



THE HON WARREN ENTSCH MP

Federal Member for Leichhardt

07/03/2025

FURTHER QUESTIONS RAISED OVER GONDWANA RAINFOREST TRUST'S FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The saga surrounding the Gondwana Rainforest Trust has deepened, with new information revealing even more troubling details about their fundraising practices in the Daintree Rainforest.

Following Mr. Entsch's initial media release (27/02/25), which brought to light questionable claims made by Gondwana regarding Lot 92 Cape Tribulation Road, the organisation has rapidly scaled back its advertising campaigns and made significant changes to its messaging.

"Since my original statement, Gondwana has quietly reduced their Facebook advertisements from 24 to 13 (at time of writing) and removed all references to Lot 92 as well as Sir David Attenborough, who they had been associating with their campaigning for fundraising—seemingly without permission", Mr. Entsch said.

"More alarmingly, it appears that Lot 92 was already purchased back in November 2024 by Gondwana, yet they continued soliciting donations for the purchase of the site months after the sale had occurred, it was only until I brought their questionable tactics to light that they miraculously announced that the purchase had taken place."

Mr. Entsch has suggested that Gondwana has very serious questions to answer:

- Why was Gondwana still raising money for Lot 92 if they already owned it?
- Why were Gondwana claiming that the property was at risk of development when written advice from Douglas Shire Council confirms that Lot 92 is not at risk.

In further written confirmation seen by Mr Entsch, the Douglas Shire Council has reiterated that Lot 92 is within the General Conservation Precinct and that no maintained clearing exists on the site. This makes development effectively impossible under current planning laws.

"Despite these undeniable facts, Gondwana's campaign continued to push a misleading narrative that this rainforest block was at imminent risk of development. The truth is, the land is not and was not at risk," Mr. Entsch said.

Additionally, new claims have surfaced that Gondwana Rainforest Trust may have used imagery obtained allegedly through trespassing on private properties to promote their fundraising activities. Sources have alleged that photographs used by Gondwana to illustrate supposed clearing and development threats in the Daintree were taken without permission on other private properties not related to Lot 92.

“These revelations paint a picture of an organisation that is prepared to engage in unethical practices, deception and now allegedly criminal trespass.”

In a concerning twist, it has also come to light that Gondwana Rainforest Trust has been running a similar fundraising campaign for Lot 463 – (99 Black Bean Road, Cow Bay), despite having already purchased this property earlier in 2024.

“Again, this raises serious questions about the legitimacy of their fundraising practices. They seem to be perpetually in a state of fundraising for properties they already own while falsely portraying them as being under threat of development.”

Mr. Entsch has reported Gondwana Rainforest Trust to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and is calling on relevant authorities to launch a formal investigation into the organisation’s practices.

“Earlier this week I met with many people from the local Daintree community, and they are outraged by the actions of Gondwana Rainforest Trust. Without exception, every person I spoke to in the Daintree was furious that their good name and the work they do as local conservationists is being denigrated by this dodgy organisation.”

ENDS

MEDIA CONTACT

Office of Warren Entsch MP - Samuel Batt (07 4051 2220) | Samuel.Batt@aph.gov.au

RP DATA Records indicate that Lot 463 (99 Black Bean Road) Sold in May 2024 and settled in August 2024.

99 Black Bean Road Cow Bay QLD 4873 [Copy](#)

1

1

-

1.49 Ha

30 m²

[Update data](#)

Property Type
House

Development Zone
Environment Conservation and
Management

Year Built
2000

Last Sold on 30 May 2024 for \$330,000

Normal Sale

Settlement Date 28 Aug 2024 Sold By -

Land Use Dwelling - Large Housesite Issue Date Oct 24

Listing Description - For Sale

Advertisement Date 29 Aug 2024

Stunning Rainforest experience with this adorable cottage home tucked away in Daintree Rainforest. Located on picturesque Black Bean Road in the Cow Bay section of the Daintree Rainforest, this 3.3-acre block

[Show More](#)

Household Information

[Owner Information](#)

[Marketing Contacts](#)

Name

GONDWANA RAINFOREST TRUST
LTD

Address

C/- Nfp Lawyers 121 Logan Rd, Woolloongabba
QLD 4102

Current Tenure

6 months and 7 days ago

Owner Type 

Owner Occupied

It appears no purchase announcement of Lot 463 was made on Facebook between contract date (30/05/24) and settlement date (28/08/25).

Facebook posts from December 2024 are actually soliciting donations for the purchase of Lot 463 and Lot 92 which Gondwana Rainforest Trust already purchased months earlier.



Save the Daintree Rainforest

December 22, 2024 ·

...

Imagine your donation going THREE times as far! That's what's happening right now – for every \$1 you give, our major donor will give an extra \$2.

