

Submission to the Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC) at Ocean Shores School, 2nd February 2012, on the proposed Yelgun Cultural Events Site Concept Plan Approval for Major Project (MP 09_0028) pursuant to Section 750(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Michelle Begg

My name is Michelle Begg, I live in Ocean Shores with my husband & two teenage children. We have lived here for almost twelve years and have attended The Blues Festival, our daughter has been to Splendour in the Grass. We own a small business in Brunswick Heads that benefits indirectly from local events & festivals, we don't advertise, preferring to raise our business profile in the community through sponsorship & volunteering.

So you would imagine I would be in favour of the proposed Events site at Yelgun, I'm not.

I have two main objections to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's response & recommendations to the proposal.

Firstly I have found little attention to the local community's amenity during larger events. A great deal of attention is paid to the Yelgun interchange & whether it will cope with the volume of traffic predicted. On page 49, the SMEC review advised that an event of 30,000 patrons will have significant impacts on the local road network and recommended distributing traffic over 3 interchanges, forcing northbound traffic to either exit the freeway at the Brunswick River or Billinudgel off ramps resulting in considerable local road congestion.

This is not acceptable.

What of the southbound traffic, one of the measures the proponent put forward (on page 51) is to man the off ramps at Yelgun and if necessary close the ramps with signs "Ramp closed proceed to next exit" so as to avoid traffic queuing on the freeway, so will they send southbound patrons south to the Brunswick Heads exit & force

traffic to head north along through Bruns to the Brunswick Valley Way? The proposed site is not the right one.

Car parking will affect local amenity and I don't mean close to the site, there is little in the report to explain how illegal camping throughout the north of the shire will be controlled, on page 53 one of the measures the proponent proposes to prevent illegal parking is "roving parking patrols", I hope they have an army of event staff to keep an eye on the beaches from Fern Beach to New Brighton & beyond. Does the commission realise that there are only two public toilets by the beach in the Greater Ocean Shores area? The north of the Shire does not have the infrastructure to cope.

My second & main concern is for the Yelgun environment, as the report states on page 53 "the site is located in an area considered to be of significant ecological value", the Marshalls Ridge wildlife corridor is an essential part of the greater corridor from the Mt Warning caldera to the sea. The site should not be approved, the Ecological Assessment says (page 54) construction & upgrading of the site & the carrying out of events may potentially impact on threatened flora & fauna, why risk an impact if the site is so sensitive? Once the damage is done, it can't be undone, so do you and the proponent simply say "sorry we got it wrong"? Noise & lighting can never be sympathetic to wildlife, not matter how good the best practice noise mitigation is, tell that to a nocturnal possum.

In conclusion, I'd like to reiterate my objections to approval of the events site

A) the lack of attention to local amenity (not even mentioned in the report's conclusion on page 70), are local residents unimportant to the Department?

And B) the damage to the local environment, simply by occupying the site, the proponent is disturbing endangered & vulnerable flora & fauna.

Yelgun is not the right place for festivals, especially mega festivals.

Please don't recommend approval.

Thank you.