

7. Execution by applicant

Brett DeChastel CEO Noosa Shire Council

10 12 12014

 Execution Date
 Applicant's or Solicitor's Signature

 Note: A Solicitor is required to print full name if signing on behalf of the Applicant

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### PREAMBLE

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The purpose of this Environmental Covenant for the preservation of native plants is to provide a legal agreement between the owner and the Noosa Council to work together to provide long term retention on private land of Indigenous vegetation and Native Fauna.

Council may from time to time also have environmental programs, which Covenant Owners may be eligible to apply for, to assist (and owners enhance the environmental values of their land. These can be accessed at the Council offices.

#### 1. **DEFINITIONS**

"Act" means the Land Title Act 1994.

"Condition" means the provisions applied by Noosa Council to develop the Lots.

"Council" means the Noosa Council, the Covenantee named in Item 3 of the Form 31.

"Covenant" means the terms of this document.

"Covenant Area" means an area to which this Covenant applies as described in Item 2 of the Form 31.

"Development Approval" means the approval granted by the Council pursuant to the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 in respect of an Application for a Material Change of Use or Reconfiguring of Lot.

"Dispute Notice" means a notice given by one party to the other pursuant to Clause 7 of this Covenant.

"Environmental Weed" means all weed species listed in the Planning Code or in the following standards and legislation or current updates:

- Declared plants under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 and Sub-ordinate Regulation 2003.
- Sunshine Coast Local Government Area Pest Management Plan 2012-2016 sections 6.2.2, 6.3.2, 6.4.2, 6.5.2 and 6.6.2, as updated from time to time, a copy of which can be obtained from Council Offices.

"Form 31" means the Queensland Land Registry Form 31 Covenant attached.

"Indigenous Vegetation" means native vegetation which historically has naturally occurred in the local area.

"Legislative Instrument" means an instrument in writing that is of a legislative character and that was made in the exercise of a power delegated by the Queensland Parliament.

"Lot" means each of the Lots described in Item 2 of the Form 31.

"Native Fauna" means native animals which historically have naturally occurred in the local area.

"Owner" means the covenant described in Item 1 of the Form 31 and includes in the case of a corporation its successors in title and assigns and in the case of a natural person or persons their successors in title and each of their executors, administrators and assigns.

"Planning Scheme" has the meaning given in the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 as amended.

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"Vegetation" means: any tree, shrub, bush, vine, grass or other living or dead plant material on the Covenant Area other than existing structures such as fences and poles existing at the time when this Covenant comes into force and timber imported into the Covenant Area to be used for maintenance of such existing structures.

## 2. COVENANT

This Covenant is for the purpose of the preservation and conservation of Indigenous Vegetation and Native Fauna within the Covenant Area pursuant to section 97A(3)(b)(i) of the Land Title Act 1994.

#### 3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The parties acknowledged and agree that:

- (a) The registration of the Covenant is a condition of a Development Approval;
- (b) This Covenant is intended to ensure compliance with the relevant Condition(s) of the Development Approval that established the requirement for the Covenant over this property;
- (c) The key objective of the Covenant is to retain and enhance the Indigenous Vegetation within the Covenant Area(s)

### 4. OWNER'S OBLIGATIONS

- 4.1 The Owner shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Council, fully and effectively observe and comply with the obligations, to the satisfaction of Council, as follows:
  - (a) The Owner must comply with the Condition(s) of the Development Approval that established this Covenant.
  - (b) The Owner must comply with the Covenant.
  - (c) The Owner must take reasonable measures to only use, or allow to be used, the Covenant Area in such a manner that maintains and protects the Indigenous Vegetation and Native Fauna habitat values within the Covenant Area.
  - (d) The Owner must not, or permit another person to, have Indigenous Vegetation in the Covenant Area trimmed, pruned, lopped, poisoned, harvested, picked, cut down, mown, moved, removed, grazed by domestic stock or in any way damaged or destroyed, whether by act or omission.
  - (e) The Owner must not, or permit another person to, have a trail, path, fence, access or access way made, laid out or other constructed element in the Covenant Area.
  - (f) The Owner must notify the Council in writing of any substantial damage to Indigenous Vegetation within the Covenant Area (whether by natural occurrence or otherwise) within 14 days of the damage occurring and replanting to occur within 30 days or such other time as agreed by Council.
  - (g) The Owner must not introduce, or allow to be introduced, and take reasonable measures to remove, any Vegetation in the Covenant Area which is:
    - (i) not indigenous Vegetation, unless agreed to by Council; or
    - (ii) an Environmental Weed.

