



## Treetops Challenge

Our client sought to establish an eco-adventure attraction in a rainforest setting at the existing Big Pineapple tourist centre. The project involves the establishment of a High Ropes Course and Zip Line through forest canopy and sub-canopy.

A heavy focus of the project is utilising the existing environment as the ultimate product. Given the nature of the project, it can be decidedly sympathetic to its receiving environment, allowing for a fluid design avoiding clearing. The course design is guided by existing opportunities within the vegetation structure in which it is built.

### **Statutory Context**

The entire project falls within Of Concern' Regulated Vegetation. This coupled with the sites connectivity to larger areas of Endangered rainforest indicated a high potential for Matters of National and State Environmental Significance (MNES).

We undertook detailed ecological surveys which also formed a component of a broader PMAV associated with the encompassing Big Pineapple Renewal Project. Based on our findings and a strategic position on how the project was to be constructed; we avoided numerous environmental assessment and referral requirements. Consideration of the concurrent Big Pineapple Preliminary Approval application was also given weight in our assessments and found to comply with the proposed new Local Plan.

### **Challenges and Solutions**

The project had significant desktop constraints impacting approval outcomes at State and Local government level with regard to vegetation clearing and the project achieving a Relevant Purpose under Vegetation Management Act 1999. Our team worked closely with the course designers and town planners to approach the application and proposed construction methods in a strategic manner which avoided the required for code assessments at a State level achieving a more streamlined approval process.

### **Outcome**

The project was submitted to Sunshine Coast Council in late 2017 for approval. It is currently supported in principal; however, approval is intrinsically linked with the broader Big Pineapple Preliminary Approval which is expected to proceed in 2018.

### **CLIENT**

TREETOPS CHALLENGE  
PTY LTD

### **LOCATION**

WOOMBYE, SUNSHINE COAST  
QUEENSLAND



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