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## Media Release

### Federal Court Injunction Stops Work at Wallum

Tears of joy and relief streamed across the Byron Shire last night when news of a Stop Work injunction for the Wallum development site in Brunswick Heads was successfully obtained by Save Wallum Incorporated shortly after 7pm.

The application for an emergency Interlocutory injunction was lodged yesterday, in the Federal Court of Australia by Barrister Jonathan Korman on behalf of Save Wallum. The matter was heard by Justice Raper, in Sydney and granted, after 24 hours notice was officially given from Clarence Property on the eve of Wednesday 3rd July, that they intended to start work on the controversial site the next day.

The interim injunction means until a further hearing and determination, Clarence Property must not carry out, or authorise the carrying out, of Development Works on the land at 15 Torakina Road Brunswick Heads, with the exception of the installation, on foot, of nest boxes in accordance with the Hollow and Nest Box Management Plan.

Save Wallum Inc. commenced proceedings to stop work that is proposed to imminently destroy vital areas of habitat for federally listed threatened species the Wallum Sedge Frog and the critically endangered Mitchell's Rainforest Snail. Justice Raper heard evidence from lawyers that sightings of the rare Wallum Sedge Frog were recorded in the area directly adjacent the proposed excavation works, and thus destruction of habitat in the area would inflict irreparable damage on the Wallum Sedge Frog

The local community group 'Save Wallum' which formed in mid-2023 to protect the rare ecology of the Wallum site, sought an urgent interim injunction under the Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999), after attempted negotiations with Clarence Property broke down on 3 July 2024.

*"This is such a huge relief", said spokesperson Svea Pitman, "It has been an incredibly long journey and huge amount of volunteer work to get to court, and we are ecstatic that Justice Raper has issued this interlocutory injunction last night, ensuring this rare coastal wetland and old growth trees are protected while the case is run now in the Federal court."*

The matter will be listed/heard again on Tuesday 9th July and a date for the court case set.

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