

**Submission  
No 136**

## **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS IN NSW**

**Name:** Holly Officer

**Date Received:** 1 June 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

I am Holly Officer of Mullumbimby Creek and I am writing this submission to address the Historical Development Consents across Australia and specifically in Brunswick Heads at the Wallum site.

The Wallum area is known as a local respite - it's a place that is easy to get to and teeming with an abundance of wild life. With a basic ecological understanding I can see the value of this site every time I wander through.

For work, I often have young people in my care who are diagnosed on the spectrum and/or with learning disorders. Wallum is a place we head to recenter, learn from and connect with the natural world. Living in a society filled with technology and busy ways it is more important than ever to have accessible places to slow and reconnect. After only a few minutes in Wallum and I can see the shift in the young people from agitation, hyperactivity, emotional dysregulation etc to calm, happy, curious and engaged. This is not something that is easily quantified and does not bring profit or measures of success that our modern world is used to. However, the value of Wallum is far beyond our data and calculations; the gift of a safe haven for wildlife and people alike ripple into our collective health and well-being and this must be taken into serious consideration in a fast changing world.

Furthermore, the proposed housing sites are on a flood plane. It doesn't make any sense to destroy this delicate eco system to put housing on - especially since we have seen first hand the direct impact of poor town planning during the many floods over the past years, including the 2022 disaster. I request that our current planning and environmental laws take note that many of the historical development consents do not reflect our current understanding of land and environmental impact and a review must be undertaken. Perhaps, when the original development was consented we didn't have the knowledge and information as we do today to make more informed choices.

I also request a moratorium for the Wallum site due to the cultural significance and critical habitat that is being threatened by this proposed development.

As a solution to keep this important place safe for future generations, perhaps there is a way that the developer can be financially compensated. It would be incredible to see accessible housing opportunities created on any of the many rolling hills that have previously been cleared for farming. This unused farmland has many prime locations for urban settlements with strategic planning and that could ensure housing needs are met alongside environmental protection for significant areas like Wallum.

Thanks for taking the time to read my submission. I hope that we can step forward with great care and respect.

Yours sincerely,

Holly Officer