

RE: Exhibition of Modification Request
Cultural Events Site, North Byron Parklands
APPLICATION No. MP 09_0028 MOD 4

26 August 2017

I would like to make a personal submission acknowledging my objection to North Byron Parklands(NBP) submission to extend the trial period for 20 months, from December 2017

My objections to the Modification are:

NBP have known, as did the community, since 2012, that their approval would expire at the end of 2017. 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. The PAC STATED clearly that, "outdoor events following the trial period will require approval from the Council under part 4 of the EP&A Act".

Condition C1 of the existing Concept Plan approval calls for Byron Shire Council to give further approvals for festivals after the end of 2017. Parklands knew this and they are trying to change the rules to get more time to suit their new proposal of becoming a State Significant Development, with major increases in days and patrons, building up to 50,000. This number is truly unfathomable.

I had close dealings with staff from NBP over a year ago now and they sat in my house and told me the plans for NBP into the future. I was stunned! I believe that they don't want the local council to be the authority as they won't be able to get what they want.

And what about the environment?

Surely as a community this should be a priority not just now but for the future.

NBP reports that their interventions have had no impact on the environment of the site or of the adjacent Billinudgel Nature Reserve. This lacks common sense, you would not have to be an environmentalist to know the impact of thousands of people, the

waste generated by their presence, loud music, noise, would all have a cumulative effect on the environment and in this case an important and significant wildlife corridor. The long-term effects on the environment are a great concern. Just talk with some of the patrons that attend and they say it how it really is, partying hard, littering, cigarette butts, toileting in nature is a given! The compost toilets and portaloos just aren't as inviting as nearby tree!

So what happens when it rains?

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

The immediate effects of the festival on surrounding neighbours and communities has been an ongoing issue for 5 years now, including inappropriate noise from the festival, traffic, including buses day and night, illegal camping, holiday letting in residential areas, providing '24hr party houses', trash, anti-social behaviour including toileting in our yards and on our beaches.

I also wish to raise the concern of the Tweed Byron LAC (police) which has thrown serious concerns for safety at the NBP site and for the local community. The NSW Police issued an disturbing written, public report to list their concerns following Splendour 2016

Some points were highlighted and discussed at a local meeting

*local command cannot provide sufficient police for the event and the local community during festivals

*drugs and alcohol were again significant issues

*internal roads were not sufficient for emergency access and lighting is insufficient.

*grave concerns about internal traffic management and emergency evacuation, saying that during a festival the site could not be evacuated in 8 hours.

Given these issues raised by the police, surely the appropriateness of Parklands as a festival site is highly questionable under any circumstances, even for festivals at current scale.

I am sure that you are aware that The Falls Festival 2017/18 has already been advertised and selling tickets on the day of the PAC meeting! You can imagine how community feel and how bold the NBP operators are, not only to offend community but to you show disregard for your department and the process.

I am feeling that that there is a disconnect between your department, the DOP and our community here, who are impacted on by the mega festivals that seem to be already given the green light, all in the name of money for a few, including an international company, Live Nation, 'the world's leading live entertainment company" (quote from their website.)

I'm sure that Live Nation isn't preparing for this festival without some indication that it will go ahead.

As a local community resident I trusted in the process regarding the trial period, I seriously hope that the State Government does the same.

Byron Shire Community is being squeezed to death as we already have 1.5 million visitors a year not counting festivals, we are a shire of only 32,000 and the impact of these Mega Festivals shows little regard for the needs of community, except to hand out a few donations to sweeten their blow in changing the face of strong communities, that existed in harmony before this project began.

I am hoping that the PAC will support the concerns of community to take a stand and say NO!

Time is Up!

Yours Sincerely

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