

AQUIS RESORT AT THE GREAT BARRIER REEF PTY LTD
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT**

VOLUME 4

CHAPTER 26

**NO
DEVELOPMENT
OPTION**

26. ASSESSMENT OF THE 'NO DEVELOPMENT' OPTION

The impacts of not proceeding with the project can be considered as the converse of those of proceeding i.e. the impacts of proceeding become benefits of not proceeding and vice versa. Impact assessment is concerned with 'alternative futures', so interchanging adverse and beneficial impacts and considering the likely effect of the continuing of current trends into the future, the beneficial and adverse impacts of not proceeding are:

- Beneficial:
 - continuing production of approximately 13 000 tonnes of sugar cane per year (15% of current Barron River delta production)
 - maintenance of current rural landscape in the locale
 - no change to existing groundwater utilisation
 - avoidance of increased greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 51.5 kilotonnes per year
 - avoidance of impacts on local amenity from construction activities (dust, noise, traffic) and from operations (noise, light, traffic)
 - avoidance of the requirement to deal with bring forward of infrastructure upgrades and potential social dislocation as a consequence of higher population growth
- Adverse:
 - lost opportunity to protect 53 ha of natural vegetation that is not currently protected against threats from agricultural activities and degradation due to un-managed weeds and pests
 - lost opportunity to restore 56 ha of new habitat, strengthen degraded waterways, and remove obstacles to fish passage (undersized culverts and tide gates), and deal with acid drainage from existing watercourses
 - lost opportunity for preservation and interpretation of biodiversity values
 - lost opportunity for preservation and interpretation of indigenous and non-indigenous cultural values
 - ongoing risk to aviation (bird strike) and potential river migration due to presence of 6 ha of abandoned aquaculture ponds
 - lost opportunity to provide safe refuge for local residents during natural disasters
 - continued export of 292 tonnes of pollutants per year from agricultural activities and forgone opportunity to use treated WWTP effluent
 - ongoing seasonal air emissions associated with cane farming
 - loss of regional economic stimulus arising from capital expenditure of \$8.15 billion and annual revenue of \$11 billion/annum
 - lost opportunity for significant employment in the construction sector over the period 2015-2023
 - foregone increase in Queensland Government Revenue of \$1 billion/annum
 - lost opportunities for 20 000 direct employment and 35 000 indirect employment from Aquis operations
 - lost opportunity to establish Cairns/Queensland as an international resort destination
 - lost opportunity for improvements to flood immunity of access to Yorkeys Knob Road
 - lost opportunity for utilisation of current surplus capacity at Cairns Airport and tourism infrastructure in the region
 - lost opportunity for increased sports and recreation facilities for the Yorkeys Knob community
 - lost opportunity for a significant contribution to the development of community sporting and entertainments facilities suitable for an international tourism destination