We're working to raise \$585,000 to purchase Lot 92 Cape Tribulation Road and Lot 463 Black Bean Road. These properties are critical for protecting endangered species and the biodiversity of the Daintree Lowland Rainforest.

Together, we've saved 32 properties so far. Let's make it 34.

🕒 Match ends Monday at midnight, up to \$15,000!

❤️ <https://loom.ly/6Yj1Qg4>



Facebook posts from December 2024 are actually soliciting donations for the purchase of Lot 463 (99 Black Bean Road) which Gondwana Rainforest Trust already purchased months earlier.



Save the Daintree Rainforest

December 10, 2024 ·

...

One of our major donors is currently matching every donation to purchase and protect Lot 463 Black Bean Road in the Daintree Rainforest, dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000! That means your \$ will go TWICE as far in helping to secure the future of this incredible rainforest property

Every \$10 you donate will save 1 sqm, and with the match, that becomes 2 sqm saved! Every gift, big or small, makes a huge difference

→ Link to donate in comments below



YOUR DONATION
MATCHED
FOR ONE WEEK ONLY

Facebook posts from November 2024 are actually soliciting donations for the purchase of Lot 463 (99 Black Bean Road) which Gondwana Rainforest Trust already purchased months earlier.



Save the Daintree Rainforest

November 15, 2024 ·

...

What a cute little creature! We sent our ecologist to survey Lot 463 Black Bean Road and they found the Musky Rat-kangaroo! They also found three listed threatened species, the southern cassowary, spectacled flying-fox and the Wet Tropics double-eyed fig-parrot. Other special residents found on the property were the red-necked crake and noisy pitta. Please, help us purchase and protect Lot 463 Black Bean Road in the Daintree, so it can be protected forever as a nature refuge. See more information and donate now at:

<https://www.savethedaintree.org/lot-463-black-bean-road>

#DaintreeBuyback

#SaveTheDaintree

Photo by [Wet Tropics World Heritage Area](#)

@followers



404

11 comments 55 shares

Like

Comment

Share

Facebook posts from November 2024 are actually soliciting donations for the purchase of Lot 463 (99 Black Bean Road) which Gondwana Rainforest Trust already purchased months earlier.



Save the Daintree Rainforest

November 10, 2024 ·

...

The Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*) is a species of large rainforest tree found on the property, and after which the road is named. Our intention is to create a new protected area called the Black Bean Rainforest Refuge.

Please, help us purchase and protect Lot 463 Black Bean Road in the Daintree, so it can be protected forever as a nature refuge. See more information and donate now at:
<https://www.savethedaintree.org/lot-463-black-bean-road>

Photo by [Steven Nowakowski Panoscapes](#)



99

7 comments 9 shares

Like

Comment

Share

**Historical Website Snap Shots - courtesy of the Way Back Machine
Illustrate that Gondwana through their campaign (Save the Daintree Rainforest) has repeatedly mislead donors.**

Website snap shot at 12 November 2024:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20241112104213/https://www.savethedaintree.org/lot-463-black-bean-road>

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Action: Purchase and protect Lot 463 Black Bean Road (RP742053) in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest to create the Black Bean Rainforest Refuge

Location: Cow Bay, Far North Queensland

Remnant rainforest to be protected as refuge: 1.4 hectares (14,000 sqm)

Vegetation type: Tropical rainforest (complex mesophyll vine forest) with two regional ecosystems defined by topography. Regional Ecosystem 7.11.1a and Regional Ecosystem 7.3.10a which is listed as "Of Concern" under the Queensland Vegetation Management Act 1999.

Threatened species: Southern cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsoni*), Wet Tropics double-eyed fig-parrot (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana*), spectacled flying-fox (*Pteropus conspicillatus*), China camp laurel (*Beilschmiedia castrisinensis*), Gray's walnut (*Endiandra grayi*), Noah's walnut (*Endiandra microneura*), climbing pandanus (*Freycinetia percostata*), Queensland black-stem tassel-fern (*Phlegmariurus ledermannii*).

Endangered ecological community: Lowland tropical rainforest of the Wet Tropics ecological community is listed as endangered under the *Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Fundraising target: \$140,000

The cost to purchase and protect this rainforest land is just \$10 per square metre.

Please, act now and give to help purchase and protect Lot 463 Black Bean Road in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest.

[Prefer to use Paypal? Please, donate here.](#)

The current website as at 07/03/25:

<https://www.savethedaintree.org/lot-463-black-bean-road>

The latest update now features a new paragraph:

This property was acquired by Gondwana Rainforest Trust for \$330,000 in August 2024. A project to refurbish the cabin will be crowdfunded **separately** to the planned nature refuge. No funds from this land purchase appeal will be used for the cabin project - all funds raised under this appeal will be used exclusively for the protection and the ongoing management of the remnant rainforest on this property. This includes the cost of establishing the declared Nature Refuge.