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Media Release

Child's Heartfelt Plea to Tanya Plibersek

Twelve-year-old Ethan, from Mullumbimby NSW, has made a heartfelt plea to Federal Minister Tanya Plibersek to help save the coastal koala population from more habitat loss. The approved Wallum development located in the Byron Shire will see more than 4.5ha of coastal koala habitat cleared.

Ethan's mother posted his letter of concern on social media, his plea is succinct.

*"Dear Tanya Plibersek,
Hi. My name is Ethan. I am 12 years old.
My mum and school taught me when I make a mistake I need to try and make it right again. At Wallum, there is a big mistake with the tree name.
The wrong tree name means koalas aren't protected.
I don't want any koalas to get hurt.
Mum told me your department isn't noticing it. Can you please put it right?
Thanks, Ethan"*

Ethan's letter calls out how Plibersek's department has ignored the misidentification of trees allowing the development to proceed without an adequate koala management plan.

Save Wallum spokesperson and ecologist James Barrie said, *"Serious planning flaws and omissions have allowed the development in Brunswick Heads to be approved. The misidentification of the koala feed trees (as Eucalyptus racemosa not E. signata), with their resulting lack of accountability to statutory koala requirements is one such flaw"*.

The letter to Plibersek was posted on the Save Wallum Facebook page by Ethan's mother, with over 100 people admiring the 12-year-old's clarity.

"Dear Ethan, you are so onto it. This is unconscionable. This is an absolute fatal flaw in ecological planning considerations for this development. It makes a mockery of the NRPP approval, the NSW planning department and now that they are aware of it, the Federal Environment department" says one supporter.

The original Facebook post can [be viewed here](#).

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