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Media Release

Reasons to Protect Wallum – Help Us Raise \$30K by Christmas

Wallum Brunswick Heads, an ecological and cultural treasure, is under immediate threat from a development approved under outdated environmental laws. This unique site is home to endangered species, rich Indigenous heritage, and is recognised for its high ecological value. The Save Wallum campaign is fighting to preserve this precious land, and we need your help to raise **\$30K by Christmas**.

Why Donate?

1. **Protect the Home of Endangered Species:** Wallum is a sanctuary for endangered Glossy Black-Cockatoos, Vulnerable Wallum Sedge Frogs, and koalas that call the area home.
2. **Cultural Significance:** Wallum holds deep importance for the Bundjalung Nation, with sacred trees and pathways that need protection.
3. **Rare Ecological Community:** Wallum is one of the few remaining patches of Wallum Heathland in Byron Shire, a fragile ecosystem essential for local biodiversity.

Need more reasons, see the full list of 30 below*.

What's at Risk?

It is difficult to articulate every risk aspect of this development as there are so many.

With parts of Wallum located within the Cape Byron Marine Park sanctuary zone, risks are poised to waterways and the plants and animals there, specifically Simpsons Creek, a tributary of the Brunswick River which are classified as protected coastal wetlands.

The development, approved over a decade ago, threatens 230 ancient trees essential for koalas and Glossy Black-Cockatoos, putting local wildlife at risk of losing critical habitat. The proposed "offsets" involve planting saplings that will take decades to replace the resources that are immediately needed for survival.

It is a place of deep cultural and ecological significance, 'Wallum' also constitutes a significant part of the mere 1% remaining Wallum Heathland in Byron Shire - the only representation of this ecological community in Brunswick Heads.

Due to the specialised ecology of Wallum, it is host to an astounding number of threatened species of flora and fauna. Some of which are of State and National conservation significance.

The risks are many.



How You Can Help

Every donation brings us closer to securing the funds necessary for our active case in the Federal Court of Australia, where we are fighting to protect Wallum's endangered species and its irreplaceable cultural heritage. Your contribution will directly support conservation efforts and ensure that future generations can experience the beauty of Wallum.

Donate Today:

Visit [Chuffed.org](https://www.chuffed.org) to contribute and help us reach **\$30K by Christmas**. Every dollar counts in this critical fight for the environment.

*Need more reasons to get involved? Here's thirty reasons:

1. Wallum Brunswick Heads is deeply significant to all clans of the Bundjalung Nation.
2. Endangered Glossy Black Cockatoos feed, bathe, and roost in Wallum.
3. The Vulnerable Wallum Sedge Frog, also known as the Olongburra Frog, calls Wallum its home.
4. Koalas have been recorded at Wallum for the past 20 years, with a female sighted just last month!
5. The entire site is mapped as having High Ecological Value (HEV).
6. A Sacred Fire, lit by Bundjalung elders at the start of the Wallum Blockade in February 2024, has burned continuously since then.
7. Wallum hosts over 100 threatened species, all on the path to extinction, including koalas, predicted to be extinct in the wild by 2050.
8. Some of the Scribbly Gums at Wallum are culturally significant and have hollows that have taken hundreds of years to develop. These hollows are homes for Wallum's wildlife.
9. The development's outdated environmental assessments are over a decade old and no longer reflect today's ecological challenges. NSW is the only state that allows for 'zombie' historical developments to rise from the past. Wallum is one of these 'zombie' DAs, approved under outdated environmental laws that have since been repealed. This development has not been assessed by today's environmental standards.
10. Parts of Wallum are located within the Cape Byron Marine Park sanctuary zone - Simpsons Creek a tributary of the Brunswick River which are classified as protected coastal wetlands.
11. Wallum constitutes part of the mere 1% of remaining Wallum Heathland in Byron Shire.
12. There are culturally significant medicine trees and culturally significant pathways within the Wallum site (these should be protected).
13. Wallum's native wildflowers, including the iconic Christmas Bells (*Blandfordia grandiflora*), bloom in spectacular fashion during spring & summer, attracting pollinators essential to the ecosystem.
14. Many known names have thrown their support behind saving Wallum, including Bob Brown, Xavier Rudd, Ash Grunwald, Emily Lubitz and Hussy Hicks.
15. The "scribbles" on a Scribbly Gum are made by the larvae of the Scribbly Gum Moth.
16. Byron Bird Buddies have identified more than 110 bird species at Wallum.



17. After decades of sand mining in the region, Wallum remains one of the few areas with old-growth Scribbly Gums in Byron Shire.
18. Glossy Black-Cockatoos are picky eaters, feeding exclusively on She-oak cones from selected trees, some of which are in Wallum Brunswick Heads.
19. Wallum Banksia is a key species in Wallum for its own uniquely Australian beauty, and also for threatened species that rely on the site.
20. Wallum Brunswick Heads supports the endangered Ecological Community of Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplain.
21. The sandy soils and coffee rock substrate sustain Wallum's unique wildflower heathland.
22. Wallum's naturally acidic wetlands provide an ideal environment for the region's acid frogs.
23. The White-bellied Sea Eagle and Collared Kingfisher have been spotted hunting along Wallum's waterways.
24. The rare Pink Nodding Orchid adds vibrant beauty to Wallum's wildflower diversity.
25. Little Bent-Wing, Large Bent-Wing, Southern Myotis, and Greater Broad-Nosed Bats all roost in Wallum's trees.
26. The Grey-Headed Flying Fox feeds on nectar from Wallum Banksias, supporting the ecosystem.
27. The Common Planigales, a small marsupial and the Swamp Wallaby, a large marsupial, thrive in Wallum's complex habitat.
28. The Wallum heathland provides a critical stopover point for migratory birds traveling along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway including the White-Throated Needletail and the Rainbow Bee-eater.
29. The offset compensation measures proposed for this development rely on already existing habitat found at Wallum and the planting of saplings to replace the 230 ancient trees marked for destruction. These trees are essential feed trees for koalas and glossy black cockatoo, the destruction will leave these species hungry and homeless until those saplings re-establish to provide sufficient food and shelter which will take decades.
30. The unique *Caleana major*, or Large Duck Orchid, with its duck-shaped flower, is found in Wallum. It is a small orchid that features a remarkable flower, resembling a duck in flight.

Every dollar gets us closer to our goal of \$30K by Christmas. Your support will directly contribute to the active case in the Federal Court of Australia aiming to protect Wallum's endangered species and its invaluable cultural heritage.

Click here to donate <https://chuffed.org/project/save-wallum>