

## Commissioners

Welcome to Ocean Shores. I am speaking on behalf of OSCA, the Ocean Shores Community Association. For the third time over the years OSCA has made representation to the Commission in support of North Byron Parklands and the events on the site.

*Ocean Shores is the largest residential town in the Byron Shire. We are not only the nearest next door neighbour to Parklands, about one third of Parklands is in our town. The other two thirds is in the neighbouring local rural area of Wooyung. The whole site was part of the original holdings of dairy farms purchased for the Ocean Shores estate.*

When Parklands was being proposed nearly a decade ago there was apprehension as to what this might mean for the quiet urban amenity of our town. Issues raised were noise, traffic, and general perceived social and environmental impacts of festivals.

This was the experience of Byron Bay in the early days of Splendour in the Grass, the Blues Fest and the Writers Festival when the events were held at Belongil Fields, the former Club Med site, the local football grounds, the markets sites and spread around the town with noise and traffic meltdown.

Another huge problem for Byron Bay was New Years Eve when tens of thousands of visitors came with subsequent out of control drug and alcohol behaviour with police and council unable to cope. In the minds of many people the answer was to close down everything and force the events to leave the shire. The Byron Shire mayor of the time told Queenslanders to stay away, they were not wanted in Byron Bay.

Shutting down the events would mean losing the economic, social and cultural benefits of the tourism generated by these events. Tourism is the main income of the entire Byron Shire. The name of Byron Bay, known around the world generates visitors. The economic structure of local businesses, employment, accommodation and service industries are slowly evolving to meet this reality. How to achieve this and create permanent economic benefit to all especially to our younger demographic who want to work and earn

income for their families' well being and not be forced to leave the area? Equally how to do this without ruining the amenity of local residents.

The answer to this came from the Splendour in the Grass management team. Repeating history they bought rural land in the north of Byron Shire and moved out of Byron Bay. They then set about the process of gaining consent for a permanent festival site. The two festivals have been running at the Parklands site for three years.

Now in 2017 Parklands is able to host two major events and some smaller community events and meet the very stringent criteria imposed by the consent authorities.

They are good neighbours and have worked with and funded community organisations with grants of thousands of dollars. The Parklands management team has consulted with the public with open days and newsletters asking for local input. By the 2017 Splendour in the Grass festival sound issues had been addressed by turning sound systems into the stages, by having a 24/7 hotline during festival time for neighbours, by sending out sound technicians to measure noise impact, by shutting down sound immediately if the measurement is above set criteria. In the 2015 Splendour festival there were 127 calls about high sound levels from the local vicinity. In 2017 there were 11, 7 on the first night coming from the north Hulls road area. Local people OSCA spoke to did not hear noise from the event.

Environmental management of the site has been exemplary. Koala corridors are linked with plantings of thousands of food trees. Conservationists are continually improving the land. If consent is given to this current Modification 4 a land swap will be finalised. 35 Ha of quality land will be added to the Billinudgel Nature Reserve in return for a degraded 7 ha segment of former highway corridor.

Waste management including recycling and composting toilets, on site water harvesting are part of the plan to make Parklands events green festivals. 19265 people camped on the site this year, significantly reducing traffic movements. There were no traffic related complaints in 2017. Local bus companies provided regular services throughout the event with all bus movements monitored throughout the three days.

The economic benefits to the shire and the Northern Rivers are significant. In 2015 with only two events, the economy of the Byron shire the Gross Value

Added was increased by \$51.7 million, increasing the Gross Regional Product for the shire by 1.23% and creating 196 equivalent full time jobs which is 1.79% of the Byron Shire workforce. The total number of jobs created in 2015 was 673 EFT. At present the specialist skills required for much of the event management have to be sourced outside the shire and region. If permanent consent is acquired with extra events to the maximum of 20 events days each year employment can increase to up to 5.4% of the employment for the entire Byron Shire.

Commissioners, the concern of OSCA and many others is that if consent for this Modification 4 is not granted, the 2017/8 Falls Festival will have to move to a site outside the shire. The festival tickets are on sale but with the statement subject to approval.

