

**NO MORE  
COCONUTS AND  
NO MORE  
GENERALISATIONS**

Geoff Satchell says locals are furious about coconut clearing on Mission Beach at Conch Street (*Times*, Letters to the Editor, May 14).

I am a local and I am furious, not about the coconuts, but about one or

two people who express their views as being held by the community because they don't have the guts to express an opinion as their own.

Apparently Mission Beach tourism operators are also "up in arms" about this controversial issue.

We have yet to hear from them, but fortunately they seem to have the sense to realise that Mission

Beach can be marketed on its various other attributes without the "iconic" palm tree in every picture.

This is despite the efforts in the past by tourism operators planting literally hundreds of thousands of coconut palm trees along the eastern tropical coast in a misguided attempt to make it easily recognised as a tropical getaway.

People come to Mis-

sion Beach to see rain-forest meeting golden beaches, cassowaries, and uninhabited islands in an azure ocean under a clear blue sky.

In these days of ecotourism we don't need to rely on 1950s style marketing campaigns playing on peoples' perceptions of what a tropical paradise should look like.

These days we can cel-

ebate the things that set Mission Beach apart from all the other pseudo-tropical resort towns.

People come here to see something real, so let's be proud of our little slice of paradise and accept it for what it is.

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council is doing a fantastic job in managing the degraded foreshore vegetation which has been picked at again and again over the years by self-indulgent people who want to "prune for a view" and sit on their verandas looking at the ocean instead of getting down onto the beach.

I am grateful to the council for managing this expanse of land which belongs to everyone despite the efforts of adjacent landholders to convince themselves otherwise.

In fact, if council had the available resources, I would be quite happy for them to extend the management of feral coconuts beyond the public walkways and gathering points, to include other areas where these vegetative bullies muscle their way in to threaten the fragile balance and diversity of our beautiful and critically endangered coastal vegetation.

I won't go on about why these invasive plants threaten our coastline because Paul Devine summed it up quite well (*Times*, Letters to the Editor, May 14) and despite polite repetition, some people just don't get it.

You are of course entitled to your view, but please don't continue to pass it off as representing the greater community because it doesn't.

**Maira Eichenbrenner  
Mission Beach**