



12 March 2024

## Media Release

### **Wallum Development Rife with Greenwashing Save Wallum Refutes Clarence Property Claims**

Save Wallum has responded to a media release, distributed by Clarence Property last week, which claims the development is “ecologically sensitive”.

James Barrie, an ecologist and spokesperson for Save Wallum, stated, *“This is environmental greenwashing. Hollows in these trees take 200 years just to start forming, and there is no way that a constructed box can equate to that sort of natural habitat. To claim that the method employed to create the fauna hollows is considered best practice globally is nonsense. The best practice is to leave old-growth trees alone.”*

*“Nest boxes can be used in landscapes with deficiencies in hollows, but are a poor substitute for replacing living viable trees. Interestingly, the developer fails to identify what metric they use to qualify for best practice. Obviously it is not for stopping the extinction of species, for which the “best practice globally” is the protection of habitat”, James concluded.*

Save Wallum spokesperson Svea Pitman added, *“The ecological and climate ignorance of Clarence Property in regards to this development is astounding, this is an investment company that manages people’s lifetime earnings, yet seemingly have no understanding of the risks of Climate Change. To claim they are ‘enhancing’ this rare and intact ecology, by logging old growth trees and bringing in metres of fill, is absurd”, their ‘eco certification’ more greenwashing, issued by a subsidiary company of the Urban Development Institute of Australia, (UDIA), a registered political lobby group,”*

*“It is also outrageous that Clarence Property claims this development supports the housing crises. We need more homes. Of course, we need homes. The floods devastated our community, destroyed thousands of homes, and a number of us are still homeless because of this and the impact of Climate Change, but there is no logic in a small amount of housing on flood-prone land being built here at such an enormous cost to the environment. Premier Minns was elected on a promise not to build on any more flood-prone land. This is a ludicrous proposal, where people will just stand to become flood victims again”.*

*“Finally, in response to the Clarence statement, we would like to reiterate, Save Wallum is a grassroots community action group. We are non-politically aligned; we are members of the local community holding a range of political and non-political views. To claim we are political protesters is simply untrue”, she concluded.*

For further comment or high-res images, please contact: Svea Pitman 0475 304 354 [info@savewallum.com](mailto:info@savewallum.com)  
[www.savewallum.com](http://www.savewallum.com)



Tree hollow at Wallum, Brunswick Heads. Image by Dee Merkel, 2024.





Tree hollow at Wallum, Brunswick Heads. Image by James Barrie, February 2024.