



STRATEGIC PLAN 2016/17

Organisational Description

The DSSG represents a broad cross section of the Douglas Shire community from Bloomfield to Wangetti Beach and has established extensive networks including Low Isles Preservation Society (LIPS), Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC), The Environmental Defender's Office (EDO), Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), Rainforest Rescue, The Wilderness Society (TWS), the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), Greenpeace and Getup.

The objectives of DSSG are:

- To promote the preservation and conservation of the unique environment with the Douglas Shire and its surrounds.
- To promote the preservation and conservation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- To promote and encourage the adoption of the principles of ecologically sustainable development to all sectors of the community throughout the Douglas Shire.
- To promote the education and environmental awareness of visitors and residents of the Douglas Shire in support of environmentally sustainable practices.
- To recognise and promote the sustainable practices of the Traditional Owners of the Douglas Shire.
- To establish a public fund which can be used to promote any of these objectives.

In August 2015, DSSG celebrated ten years of action to preserve and conserve the unique environment of the Douglas Shire. Highlights of the past ten years include:

- Lobbied federal, state and local governments for establishment of conservation zones in the World Heritage Daintree Rainforest.
- Undertook significant peaceful protest and fundraising activities in advance of conservation of Daintree Rainforest.
- Assisted Rainforest Rescue to 'buy-back' undeveloped land north of the Daintree Rainforest to augment the Baralba Wildlife Corridor and in 2016 - land for wildlife corridor between Swamp Forest Nature Reserve and Daintree National Park.
- Assisted Environmental Defenders Office to raise funds for legal challenge to dredging and dumping in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- DSSC regularly makes submissions at all levels of government on matters impacting the environment of Douglas Shire and its World Heritage areas. For example, in 2015/6 the DSSG committee made submissions on behalf of its members on the following:
 - The Douglas Shire Council's Planning Scheme
 - The State Government 's Climate Change Policy
 - Clearing of vegetation by Department of Main Roads – various State Ministers
 - Use of plastics – various State Ministers
 - Infrastructure in Daintree – various State Ministers
 - Coconut Management Plan – Douglas Shire Council
 - Use of plastics by Douglas Shire Council
 - Sustainable events planning by Douglas Shire Council
- DSSG has auspiced the Whyanbeel Community Group with two grants from terrain for rehabilitation and weed removal from Whyanbeel Creek.
- DSSG was the founding member of Plastic Free Douglas which launched the "Keep Paradise Plastic Free" campaign in 2016.
- The DSSG continues to be represented on the Douglas Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC).
- The DSSG is a member of the community reference group for the 'eliminate dengue' program.

Mission Statement

To represent the people of the Douglas Shire in preserving and conserving the world heritage values of the Douglas Shire, while supporting ecologically sustainable development in the region.

DSSG Strategies to achieve Objectives – 2016/17

“Daintree Environment Protection”

The DSSG obtained commitment from candidates during the Douglas Shire Council election campaign in March 2016, to provide increased support for conservation on the Daintree Coast, specifically:

- a. renewing and managing the Daintree Landholder Information Kit,
- b. development (with input from community, National Parks, Wet Tropics Management Authority and Traditional Owners) and publication of an environmental priority plan, and
- c. effective weed and pest control (including pigs)

DSSG will work with and support other groups working in the Daintree.

DSSG Planning Scheme submission will support initiatives for protecting Daintree Coast and Cape Tribulation.

DSSG fundraising will purchase land for wildlife corridor between Swamp Forest Nature Reserve and Daintree National Park.

“Dixon Inlet and Port Douglas Waterfront Development”

DSSG will work through LMAC and Douglas Shire Council to improve water quality in Dixon Inlet and identify and mitigate sources of pollution.

DSSG will also contribute to ensuring that public access is maintained in any Waterfront development plans, including for fishing fleet and the public.

“Protecting the Reef”

The DSSG obtained commitment from candidates during the Douglas Shire Council election campaign in March 2016, to developing a program to work with all stakeholders (including farmers, the urban community and developers) to minimise pollutant and litter export to the GBR lagoon.

We also obtained a commitment to pursue a zero Green House Gas (GHG) emissions target for Douglas Shire, through development of a policy including audits of Council activities.

DSSG will encourage DSC to take a lead role in protecting the Reef, and will undertake projects to assist with community awareness.

DSSG Planning Scheme submission will support initiatives for protecting the reef, through a greater focus on water sensitive urban design.