



18th February 2024

Media Release

Mass Act of Community Civil Disobedience at Save Wallum Site

Over 300 community members attended the Save Wallum Vigil at basecamp this morning, walking peacefully onto the site, for non-violent direct action. Climbers installed a second tree sit and fly-lines to ensure food and water can be safely taken to the "Possums", the eco-warriors now living high in these ancient Scribbly Gums.

The Save Wallum campaign is determined to defend these old-growth trees from being bulldozed at the proposed development site in Brunswick Heads.

Following a tremendous flow of attendance and support from the local community at the frontline this week, with close to 1000 residents coming through the camp to visit this majestic place, the turnout for this morning's action surpassed all expectations.

Mark Cora, Mindjinbal Traditional Owner, said, *"It is truly heartwarming and inspiring to see so many people attending the peaceful walk-in today at Wallum, standing beside the indigenous custodians of this area, the land and waters."*

Svea Pitman, spokesperson for Save Wallum added, *"We have been overjoyed with the support coming to the campaign - the sheer number of people who have come to camp this week and who came today, demonstrates very loudly to the Byron Council, and the state and federal Ministers involved in this matter, there is no social licence. The local community vehemently opposes this ecocide and we will not let this incredible and sacred place be destroyed", she continued.*

"None of us wanted it to come to this. However, as a movement, we are prepared to put ourselves between these trees and the bulldozers and every day our numbers grow as more people realise what is at stake here. There has been no federal assessment of the impact of this development on the 9 EPBC (Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999) and we demand that Minister Plibersek refer this matter immediately."

Yesterday marked the 1 week anniversary of the Save Wallum peaceful presence at the end of Omega Court in Brunswick Heads, following Byron Shire Council's decision last week to approve the issuing of the subdivision certificate. With the imminent destruction of this rare coastal ecosystem, the community continues to activate in force to stand for Wallum.

For further comment, contact Save Wallum - Svea Pitman at 0475304354, or James Barrie at 0490530022

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RmTy7Ex3VtDr7x70sZ7hL6M-qc7ej8yp/view?usp=drive_link

Link to 47 second, edited clip of today's NVDA on the Wallum Site in Brunswick Heads, NSW



Save Wallum's second tree sit on site - community attending joined, with Sue Higginson, MLC, author, comedian and Greens candidate for Richmond, Mandy Nolan and Byron Shire Councillor, Deputy Mayor, Sarah Ndyae.

“Possum”, Alyssa, sitting high in the tree sit guarding an old growth Scribbly Gum at Wallum

