

North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site

Social Impact Assessment

December 2017

Prepared for:



North Byron Parklands
126 Tweed Valley Way
Yelgun NSW 2483

Prepared by:

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SARAH GEORGE CONSULTING

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sarah George Consulting has been engaged by North Byron Parklands (“Parklands”) to assess the social impact potential of its application to permanently hold cultural events on its site located at 126 Tweed Valley Way, Yelgun.

Events have been held at the site under a five-year trial approval, which permitted use of the site for up to 10 event days with a maximum of 35,000 patrons. Events to date have included two four-day music and arts festivals—one held in July and one held across December/January—for up to 32,500 patrons. Since a modification to host small community events was granted in 2016, two primary school cross-country events have also been held at the site.

Under the trial approval, concept approval was also granted for construction of a cultural centre and conference centre with associated accommodation.

In April 2017, an application for a modification to the trial (“Mod 4”) was submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (“DP&E”). Mod4 sought to extend the trial period for an additional 20 months. After a lengthy review process, the NSW Planning and Assessment Commission granted an extension to Parklands’ trial in September 2017.

The present application seeks approval to use Parklands as a Recreation Facility (Major) for a total of 20 days per year, with patron capacity as follows:

- Two events per year, being the existing Splendour in the Grass (“SITG”) and Falls Festival Byron (“FFB”) catering for up to 35,000 patrons over a maximum of five days each);
- Three event days catering for up to 25,000 patrons, either cumulative or separate;

- Five community event days catering for up to 5,000 patrons, cumulative or separate; and
- Two not-for-profit/educational community event days catering for up to 1,500 patrons.

Consent is also being sought to allow for the progressive growth of SITG from 35,000 patrons to 42,500 and then 50,000, but only upon achievement of rigorous traffic-related Key Performance Indicators (“KPIs”).

In support of the application, approval is also sought for the following:

- On-going use of existing facilities;
- Temporary camping associated with outdoor events;
- Continuing environmental repair work; and
- Additional facilities, being:
Construction of:
 - conference facility for 180 people with accommodation for 120 guests;
 - administration building and golden view bar;
 - event area infrastructure upgrades; and
 - on-site and off-site road infrastructure.

The proposed additional facilities will be implemented as staged works to complement the orderly and economic implementation of the development.

The potential social impacts of the present application have been identified based on information gathered throughout the trial period—including feedback from the local and broader community about the nine events run during the trial consent to date.

In addition to community feedback, extensive consultation has been undertaken throughout the trial period with regulatory authorities, special interest groups in

the area and the local community in preparation for the subject application. Consultation initiatives have included: distribution of 3,500 letters to the local area (north and south of the venue); advertisements in local newspapers, with a combined distribution of 77,000 papers per week in the Tweed and Byron Shires; and community meetings and information sessions held onsite. In addition, community members were given the opportunity to provide feedback directly to Sarah George Consulting.

After consideration of community feedback, Parklands revised its application for permanency to reduce the number of event days and patrons initially proposed.

The majority of issues raised by the local community relate to noise, environmental concerns, traffic and parking, rather than issues typically addressed in social impact terms. The social impact issues raised generally relate to anti-social behaviour, economic impacts, safety and interruptions to lifestyles during events.

The potentially negative impacts of the proposed development are short-term in nature. These are generally confined to a maximum of 13 days/nights per year when larger events are held onsite. Such impacts are offset by the significant positive impacts generated by the proposal, including employment creation, increased income through tourism to the area and the positive cultural benefits to patrons attending events.

The trial period has provided an opportunity for potentially negative impacts to be identified and minimised through mitigation and management measures. It is anticipated that if the present application is approved, additional investment in the site can be made to further ameliorate and mitigate these impacts through the provision of permanent infrastructure.

The Social Impact Assessment ("SIA") concludes that while there are some amenity impacts generated by events at the site, these are temporary in nature.