This will mean enormous economic loss for local people. Accommodation and food venues, transport companies, local jobs will be lost over the busiest time of the year, during the Christmas New Year period. Business budgets destroyed. It will also leave Byron Bay once again vulnerable to a chaotic New Year's Eve instead of the family oriented Soul Street events the Council has hosted over the past three years. The Falls Byron festival has successfully solved many social impact issues for Byron Bay in the NYE period. This has been supported by the police who saw the benefits to Byron Bay by the introduction of the Falls festival for NYE transferring it to the Parklands site where it is responsibly managed.

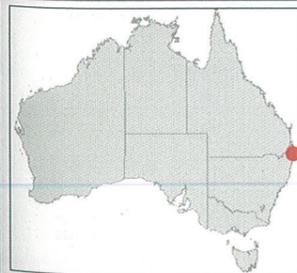
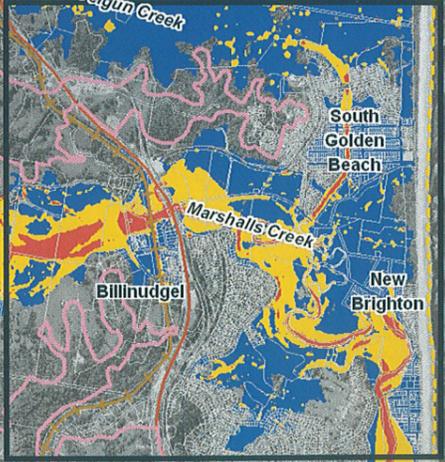
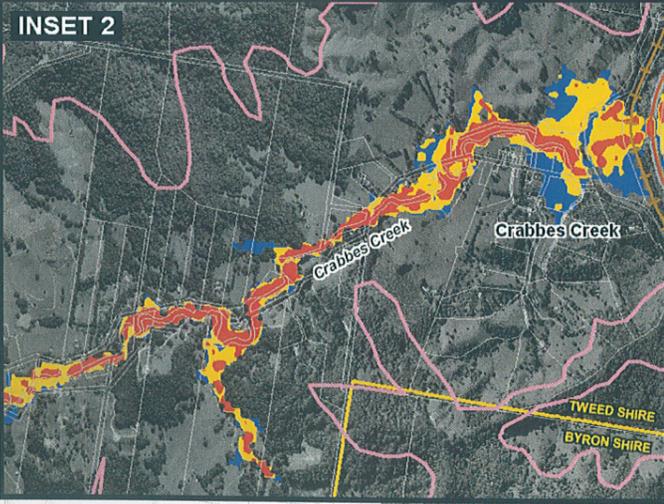
