

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: RE: SSD 8169, North Byron Parklands Event Site - submission
Date: Sunday, 9 December 2018 7:30:16 PM

Please accept the following as concerns many residents.

Subject heading: **SSD 8169, North Byron Parklands Events Site**

Deadline: **4PM Monday, 17 December**

SUBMISSION

To: The Independent Planning Commission

Fr: Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc

RE: SSD 8169, North Byron Parklands Event Site

The Northern Rivers Guardians is a community organisation of with more than 600 members who are dedicated to environmental protection, sustainable development, and achieving local control over local development. We make this submission because of our concern for the proposed permanent approval of North Byron Parklands as an outdoor music event site.

- Parklands is immediately adjacent to the Jones Road Wildlife Corridor and Billinudgel Nature Reserve, where koalas have been active for many years, now in declining numbers. Parklands has claimed they've never seen any koalas on their property. But a number of koala sightings occurred within the boundaries of Parklands in 2016. Some sightings were in the area where the developers want to construct a year-round conference centre, overnight accommodations for 120 people, a public bar, and vehicle parking. We object strenuously to this aspect of the proposal. The koala population from the Brunswick River to the Tweed River is so severely threatened at this point as to be in danger of extinction. The proposed year-round development (conference centre, etc.) would pose an extreme risk to the remaining koalas.
- The currently allowed maximum of 10 festival days at Parklands with 35,000 daily attendees is already putting significant pressures on the environment. Each festival means more bits of plastic are discarded and ground into the soil or swept into the drains and a greater amount of carbon emissions with all the cars, busses, trucks, and other vehicles associated with massive festivals. An increase to 20 event days a year and 50,000 attendees daily should not be approved. If any change is contemplated it should be a reduction, the maximum number of event days should remain at 10, and daily attendance should be restricted below 25,000.

- The site adjoins Coastal Wetlands, the Billinudgel Nature Reserve, and other areas of high value vegetation but does not have a reticulated water or sewer system. The plans are to dispose of massive amounts of human waste by burying and spraying it on the site. The independent experts who reviewed the plans for the Department of Planning (GHD) have significant concerns about those plans, noting numerous significant and extreme risks to public health and safety and the environment. GHD recommended a number of consent conditions if an approval were to be given, but the Department included only some of them in their own recommended consent conditions. The GHD reviews raise considerable alarm. Considering only their concerns, the IPC should not give permanent approval to this development and should not allow the developers to increase the scale of events beyond the current approval. Q. Who will be held liable should an outbreak of disease result from such irresponsible waste disposal? (we will NOT say " waste management.")
- We also hold grave concerns for the 50+ threatened and endangered species on the site and in the Nature Reserve. Experienced ecologists have enumerated serious faults with the ecological monitoring that Parklands has done so far, noting that it has been poorly designed and implemented, so much so that meaningful conclusions cannot be drawn about the impacts of the massive festivals on the environment. Parklands claims that no ecological impacts have occurred, but the evidence does not support that optimistic conclusion. We suspect self-serving falsification. The truth is that proper monitoring has simply not been done. If this proposal is approved, consent conditions should require a much-improved monitoring program to determine the ecological impacts of the development. And that monitoring system should be *independent*—that is, not under the control of Parklands as it has been during the five-year trial. It is an old adage, but true , that "He who pays the piper calls the tune."
- The developers want to put in a new gate that will allow festival-goers to enter and leave from Wooyung Road in Tweed Shire. This will greatly increase the traffic along the coast road through Pottsville and Wooyung and will almost surely result in significantly increased traffic in the south of Tweed Shire during festivals. As a great number of our members live in the Tweed Shire, we object to this loss of neighbourhood amenity.

Many people have moved to this corner of NSW to enjoy a peaceful life with abundant nature: does this hedonistic festival care for their lifestyle or the damage done to sensitive natural ecosystems? Is there to be no consideration for moderation? How would you like this next to your home?

For all these reasons, we object to granting permanent approval for Parklands to operate outdoor music festivals as proposed by SSD 8169. If any further approval is given, it should be only an approved Concept Plan for festivals on a smaller scale than are currently allowed. The Concept Plan should indicate that further Project Approvals must be sought from Byron and Tweed Councils on an annual basis. We are firmly against the state imposing this development, as a permanent development, on this local area. Local authorities should control the developments in their local areas, and this one should most certainly be conditional on annual approvals from the two councils most affected. Only then can the effects of massive festivals be held to account.

I hope for your most sensible consideration.

for a sustainable future,

Scott Sledge

President

* * * * *