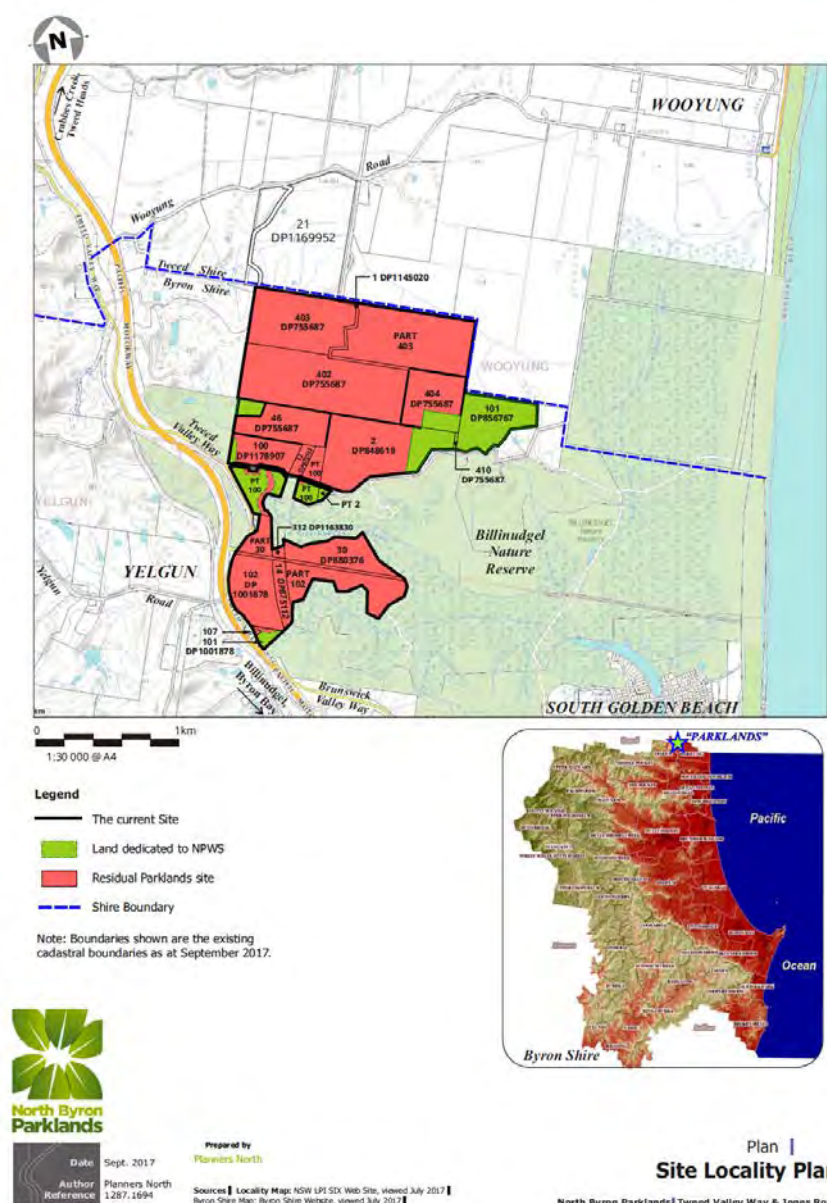
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Under the present application, such impacts will be confined to 13 days/nights when larger events are held onsite. Further, Parklands has developed effective mitigation and management measures to minimise these impacts. The potentially negative impacts are also offset by the significant positive impacts generated by the establishment of a cultural and events site. The positive benefits generated by the application for permanency will only be realised if the application is approved.

1 INTRODUCTION

Sarah George Consulting has been engaged by North Byron Parklands to prepare a SIA to address the potential social impact of the proposed permanent event licence to hold events at North Byron Parklands, 126 Tweed Valley Way, Yelgun (“the site”) as shown in Map 1.

Map 1: North Byron Parklands locality plan



North Byron Parklands (“Parklands”) has been operating events on the site pursuant to a five-year trial approval granted by the NSW Planning and Assessment Commission (“PAC”) in April 2012. In September 2017, a modification to extend the trial was granted. As such, Parklands’ trial period is now due to expire in August 2019.

Under the trial approval, up to 20 event days are permitted per year and the following events have been held annually at the site:

- Splendour in the Grass (“SITG”) that runs annually in July over four event days and draws up to 32,500 patrons, including those who camp on the site; and
- Falls Festival Byron (“FFB”) that runs annually over four event days encompassing the New Year period and draws up to 25,000 patrons, including those who camp on the site.

