



11th December 2023

Media Release

**Save Wallum Pubic Meeting - Thursday 14th December
following Byron Council Final Consideration of amended Wallum Reports**

“The campaign to Save Wallum has reached a critical stage of approval from the Byron Shire Council and we are extremely concerned that a decision is pending this Thursday to allow bulldozers on site”, said spokesperson, local ecologist, James Barrie.

“This week, Byron Shire Council will consider the submission of the Wallum Estate management plans as required as a part of the Conditions of Consent for DA 10.2021.575.1, approved in May this year by the Northern Region Planning Panel, following the issuing of a Certificate 34A by the NSW Planning Department on the 30th March 2023, stating that all environmental impacts had been ‘adequately assessed’ prior to the 25th August, 2017. We believe this was issued in error and that there are numerous outstanding ecological and environmental impacts of this proposed development that have certainly not been [adequately] assessed he continued.

“If accepted, Council will issue a Subdivision Certificate to allow Clarence Property to start destroying this precious site, that is home to at least 9 EPBC listed Threatened Species and one Endangered Ecological Community”, Mr Barrie said.

This development is a Zombie DA, resurrected from decades past, it proposes the subdivision of coastal, flood-prone land, which would see 260 ecologically significant trees cut down, including 76 old-growth hollow-bearing Scribbly Gums.

The Save Wallum community group is making an urgent call out to all our supporters to come along on Thursday to a Public Meeting on Thursday the 14th December from 6-8pm at the Civic Centre in Mullumbimby. We will be providing updates on the various working groups and Action Strategy for the next stage of the campaign to Save Wallum, including volunteer recruitment.

We know Council has concerns pertaining to the environmental impacts; Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, has stated. “Just to be really clear, If this DA came to us as council, without any pre-existing State Government overlays and overhangs, there is no way we would approve this, there’s no way that we would approve the removal of the trees on the site, or the destruction of habitat, or the bulldozing of Endangered Ecological Communities; there’s no way this Council would approve that.”

“Importantly, we know Mayor Lyon has written to the federal Minister Plibersek to request a review to protect the endangered species on site. However, there is a real risk bulldozers could be back on site as early as next week and we want the community to be informed; particularly as we’ve been shut out of the process so far; we must act now to protect this beautiful wildflower heath, before it is gone forever”, Mr Barrie concluded.

Amended report and link to BSC agenda item 13.12 -Ordinary Meeting 14/12/23

https://byron.infocouncil.biz/Open/2023/12/OC_14122023_AGN_1585_AT_SUP_WEB.htm

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