assessment. This will impact on both our World Heritage listed Wet Tropical Forests and Great Barrier Reef while drying our inland agricultural lands to the west.

High quality patches of remnant forest are rare and precious, and some windfarm project areas were being planned for inclusion in National Parks."

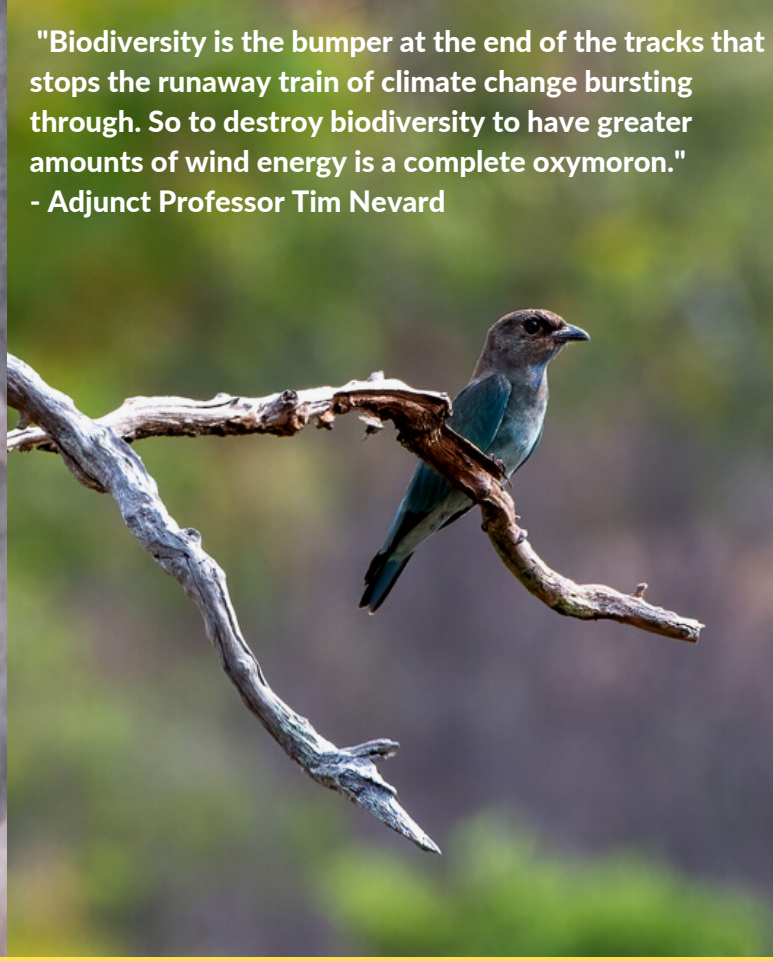
- Pamela Jones, environmental scientist

Great Barrier Reef under threat from windfarms

Find out more:
See Pamela Jones' presentation on energy here:
https://www.rainforestreserves.org.au/what-do-we-want

Kaban Green Power Hub, under construction. Image taken Feb 2022

"Projects like the proposed Chalumbin windfarm lie on the head waters of the river catchments of the Wet Tropics Area. Hundreds of kms of unsealed 70 metre-wide roads that cross waterways have the potential to dump sediment and other pollutants down rivers through areas of World Heritage Rain Forest and cane farms out to the Great Barrier Reef. Farmers fear they will be blamed. There is no provision under the EBPC Act to consider any type of off-site impact. Water quality is not considered." - *Pamela Jones, environmental scientist*



"Biodiversity is the bumper at the end of the tracks that stops the runaway train of climate change bursting through. So to destroy biodiversity to have greater amounts of wind energy is a complete oxymoron."
- Adjunct Professor Tim Nevard

We say:

- New research (Martin Taylor, 2022) reveals land clearing in Queensland has been under-reported. It's time to stop the wholesale destruction of nature for industry.
- Australia has one of the highest rates of animal and plant extinction in the world. Why encourage further extinctions from clearing high biodiverse habitat for wind and solar farms.
- New roads created for renewable energy developments fragment vegetation and destroy ground cover. Wildlife loses habitat and is driven out. The edge effect impacts wildlife breeding cycles and mobility. Weeds and feral pests find their way into previously pristine landscapes.
- Bats are prone to being killed by windturbines in high numbers. Raptors use the same wind currents that propel windturbines to hunt, soar and glide, prompting turbine strike.
- Offsets are a myth. It's impossible to 'offset' habitat that has been destroyed.
- It's uncertain how the noise of windturbines will impact imperiled wildlife - not worth the risk.
- The Indigenous cultural heritage of a site may destroyed forever for an industrial energy development.

It's time for a national conversation about energy

We believe it's time for a candid conversation about energy. Wind and solar energy are intermittent and have a low energy density. Large-scale wind and solar farms require unimaginably vast areas of land to be implemented in the move towards 100% renewable electricity. We say a moritorium must be placed on proposed renewable developments in Queensland until energy policy ensures EPBC listed flora and fauna will not be impacted by land-clearing for renewables and that QREZ policy accounts for the cumulative impacts of so many proposed renewable developments. Before an Australia-wide facilitation of wind and solar, we believe a national conversation about energy needs to take place. As conservationists, we maintain that latest generation nuclear energy may be part of a better longterm solution. We ask Australians to do their own research and keep an open mind for the sake of our biodiversity.

We hold monthly meetings exploring these topics with a range of speakers in Far North Queensland. Contact us info@rainforestreserves.org.au to find out more or visit us at: **www.rainforestreserves.org.au**

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