The larger music events have increased incrementally by 2,500 patrons each year. NSW DP&E has approved such increases subject to the meeting a range of key performance indicators (“KPIs”).

In 2016, Parklands was granted approval to host smaller, non-music focused events.

Currently under the trial, there are up to 12 permitted event days that are not being used.

The proposal constitutes a state significant development (“SSD”). As part of preparing the application, DP&E issued Secretary’s environmental assessment requirements (“SEARs”). The SEARs noted that the application must address a variety of social impact issues. As such, the application must:

- summarise how the trial events were experienced within the locality based on consultation and data obtained from all trial events to date;
- identify and predict impacts of the development and the relative significance of such impacts, namely duration, extent, sensitivity and level of concern;
- profile the surrounding community, including identification of key stakeholders, community members and groups. Such profile is to include details of the community's perception of the development, encompassing both tangible and intangible plus positive and negative perceptions;
- detail genuine engagement undertaken with key stakeholders, community members and groups and how this input informed the development;
- outline methods (being procedures and mechanisms) for on-going genuine engagement with identified key stakeholders, community members and groups and describe how this input will inform on-going operation;
- specify opportunities for community involvement with the development, including potential employment, input into decision-making or simply as visitors through an alternate pricing structure; and
- detail adaptive management strategies that may be implemented to address any social issues that may arise, either anticipated or unanticipated.

Community consultation, undertaken as part of the present application, revealed concern regarding the potential impacts of increasing the maximum number of patrons on the site to 50,000. Parklands has amended the proposal in response to this concern and consent is now sought for use of the site for a total of 20 days per year as a Recreation Facility (Major), with patron capacity and events as follows:

- two large events per year, being the existing SITG and FFB, catering for up to 35,000 patrons over five days each;
- three medium event days catering for up to 25,000 patrons, either cumulative or separate;

- five small community event days catering for up to 5,000 patrons, either cumulative or separate; and
- two minor not-for-profit/educational community event days catering for up to 1,500 patrons.

Consent is also sought to allow for the orderly growth of SITG from 35,000 to 42,500 and then 50,000 patrons, but only upon achievement of rigorous traffic-related KPIs.

In support of the application, approval is also sought for the following:

- On-going use of existing facilities;
- Temporary camping associated with outdoor events;
- Continuing environmental repair work; and
- Additional facilities, being:
Construction of:
 - conference facility for 180 people with accommodation for 120 guests;
 - administration building and golden view bar;
 - event area infrastructure upgrades; and
 - on-site and off-site road infrastructure.

The proposal is described in detail in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed development.

The proposed additional facilities will be delivered as staged works to complement the orderly and economic implementation of the development.

Social impacts refer to the social or community consequences of a proposed development. SIA typically include the processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the social consequences of developments, encompassing positive and negative plus intended and unintended consequences. SIA also include any social change processes generated by developments.

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To inform a SIA, consideration is made of the existing socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the area in which a proposed development is situated. Likely changes to that population brought about by the proposed development are identified, whether these impacts are short- or long-term. It is also considered whether a development is likely to generate any unreasonable impacts within the local community when balanced against the potentially positive social impacts generated.

The SIA is one in a suite of reports that will form the application submitted to the DP&E. The SIA assesses the social impacts of the proposed application. It also considers benefit enhancement measures alongside existing and proposed mitigation measures. The SIA does not address in detail all of the impacts, such as those that are better traversed in other reports like the EIS, acoustic impact assessment and traffic impact assessment.

This SIA considers the history of events on the site together with the community's experience of those events, the proposed development and the site context. The SIA also details the comprehensive community consultation undertaken to gauge community attitude and gather feedback on the proposed application.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Site

North Byron Parklands is located on land bound by Tweed Valley Way and Jones Road in the locality of Yelgun within the Byron Shire Council jurisdiction. The northern part of the site is located on the border of Tweed Shire Council jurisdiction.

