



Media Release

Media Release

Media Release

22 January 2003

COUNCIL TO PUSH FOR ROAD THROUGH RAINFOREST

The Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) is astonished that Cairns City Council (Council) has decided to appeal a decision by the Department of Natural Resources & Mines (DNRM) to refuse to allow a road through protected rainforest on the northern suburbs of Cairns.

In a deal negotiated with giant property developer Daikyo (North Queensland) Pty Ltd as part of a large property development planned to link Clifton Beach with Palm Cove, Council passed a Resolution last Thursday (16/1/03) agreeing to appeal the decision made by DNRM in late October 2002. The refusal was issued by DNRM under the state's controversial *Vegetation Management Act, 1999*.

“CAFNEC is appalled that the Council would use ratepayers money to fund Court action to destroy some of Cairns last remaining coastal rainforest – particularly since an alternative route exists which has already been cleared,” said CAFNEC Coordinator John Rainbird.

“CAFNEC has lodged an appeal in the Planning & Environment Court and plans to fight the bridge through this rainforest. The planned road and culvert would mean the destruction of endangered paperbark forest as well as endangered complex mesophyll riparian vine forest. Cairns City Council has got to get serious about protecting what little is left of our coastal forests”, he said, “this decision stinks!”

End

For further information:

John Rainbird – Coordinator Cairns and Far North Environment Centre 4032 1746 or
0408 113 281