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- (h) The Owner must not, or permit another person to, have either placed or present or store in the Covenant Area the following: fill, soil, rock, rubbish, ashes, garbage, waste or other material that is foreign to Covenant Area and does not reflect the conditions of growth naturally encountered by the Indigenous Vegetation of the Covenant Area.
- (i) The Owner must not do, or permit another person to do, anything on the Lot which, in the Council's reasonable opinion, may adversely affect the Covenant Area.
- (j) The Owner must not, or permit another person to, have a fixture, improvement, or structure placed, constructed or erected in the Covenant Area.
- (k) The Owner must remove any fixture, improvement or structure from the Covenant Area within 30 days of its presence becoming known to the Owner and attend to having damaged vegetation replanted within 60 days of the damage occurring.
- (I) The Owner must not, or permit another person to, allow the Covenant Area to be used for the disposal of treated or untreated effluent from any sewage or greywater systems.
- (m) The Covenant Area must not be grazed by non-native animals (e.g. cattle, sheep, goals, pigs, deer, rabbits, hares, etc).
- (n) If deemed necessary by Council officers, non-native animals are to be excluded from the Covenant Area by appropriate fencing.
- (o) Any fencing within or on the boundary of the Covenant Area shall not incorporate any barbed wire, electric fences or other materials that may cause damage to Native Fauna. No clearing of the Coveant Area is permitted in maintenance of the fence.
- (p) The boundary of the Covenant Area must be delineated with permanent markers made of steel or concrete posts at each corner and at intervals of no greater than 20m. The markers must be maintained and replaced if necessary, and no clearing is permitted in the Covenant Area for maintenance and replacement of the markers.
- 4.2 In the event that an exercise of the obligations under clause 4.1 are found to be inconsistent with the relevant provisions of any approval given under any Legislative Instrument or the Planning Scheme, the Legislative Instrument or Planning Scheme approval shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- 4.3 Notwithstanding clause 4.1, if Indigenous Vegetation in the Covenant Area poses a serious risk to human safety, including bushfire risk:
  - a) The Indigenous Vegetation may be cut down or trimmed so as to remove the risk with the prior written consent of the Council, whose consent will not be unreasonably withheld provided an Arborist report is included to support the facts where required; and
  - b) The Indigenous Vegetation which is cut or trimmed must be left in the Covenant Area so that natural regeneration processes may occur unless it would in the Council's reasonable opinion, constitute a serious fire hazard.
  - c) Any claim of bushfire risk must be supported by a Bushfire Management Plan produced by a relevantly qualified consultant, and the plan must be approved by Council Officers before any clearing occurs.

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4.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the obligations under this clause 4 strictly rest with the Owner and are continuing obligations on the Owner, and continue to apply to the Owner notwithstanding that the Owner may not actually occupy the Land.

# 5. POWERS OF ENTRY

- 5.1 The Owner will permit the Council and its members, officers, agents, servants, employees, contractors and sub-contractors and other persons authorised by it at all times, upon having first given reasonable notice to the Owner or any person occupying the Lot to enter into and upon the Lot with all necessary plant and equipment for any of the following purposes:
  - (a) examining, inspecting, testing and monitoring the state and condition of the Covenant Area(s);
  - (b) ascertaining whether the obligations of the Owner in clause 4 have been duly performed and fulfilled;
  - (c) subject to clause 6, making good any breach of the obligations of the Owner under clause 4, at the cost and expense of the Owner; and
  - (d) exercising the Council's right under Clause 7.

#### 6. NOTICE BEFORE ENTRY

The Council must give reasonable notice of any intention to enter the Covenant Area(s) except in cases of emergency or where the Council on reasonable grounds considers that the delay in giving notices is prejudicial to its responsibilities.

# 7. REMEDY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

- 7.1 In the event of non-compliance with the obligations in clause 4, the Council may issue a written notice to the Owner requiring the Owner to rectify the non-compliance ("the Rectification Notice").
- 7.2 The Owner must comply with the Rectification Notice within 14 days of the issue of the Rectification Notice or such other reasonable time period as may be specified in the Rectification Notice, regardless of whether or not the Owner is responsible for the non-compliance.
- 7.3 In the event that the Owner fails to comply with the Rectification Notice within the time allowed in accordance with clause 7.2, the Council may, by itself or by an agent or contractor, enter the Covenant Area, perform any planting, replanting, rehabilitation or remedial work or anything else to restore any Indigenous Vegetation harmed or damaged by the non-compliance and recover all of the costs of performing the work as a debt from the Owner payable on demand.

### 8. DEFAULT BY OWNER

- 8.1 If the Council forms the view that the Owner has breached the Covenant, the Council agrees to proceed in accordance with clause 8.
- 8.2 The Council may exercise its powers under the *Statutory Planning Act* 1997 and other statutory provisions in the event of a breach of this Covenant.
- 8.3 The Owner is only liable for breaches of this Covenant caused or contributed to by the Owner or its authorised agents, or which it permits or allows.

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- 8.4 The Owner shall not be in breach of this Covenant for any damage to the Indigenous Vegetation in the Covenant Area(s) caused by any natural occurrence or otherwise caused by something beyond the control of the Owner, however if deemed desirable by Council the Owner must replant and continue to maintain the Covenant Area for 2 months or other time period agreed to in writing by Council.
- 8.5 The Owner is liable only for breaches of this Covenant which occur while the Owner is the registered owner of any interest in the Lot and then only to the extent of that interest.

