

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: North Byron Parklands speaking notes PAC meeting 29 August 2017
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2017 10:41:20 AM

I acknowledge we meet on Bundjalung country and pay my respects to elders past and present.

Deputy Mayor and councillor member of the Regulatory Working Group since its establishment under the original consent conditions. I also have 15 years experience as a community event and festival organiser.

At last week's Council meeting, a resolution was carried to advise the PAC of a number of issues of ongoing concern raised by the community about the modification proposal and assessment process.

The proponent has been aware of the end of the trial period for the last five years.

The assessment of the site has always presented significant challenges given the constraints from community and environment perspectives. Specifically the proximity to residential areas and location in the last nationally significant protected wildlife corridor connecting the Wollumbin caldera to the coast.

Conditions for the trial are extensive and complex. A key component was the establishment of the Regulatory Working Group or RWG as a mechanism for stakeholders to assist in the management of a multitude of issues.

RWG community reps have shown an outstanding commitment to the process and must be congratulated for their contribution of time, resources and consultation with the community.

For community reps on the RWG this has meant a

considerable effort as unlike agency reps, community reps have had to get across the details of issues raised by all stakeholders and agencies.

Unfortunately the commitment to the RWG process by the proponents has not always been reciprocated. Despite clear language in the trial approval about the role the RWG has in making recommendations about the management of the site, the proponent attempted to deny this function to RWG reps. Resolving this impasse required a notice of motion and subsequent resolution of Council and then Council staff and Councillor reps having to attend meetings in Sydney with the department.

RWG reps and residents have regularly advised that the department has not been willing to listen to or even respond to such issues when raised.

This represents a significant diversion of ratepayer and community resources, while no s94 funds are received to ameliorate the impacts of large events.

This decision for the PAC today is not about whether Parklands continues. It is about how it might continue.

The department has not been a satisfactory regulator and the detailed submissions exposing the omissions in both the application and assessment raised by others today is a major concern. While the community's vigilance is admirable, the burden falling on community reps and groups is unreasonable.

It is time that the community had a fair go in the assessment of the future use of the site through a Byron shire council assessment, a contribution of s94 funds and a community consultative mechanism that does not dilute the voice of the community.

Cr Basil Cameron
Deputy Mayor
Byron Shire Council

