



11th February, 2024

Media Release
Community Action expected at Controversial
'Wallum' Subdivision in Brunswick Heads

Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, used his casting vote to approve the destruction of one of the Shire's last remaining pockets of precious coastal heathland in Brunswick Heads, at Council's Planning Meeting on Thursday 8th February.

Civil disobedience is the likely next phase of the campaign to save this culturally significant ecosystem. Concerned residents group, [Save Wallum](http://www.savewallum.com), have conducted non-violent direct action (NVDA) training on the site on the weekend in expectation of bulldozers arriving in the coming days.

Traditional owner, Marjambi, a Githabul, Nararkwal, Minjangbul woman, of the Bundjalung language group, said, "I am compelled by my blood to act. I am grounded, connected and waiting for the moment to stand for my country. This moment is about to arrive. Are you willing to stand with me?"

Clarence Property plans to build a housing development at Wallum, a flood-prone coastal wetland, that is home to 26 Threatened Species, and 3 Endangered Ecological Communities.

The development would see over 500 ecologically significant trees cut down, including 76 old-growth Scribbly Gums, providing food for Koalas and hollows needed for endangered species homes.

At the meeting on 8th February, Councilors Pugh and Lyon put forward a motion to accept reports on the development, and for staff to issue a subdivision certificate for the site in coming days.

Crs Coorey, Ndiaye, Dey and Westheimer voted against; Crs Hunter, Lyon, Swivel and Pugh voted in favour and Cr Balson was absent for the vote. The mayor used his casting vote to pass the motion.

Svea Pitman from Save Wallum said, "As destruction of the precious Wallum site is now imminent, this has left the community with no option than to use direct action to Save Wallum, putting ourselves between the bulldozers and these ancient trees."

For further comment or high resolution images, please contact:

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Save Wallum community group information stall at the Wallum site in Brunswick Heads, NSW



Traditional owner, Marjambi, a Githabul, Nararkwal, Minjangbul woman

Images by: Adriano Pantaleo Martinez