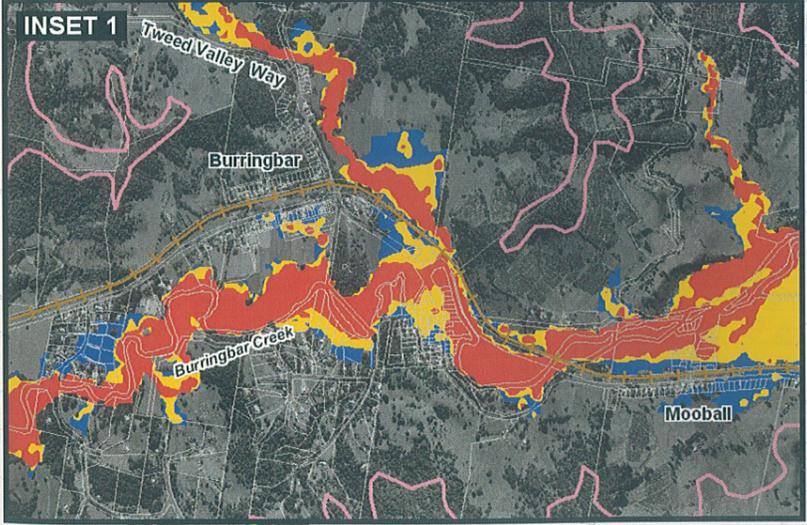
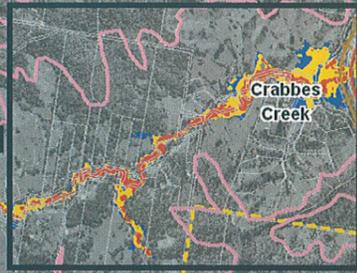
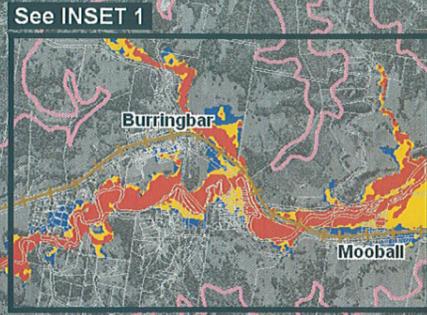
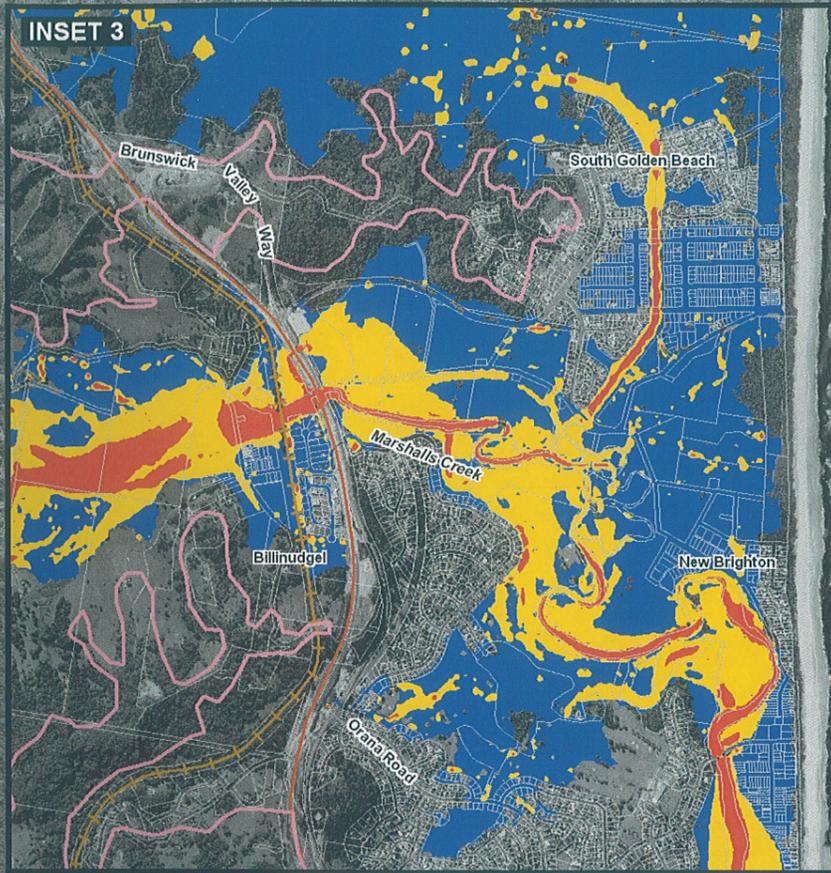
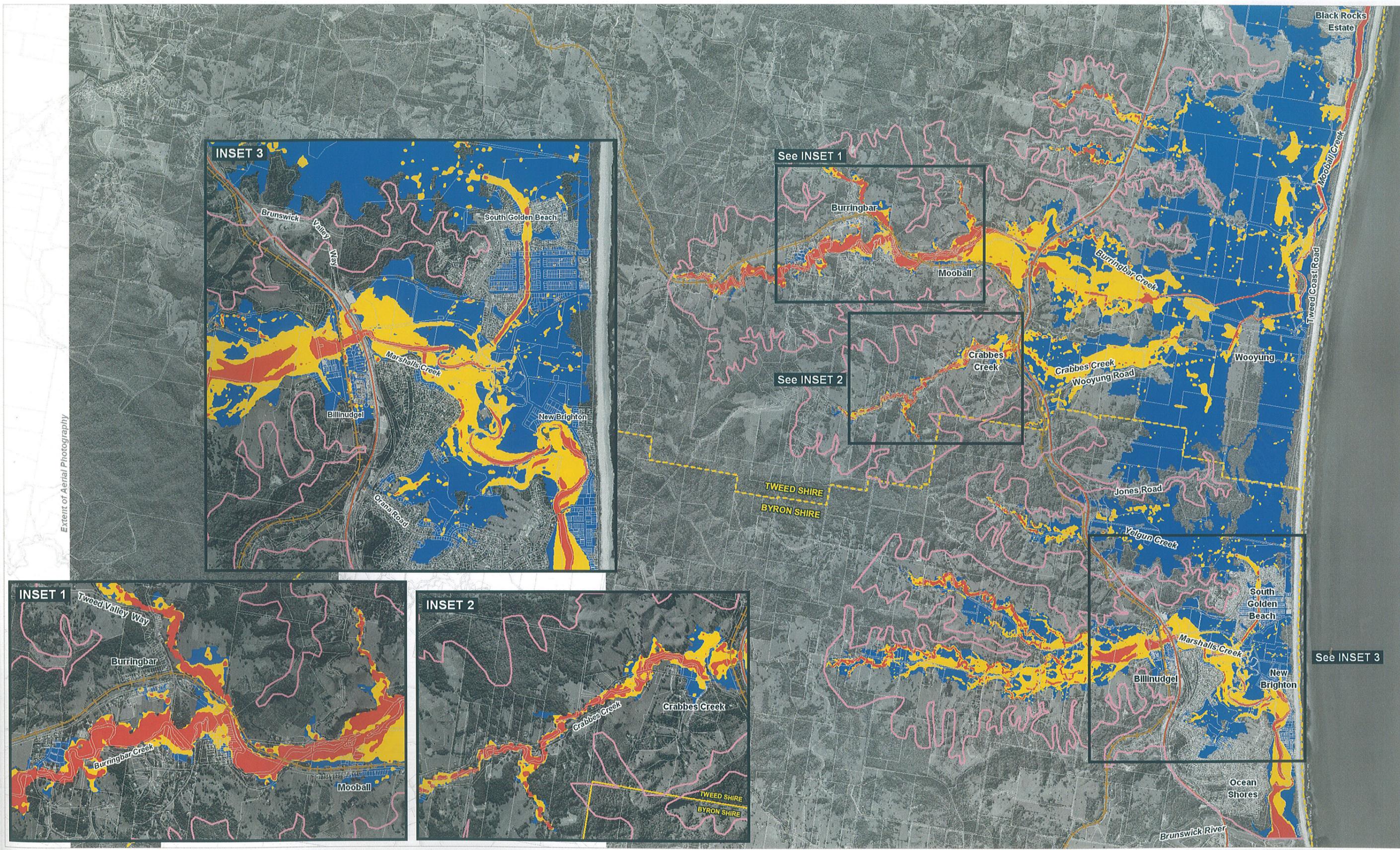
If the minority opposition groups succeed in delaying this current Modification 4 and later block the final permanent consent to the festival this will mean a return to the days of an Ocean Shores of low employment opportunities, loss of income and cultural benefit, loss of population and particularly loss of the young generations who have no future in what will again be a dormitory population dependant on welfare. Please give us the opportunity to grow with the best economic and cultural asset of the north.

Do not allow this years Falls Festival to be lost to us. Thank you.

Jan Mangleson

Ocean Shores Community Association

Extent of Aerial Photography



**LEGEND**

- Model Extent
- Pacific Highway (approximate location)
- Casino Murwillumbah Railway (approximate location)
- Tweed/Byron Shire Boundary
- Cadastral Boundaries

**Peak Flood Velocity x Depth (m<sup>2</sup>/s)**

- Low (< 0.3)
- Medium (0.3 to 1.0)
- High (> 1.0)

**Title:**  
**100 Year ARI Peak Flood Velocity x Depth Product  
 Mooball/Marshalls Creeks Catchments**

BMT WBM endeavours to ensure that the information provided in this map is correct at the time of publication. BMT WBM does not warrant, guarantee or make representations regarding the currency and accuracy of information contained in this map.

Scale - Main Map: 0, 1.5, 3km  
 Scale - Insets: 0, 0.5, 1km

Filepath: I:\B16790\_I\_BRH Tweed Byron GJRDRG\FLD\_044\_090708\_MM 100Y Flood Velocity RevB.WOR

Figure:  
**Flood Map 42**

Rev:  
**B**

www.wbmpl.com.au