### 9. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

- 9.1 This clause shall apply to any dispute between the parties to this Covenant.
- 9.2 Any dispute as to the performance of this Covenant or arising out of this Covenant that has not been resolved by agreement between the parties must be clearly identified in a Dispute Notice served by one party on the other party.
- 9.3 Within five (5) days of the date of the Dispute Notice, the parties must meet to discuss the dispute and its possible determination.
- 9.4 The parties may, within seven (7) days of meeting in accordance with clause 9.3, agree to refer the dispute to mediation.
- 9.5 If the parties agree to mediate in accordance with clause 9.4, then the parties may either:
  - (a) appoint a mediator agreed by the parties; or
  - (b) where the parties fail to agree to the appointment of a mediator within the period referred to in clause 9.4, either party may request for the President for the time being of the Queensland Law Society Incorporated to nominate a mediator which the parties must then appoint as the mediator.
- 9.6 The costs of any mediator appointed under clause 9.5 must be borne equally by the parties.
- 9.7 If any dispute notified under clause 9.2 remains unresolved, then at any time fourteen (14) days after the date of a Dispute Notice, and whether before or after reference of a dispute to a mediator under clause 9.5, either party may institute proceedings in the appropriate court for determination of the dispute.
- 9.8 The parties may mutually agree in writing to extend any time period specified in this clause 9.
- 9.9 Clause 9 of this Covenant does not prevent the Owner or the Council from obtaining any injunctive declaratory or other interlocutory relief from a court, which may be urgently required.

#### 10. SERVICE

- 10.1 A notice is sufficiently made, given, issued or served by a party if left at or forwarded by prepaid post in an envelope addressed to the other party or any of them (where there are more persons than one person comprising the other party) at the address of that party.
- 10.2 A notice if sent by prepaid post is deemed to have been made, given, issued or served at the time when in the due course of the post it would be delivered at the address to which it is directed whether or not it is actually received.

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- 10.3 In proving service of a notice made, given or served by the Council it is only necessary for the Council to certify to that effect under the hand of the Chief Executive Officer.
- 10.4 A notice given by a party must be:
  - (a) in writing; and
  - (b) signed by the party, an officer of that party or the solicitor of that party.
  - (c) A party receiving a notice is not obliged to enquire as to the authority of the person signing the notice.

# 11. COVENANT RUNS WITH THE LAND

This Covenant burdens the Lot and runs with the Lot and binds the successors in title to the Lot and to any parcel into which that Lot is reconfigured by any means.

# 12. NO EFFECT ON RATES AND CHARGES AND COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Covenant:

- (a) affects the liability of the Owner to pay all taxes, rates, charges and levies lawfully imposed in respect of the Lot; and
- (b) imposes a liability on the Council to make a monetary payment to the Owner in the form of compensation or otherwise.

# 13. **REGISTRATION**

- 13.1 The Owner shall do everything necessary at the Owner's expense to ensure that this Covenant is registered against the title to the Lot within one month after the execution of this Covenant by Council.
- 13.2 The Council shall do everything necessary (including executing any documents) to give effect to this Covenant.

# 14. WAIVER

- 14.1 No waiver by the Council of any breach by the Owner of any of the provisions of this Covenant shall be implied against the Council or be otherwise effective unless it is in writing under the hand of the Chief Executive Officer.
- 14.2 A single or partial exercise or waiver of a right relating to this document will not prevent any other exercise of that right or any other right.

### 15. LACHES AND DELAY

No laches or delay by the Council at any time or times in enforcing any of its rights, powers and the like under this Covenant prejudice or affect those rights or powers.

# 16. SEVERANCE

If any provision of this Covenant cannot be given effect or full force and effect by reason of statutory invalidity that provision shall be severed or read down but so as to maintain and uphold so far as possible the remaining provisions of this Covenant.

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### 17. ENUREMENT

This Covenant binds the parties to it and their respective successors, assigns, heirs, executors and administrators.

# 18. NO OBLIGATIONS ON COUNCIL

The rights given to the Council by this Covenant are permissive only and nothing in this Covenant imposes any duty of any kind on the Council to anyone or obliges the Council to perform any act or incur any expense for any of the purposes set out in this Covenant

### 19 TIME

Time shall, in all cases, be of the essence in this Covenant.

# 20 CONFLICT

Nothing in this Covenant will limit any right given to the Council pursuant to any easement or other document granted to or that benefits the Council in the Covenant Area registered before or after the creation of this Covenant.

### 21 INTERPRETATION

- 21.1 The headings and the Preamble in this Covenant are for convenience only and do not affect its interpretation.
- 21.2 References to -
  - (a) the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular;
  - (b) one gender includes each other gender;
  - (c) a person includes a body corporate;
  - (d) a party includes the party's executors, administrators, successors and any assignee of this Agreement.

# 22 INSPECTION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS, DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS, ETC.

Any person wishing to inspect any plan, management plan, Development Approval or any other document available for public inspection by this Covenant may do so after making application to the Council on the conditions set from time to time by the Council including the payment of the Council's prescribed fees, adherence to the Council's prescribed time limits and provision of any other information that the Council may require to process the application.