



New Brighton Village Association Submission

Robert Crossley President.

- ▶ Our submission will cover 2 aspects that we are most connected, as I believe that most of the others will be dealt with in detail by others. We share the environmental issues covered by others. In our village, the local soccer club has lighting restrictions to prevent impacts on turtle nesting – Will the festivals also be required to turn its floodlights off at 7.30 PM?

I want to discuss:

- ▶ Acid sulphate soils – due to my personal background
- ▶ Community issues - New Brighton Village Association

Acid sulphate Soils

- ▶ ASS Management Plans are written by well-meaning consultants and often qualified people (I was one)
- ▶ Once approvals are given, the execution of the plan is given over to construction engineers, who rarely “own” the plan
- ▶ Things just don’t go according to the plan when trying to do earthworks in wet field conditions, and you have budget constraints
- ▶ Most acid releases from development projects are into estuarine environments – acid buffered by sea water and the issue are minor
- ▶ Drainage from this site goes into closed, freshwater swamp with a high value ecosystem

Community Issues

Context

- ▶ Presentation will focus on our community issues not adequately addressed in project approval document (Part C)
- ▶ Numbers involved in this proposal are larger than the existing population of the whole shire
- ▶ Tourists load public facilities more per head than residents as they do more stuff
- ▶ Surrounding communities are an attractive tourist destination, but are not geared for high visitor numbers – we are missed as tourists drive past us to go to Byron
- ▶ We believe that there were inadequate account for flow-on impacts such as what that number of people will do outside of the venue in the approval process – as evidenced by the lack of KPI’s on impacts on surrounding communities and services

Beach Access

- ▶ Campers and visitors will want to go to the beach – different to Woodford – lets be honest - who would want to go to downtown woodford. I know the town well, its nice, but I wouldn't be motivated to leave my campsite to visit it.
- ▶ The closest beaches to the venue are unpatrolled and are dangerous surf beaches
- ▶ Parking is almost non-existent and already full on weekends
- ▶ Dune vegetation cannot withstand high visitor numbers, camping, beach fires
- ▶ We're protective of our dunes as the Council seem to be champing at the bit to demolish our homes if the beach erosion escarpment comes within 20m of our houses
- ▶ No KPI on beach safety or beach impacts

Holiday Letting

- ▶ Holiday letting in residential areas is a known issue – eg. Byron, Gold Coast
- ▶ Issues worst during schoolies – similar demographic to Splendour
- ▶ New Brighton and SGB have traditionally had holiday letting – we are obvious targets for festival goers
- ▶ Traditional tenants are families – little impact on residents – co-existed reasonably amicably
- ▶ Festivals of this magnitude will increase amount of letting and change the demographics of the tenants
- ▶ No KPI on complaints on issues with holiday letting during festival periods

Street and beach camping

- ▶ Known issue in the shire
- ▶ Will move this issue to our communities
- ▶ No KPI

Venues

- ▶ Holiday letting and the lure of the beaches will mean that large number of festival goers will be attracted to our communities – and looking to party
- ▶ Our local communities not geared towards tourism – the only venue capable of holding this number of people is in the local school- If this festival in to be held in the shire, it should be near Byron which has infrastructure more capable of handling numbers of tourists

Traffic

- ▶ Traffic report recognises freeway incapable of handling peak traffic times
- ▶ At these times, traffic diverted through Brunswick
- ▶ The access to our villages will be compromised, and the traffic in Brunswick chaotic
- ▶ Emergency services will be delayed as a result of the traffic
- ▶ What happens for ambulance, fire, police or rescue services – No KPI

Community services

- ▶ Emergency and medical services not just needed at the Venue
- ▶ Noted a substantial increase in police required and will be brought in
- ▶ What about other services such as hospitals, ambulance, accident response, surf rescue
- ▶ In the past, no additional staff were engaged for Byron hospital during previous events – staff inadequate to handle load – Government must either pay for the demand or the community suffers from inadequacy of service
- ▶ Could be a major issue for residents if services needed – could be life-threatening

Simple Logic

- ▶ The event got too big for Byron Bay which is geared for tourism
- ▶ How can our communities which are not tourism focussed cope with the impacts
- ▶ Impacts worse than Woodford as environment will encourage people to leave venue (not much to do in Woodford)
- ▶ Events of this magnitude should be at venues accessible by mass-transit networks, or at least close to communities that are geared to handle the numbers.