

9 January, 2019

To: IPC Commissioners re North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site Project SSD 8129 and MP 09 0028

I am writing in support of the permanent approval of North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site Project SSD 8129 and MP 09 0028.

My recommendation for the proposal is as a long-time resident of the Northern Rivers from a family with a deep connection with Byron Bay (50+ years) and as an employee of Falls Music and Arts Festival as local publicist for 6 years since the first Falls Festival at North Byron Parklands. I also work for local events and organisations including Mullum Music Festival, Byron Writers Festival and NORPA (Northern Rivers Performing Arts). I am dedicated to the arts and culture of my community.

The festivals at North Byron Parklands positively contribute to the region economically and culturally - they provide significant and ongoing employment opportunities for Northern Rivers residents in a regional area where it is hard to find work, they contribute funds and support to local community organisations, they provide invaluable skills development across a range of areas for young people in the region and they provide a dedicated platform for local musicians and performers enabling them to showcase their work to a national audience. Performing at Splendour or Falls Festivals provides an invaluable stepping stone in the Australian music industry for emerging, regionally based musicians.

I have first-hand experience and knowledge of how much planning, expertise, expense and care goes into staging festivals at North Byron Parklands and the meticulous management and responsiveness to issues across the board. Safety and patron care are always paramount. The communication and professionalism implemented through every level of the event is exemplary. The impact on the local community is taken very seriously, every issue is addressed with respect and a genuine desire to find a solution. I have also seen first-hand how much work and love the management of North Byron Parklands has put in to regenerating the site, the changes have been phenomenal.

Permanency will enable the management of North Byron Parklands to work further towards realising their vision of creating a world-class model of sustainable events that can be enjoyed by generations to come.

North Byron Parklands and the events held there are an integral and positive part of our regional community - from the owners and directors, to the staff, volunteers, stall holders, local businesses and event patrons (many of whom are our children!) who share joyous lifelong memories together with their friends at these events.

Kind regards,
Clare McGregor