

I would like to acknowledge

Pay my respects to the Traditional Owners
to the Commissioners here today, ^{welcome} ~~would like to thank~~ ^{pay my respect} ~~to~~ Elders ^{Part + Present.}

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the request for a 20 month extension to the trial period at NBP (North Byron Parklands.) I ~~am~~ a Resident of ~~NBP~~ ^{NBS}

I don't feel comfortable about speaking here today at a public meeting, however, I feel so strongly against this request, I'll step out of my comfort zone. ~~As an E.C. I would much rather be talking about Education~~

In 2012

When Parklands accepted the ruling of the PAC (Planning Assessment Commission), they knowingly were aware that when the 'Trial Process' was over, the authority for changes lay with the local Councils. It was a condition of the existing Concept Plan. The development should be controlled by local authorities to mitigate the impacts we have experienced since the five-year trial began.

So NBP have known, as did the community, since 2012, that their approval would expire at the end of 2017, so they've had five years to put a new proposal together. Surely it's not the responsibility of the NSW government to give them extra time and support because they have delayed and need more time!

Time for what?

To be better prepared to become a permanent festival site, and a State Significant Development, with increasing event days and increase in patron numbers?

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Why are the goalposts always changed in favour of the developers?

Firstly it was one festival, then two, now more festivals and other event days with an increase in numbers that are hard to fathom, up to 50,000 patrons (presented at a Nth Byron Parklands meeting last year.) and maybe even more patrons in the future.

Who do people trust? The system, the politicians, the developers?

The effects of the festival on surrounding neighbours and communities has been an ongoing issue for 5 years now, (noise, traffic, crowds, trash, illegal camping, anti-social behaviour.)

So does this mean 2 more years of community needs not being addressed?

By the way I have never spoken to anyone who has said "Wow I'd love a mega festival site in my backyard with thousands of people, and all that it brings"

I think that the long-term effects on the environment are of even greater concern.

NBP reports that their interventions have had no impact on the environment of the site or of the adjacent Billinudgel Nature Reserve.

You would not have to be an environmentalist to know the impact of thousands of people and mega festivals would all have a detrimental effect on the environment and in this case a significant wildlife corridor.

2

(The state governments over the years have spent millions to protect that environmentally-sensitive area.)

This doesn't make sense, I believe it is shameful.

The NSW Police issued a disturbing public report outlining their concerns following Splendour 2016.

Some points were highlighted and discussed at a local meeting. Given these issues raised by the police and the impact on patrons and the community, surely the appropriateness of Parklands as a festival site is highly questionable under any circumstances.

I would like to also comment last week ^{first} I saw that THE FALLS Festival 2017/18 has been advertised.

~~So to make this meeting seem like a waste of your time and ours~~ ^{does this} the tickets are on sale today, the day of this PAC meeting.

Does this seem like a coincidence or maybe a deliberate mockery of the system that foolish people like myself believed in?

This makes this process look farcical.

This seems to indicate that this extension is a given!

The worst thing is that most people in our community feel helpless, they feel that the developers are working closely with politicians and the buzz words in community is "it's a done deal!"

The advertising of Falls Festival has made this seem very likely!

3

I'm sure that Live Nation, new owners of Falls Festival and the "world's leading live entertainment company" (quote from their website.) isn't preparing for this festival without some indication that it will go ahead.

What is going on?

How long will it take for the PAC to make a decision?

Will it be after every Falls Festival ticket is sold?

So to conclude I believe that

This extension should not be granted. The state government should hand control to Byron Shire Council at the end of this year, as the current approval states. Council then needs to undertake a thorough evaluation of the five-year trial, using one or more independent entities to review everything. By independent, I mean not associated with Parklands and not associated with the DOP. That's what we in the community have been expecting, and that's the only way we will be able to trust the planning and assessment process.

I am hoping that after today's meeting that PAC will support the concerns of community to take a stand and say NO!

Time is Up!

Christine Bush

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