



**21 March 2024**

**Media Release**

## **Is This Image Enough To Save Wallum?**

This week local photographer, Mac Maderski, was skilful enough to capture a mystical and shy Owlet-Nightjar in an ancient Scribbly Gum tree hollow located in the controversial 30Ha Wallum housing development site in Brunswick Heads.

Around 76 old-growth Scribbly Gums will be destroyed if the approved development proceeds, with many of the trees aged 300-400 years old, bearing large hollows that provide irreplaceable habitat for wildlife.



**The Australian Owlet-Nightjar is the smallest of the nocturnal birds found in Australia. Image credit Mac Maderski, March 2024.**

*“The developers have recently made claims that it is ‘best practice globally’ to install nest boxes to replace hollow-bearing trees but we know best practice globally is the retention of habitat”, says Ecologist and Save Wallum campaigner James Barrie.*

*“Offsets have no meaningful material merit, they are just loopholes torn into planning legislation, weakening nature laws, undermining biodiversity and betraying local values.*

*“We have to draw the line here at ‘Wallum’ and say no. No more. Not here. If we wait for the next one, it will be the same story again. For nature laws to change, the people have to go out on a limb and protect these gorgeous habitats. Only then will change happen in our lifetime. For it to be worthwhile for future generations we are going to need to see change in our lifetime, or these beauties will soon be gone.”*

#### About Save Wallum

The 30HA Wallum site located in Brunswick Heads NSW is currently at risk of development from a zombie DA. The planning and assessments of the site date back more than 10 years and would not be approved by today’s standards. A community grassroots campaign formed in 2023 to protect this unique and biodiverse area, #SaveWallum.

Non Violent Direct Action (NVDA) has been underway since 8 February 2024 with Save Wallum advocates living on and beside the site, prepared to stop bulldozers from land clearing.

**For further information, images or to arrange expert interviews please contact:**

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