

Dear IPC Commissioners,

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

I have been engaged by North Byron Parklands as an independent auditor to monitor the compliance of events held at the site with the conditions of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment since July 2013. In that time, I have audited Splendour in the Grass and Falls Festival Byron Bay six times each against around 250 separate conditions (per event). The role involves closely reviewing every management plan, notification, approval and map, interviewing key stakeholders and visiting the site to perform spot audits and take photographs.

From the first event hosted at North Byron Parklands (Splendour in the Grass 2013) until now, the audit results have shown continuous improvements in compliance. In recent years, improvements have become systematised and are now well practised and consistent across all events. Having gone through each condition for each event in detail, I can say with confidence that area managers and upper management have made great commitments to ensure the events operate within the required boundaries.

I consider it uncommon to find non-compliances in my audits of Splendour in the Grass and Falls Festival Byron Bay now. On the rare occasion that non-compliances are noted, they are generally superficial and do not reflect any non-compliances with the objectives of the conditions.

Particular attention has been paid to the management of traffic and noise, and subsequent impacts on the neighbouring residents. Whilst there have been moments through the years where things have not gone as planned, I have been particularly impressed with the ability of the event managers to swiftly respond and turn things around within a very short timeframe. This is most evident in the noise controls and acoustic monitoring systems that are in place for each event. I have shared an office during several events with the engineers engaged on acoustic monitoring as well as the community hotline staff. I have witnessed the collaboration between these two teams, as well as the stage managers and event manager, to ensure that noise remains within the agreed limits.

It is clear that there is commitment at all levels of management to ensure the events provide the best possible experience for the patrons, with any negative impacts on the local community kept to an absolute minimum.

Personally, the opportunity provided to me by North Byron Parklands as an event site has been crucial to my career development. I first did work experience with Splendour in the Grass in my second year of university, working on a recycling program. When hired for my current job the experience provided to me by North Byron Parklands and the events held there were specifically mentioned as important to my employer.

Over the past six years I have seen other young people and university students in a similar situation, coming through to seek experience in events, planning or other fields, and a

number of young volunteers obtaining work experience. The phrase “providing opportunities” is often paraded around, but I can hold my hand up as someone who received an opportunity from this site and these events, and it has been priceless.

I reiterate, as an independent auditor who has monitored the compliance of twelve events held at North Byron Parklands with the operating conditions established by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, I wholeheartedly support the permanent approval of North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site Project SSD 8129 and MP 09 0028 MOD.

Kind Regards,
Hannah Snape