

28 September 2017

From: Gabe Cramb

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To the Attention of Paul Forward, Planning Assessment Commission Chair,

My name is Gabe Cramb and I'm here to today to speak in support of North Byron Parklands.

I live in Murwillumbah with my husband and two children. My husband is a full time employee of NBP and I have a public relations business which is based in Byron Bay. I have been looking after the PR for Splendour in the Grass since 2011.

North Byron Parklands is currently home to two festivals and this conversation is also indirectly about keeping those events in this area so I'll talk a bit about the one I work on and how provides benefit to community, culture and the local economy.

The organisers of Splendour in the Grass are widely admired for the internationally renowned event they have created. Many of Splendour's organising team live locally across the Lismore, Byron and Tweed Shires.

Earlier this year when floodwaters devastated Lismore, Murwillumbah and parts of Byron Shire, Splendour raised \$70K for flood relief that was distributed across the three Shires.

Splendour has been supporting local community initiatives for many years. The festival's annual Community Grant's Program has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the local community since it started. This includes significant donations to local schools and community groups.

On a cultural level, Splendour in the Grass has become Australia's most iconic music event and it provides a unique platform for emerging Australian artists to perform alongside major international acts. Each year the festival works with triple j to provide a local act with a spot on the Splendour lineup and national coverage across the national youth radio network. It also showcases many local artists and artisans at the many destination spaces at the event.

This is a beautiful place to live, but it's not an easy place to make a living and these festivals add a huge injection to the local economy. That became very evident when Splendour moved to Queensland in 2010 and 2011.

NBP and the two events that it currently hosts contribute to the annual income of many local families including my own - from trades people to artists, caterers, site crew, bar staff, photographers, production managers, cleaners, publicists (like myself) and many others.

Many local people also generate income by renting out their properties during the festivals including some of those who have been very vocal in their opposition to NBP.

The other night I saw Byron's Mayor Simon Richardson on the local tv news, asking for people to come forward with ideas to solve Byron's affordable housing problems. He expressed concern that without affordable housing the town would become just a shell with no community. I think the same applies to jobs and the average person's ability to generate enough income to make ends meet.

While NBP and the festivals may not provide year round work, for many local businesses like my own the income that it does provide is essential to their annual turnover. The possible loss of this income is a huge concern to my family and to many other local people.

Thank you.

Gabe Cramb

