

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** North Byron Parklands - Proposed Expansion  
**Date:** Monday, 7 January 2019 9:09:35 PM

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Dear Panel

I object to any further expansion of the North Byron Parklands events. The potential for disruption to residents and damage to the environment is not worth the so-called economic benefits. The major festivals are majority owned by Live Nation, a US company that is under investigation by the Dept of Justice for serious violation of anti-trust laws.

The current approval allows 10 event days for large, medium, and small music events and 10 days for non-music "minor community events" of up to 1,500 people.

The proposed usage has increased substantially and is now:

5 days for Splendour (35,000-50,000) instead of the usual 3 days

5 days for Falls (35,000) instead of the usual three days

3 days for other events up to 25,000 (could be three one-day events)

2 days for other events up to 5,000 (could be two one-day events)

2 days for non-music focused minor community events

This is a massive increase in use and flies in the face of the 2016 approved modification that was supposedly to allow for more "minor community events". Those 10 additional "minor community event" days have morphed into 8 additional big-festival days and only 2 "minor community event" days

If the application to make this a State Significant Development is approved, the Council will lose control of the site and it will have enormous detrimental impact on the local area and the residents of South Golden Beach in particular. The Department of Planning will have charge of the site/venue and this Department has already allowed numerous breaches within the 5 year trial period. This does not instill confidence in future management. Add to that an increase in the number of festival days per year as well as increase the number of attendees to 50,000 for a single event and the impact on the local community will be severe.

As a resident of the small village of South Golden Beach, some of the major concerns regarding the festivals are:

#### **Traffic -**

There is a vast increase in the number of vehicles in our small village. The visitors are not considerate of the volume of pedestrian traffic, pushbikes, dog walkers, children etc making their way to the beach and skate park via the local roads. They have no concept of driving cautiously or courteously and create a huge hazard to the locals. I doubt these drivers are even aware of the problems they cause.

The festival organisers have regular buses to shuttle a number of the 32,000 attendees through our village and neighbouring suburbs. This means we have increased heavy traffic rattling past our houses every half hour until 2.00am which impacts on our sleep and quiet enjoyment of the area. As many of Byron Shire's roads are already in a very poor condition, the deterioration in road surfaces after such events are quite dramatic. The buses need not come through South Golden Beach and could simply have pick up

points at Shara Boulevard and Kolora Way where there are car park facilities.

### **Camping -**

As a result of such regular bus services through our village, many of the attendees leave their vehicles at the beach reserve and return to them in the small hours of the morning. As there is no camping allowed in this area and no facilities for same - apart from one small toilet block and outdoor shower for beach goers - camping in the dunes or on the beach is the accommodation of choice. As you would imagine this results in damage to the dunes, ranging from thoughtless souls breaking branches from the trees for a beach fire (of which there are several each night and the green foliage being burned wafts into the surrounding homes), using the dunes as toilet facilities in the most open and basic of ways which is quite disgusting as the evidence is easily seen when accessing the beach. Also, it's not uncommon to find bodies passed out along the beach with alcohol bottles strewn about them. Obviously the morning sunshine - and I'm not referring to sunrise rather 10.00 am - does not cause the comatose bodies to stir.

I understand Byron Council has 8 rangers to cover the entire Shire attending to animal issues, parking and all other necessary services, so keeping control over illegal camping is virtually impossible.

### **Anti Social Behaviour -**

Being mostly a younger demograph, it appears many of the festival goers indulge in "loading" prior to attending the festivals. There are often large groups (15 - 30) waiting at the designated bus stops drinking beer and pre-mixed spirits which can be identified from the empty bottles littering the footpath and gardens once the bus has collected them. These young people are in high spirits in anticipation of a fun night out but unfortunately their behaviour becomes raucous and at times aggressive. There have been several incidents where large groups have gathered on the deck of the South Golden Beach Community Hall with eskys, music, chairs etc to have an impromptu party. As it grew and the participants became more intoxicated they were asked to leave, such request being met with abuse and total disregard. The festival security was called but appear to be toothless tigers and the attendees know this. They could not move the crowd along. The police are totally overwhelmed at these times. Our usual wait time for police to attend our end of the shire is approximately 30 - 45 minutes. During festival time they have stated that they do not have enough personnel to attend policing at the festival and the local area. Where does that leave the residents?

### **Telecommunications -**

The issues with mobile phones and internet services in our region are well known to the locals. It is sketchy at the best of times. During the influx of festival patrons who are constantly on their mobile devices, we the locals, lose our services. I have on several occasions during festival times received a message on my mobile phone that all lines were busy, and during the festivals the internet was so slow as to be unusable. This is not only inconvenient but quite concerning when many residents no longer have land lines. Should an emergency arise there are no communication services available.

## **Noise -**

I do not understand the need to have the volume of these festivals at such levels. We live several kilometers away with nature reserves between and can at times clearly hear the music. In an attempt to reduce the noise we have closed the doors and windows on the north side of our house but as the buses are rattling past the southern side we either end up in an overheated house or having to deal with the noise.

It is appropriate to point out at this time that there is a "noise limit" to which the festival must adhere. However I don't believe this level is appropriate in an area that is almost completely quiet after about 8.00 pm. Usually there is no traffic, there are no factories, in fact no background noise other than the ocean waves and therefore a level of noise that has been decided by some authority in the city is not appropriate to our area.

Apart from the festival music, we have to deal with the increased traffic noise and crazy driving, the buses constantly thundering past and making the house shake due to the potholed roads and drunken patrons boarding and alighting the buses at all hours and having no consideration for the residents.

All these issues occur now when the maximum attendance at the festival is 32,000 (as in tickets sold, that does not include staff etc) the impact of 50,000 attendees or more would be catastrophic to our village. South Golden Beach only has approximately 1,500 residents and one shop - we just simply cannot cope with the influx.

These events do not employ people on a full-time basis or provide benefits to our community (although North Byron Parklands argue this point) rather they destroy our pristine beaches, over-tax the local infrastructure and disturb the surrounding wildlife and greatly impact the local residents.

In choosing to live in South Golden Beach we have sacrificed many services and facilities - very minimal public transport, low wages, restrictions in employment availability, less hospital and shopping services, and many other services available in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane and we must drive distances to access the few services available to us. However, we happily accepted these impositions in order to enjoy a quiet, peaceful, respectful and happy life in the north of Byron Shire.

Should the abovementioned proposal be approved we shall end up in an overwhelmed party town that is regularly swamped with those wishing to "party hard" and yet we have no increase in police presence to contend with same nor any funding for damage to our village facilities, roads etc.

When faced with thousands of festival goers, I don't hold much hope of my opinion and experience being of any great influence. However, these large festivals have a great negative impact on my life and for the reasons stated above I find it distressing that my life is being regularly impacted by a corporation that appears to continually "want more" at any cost and the impact on residents is to it simply inconsequential.

I attended the community meeting at the Ocean Shores Community Centre and listened to the numerous speakers addressing the panel. I have no issues with the horse riding clubs

and local sporting clubs or schools having events on this site. The problems arise from the sheer numbers involved in the festivals and associated noise and other issues which arise therefrom.

Yours faithfully,

Robyn Quinn



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