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TO: IPC COMMISSIONERS

North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site Project SSD 8129 and MP 09 0028

From: Vivien Fantin

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My name is Viv Fantin and I am writing in support of the permanent approval of North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site Project SSD 8129 and MP 09 0028

For transparency, I have been the media manager of North Byron Parklands since 2015 and prior to that have closely observed the project from day one. I recall visiting the property just after it was purchased from the previous owner. Its former use was a cattle farm and it was environmentally, heavily degraded. The (ongoing) bush regeneration work that has taken place over the years at Parklands has completely transformed the property.

I have been in attendance on site at Parkland for the largest events (Splendour in the Grass) and also the smallest (a community horse endurance event) and have watched the joy that both ends of the spectrum have brought to the people involved.

I have watched primary and high school children from the region run on real hills in a beautiful, natural circuit in the annual zone cross country event.

As recently as last night, I spent the evening at Parklands, this time for the annual Falls Festival which was an incredibly successful and well-managed event that yielded a total of 3 complaints to the community hotline. There has been a continuous campaign of trying to discredit the community hotline but I speak from personal experience when I state that that hotline is a) real, b) it works and c) all calls are managed professionally, to the extent that noise complaints are managed in real time with an offer of audio monitoring. I have never worked on any festival events prior to this that had a community hotline, let alone had event managers that were responsive to community issues in real time.

I have also visited the property many, many times when it is completely dormant, which it currently is for 348 days of the year. If the IPC grant permanent approval based on the DP&E recommended event days, **the property would still remain dormant for 336 days of the year**. This is a fact that is often lost in the public debate and I believe it calls for some sensible perspective as to the sporadic use of the site.

As a parent of two creative children, I support and welcome the cultural diversity that events such as The Falls Music & Arts Festival and Splendour in the Grass bring to the region. These events offer young people exposure to world-class music and visual artists who may never otherwise visit our part of the world. Although it's difficult to quantify, the social benefits are profound for young people in the region.

For local people, especially those wishing to pursue careers in the music and events industry or follow the contemporary arts, these world class events are a gift. With limited industry options for youth being available in Byron Shire, these festivals offer tremendous employment, work experience and industry opportunities. When I was starting in the music industry some 28 years ago, I could only have dreamed of these kinds of opportunities.

I have worked in the Australian music industry for more than 25 years, mostly across large music festival events. I have certainly never worked on events as regulated as those held at North Byron Parklands. The event operators are responsive and professional and are regarded as industry leaders due to their rigorous planning, diligence and experience.

I've watched with interest as the community sentiment towards the project has shifted from objection and suspicion to a position of broad support. While I accept that there is some opposition to the project (and that with all projects there is always scope for continuous improvement), I believe that there is now wider community acceptance and support for North Byron Parklands. I believe there are more positive outcomes and benefits that far outweigh the negatives.

I support the DP&E assessment and its conclusion that the proposal is in the public interest and the applications are approvable, subject to conditions.

Yours sincerely,
Viv Fantin