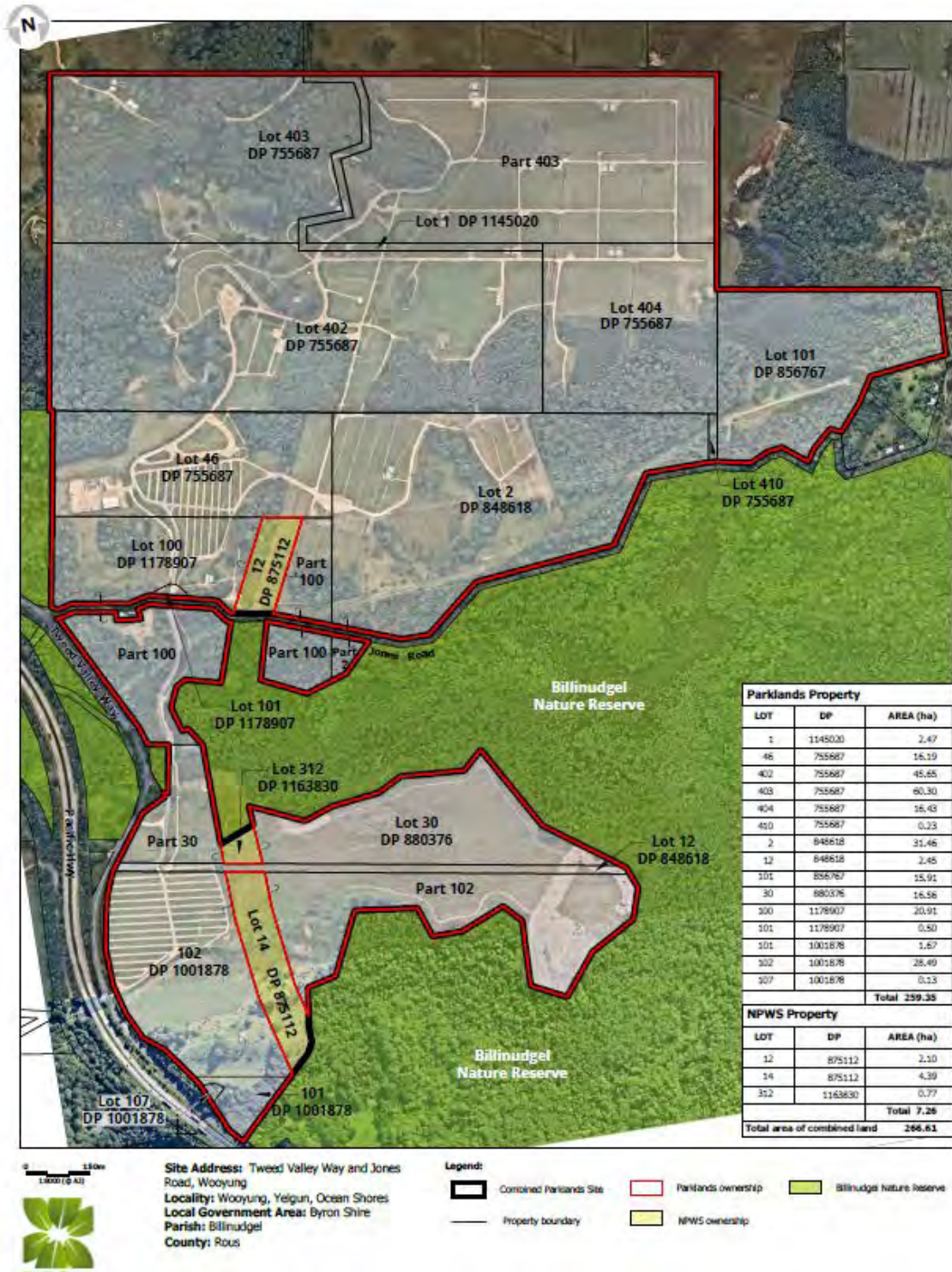
As illustrated in **Map 2**, the site currently has an area of approximately 260 hectares and comprises the following allotments:

- Lot 1 DP1145020
- Lots 46, 402, 403, 404 and 410 DP755687
- Lots 2 and 12 DP848618
- Lot 101 DP856767
- Lot 30 DP880376
- Lots 100 and 101 DP1178907
- Lots 101, 102 and 107 DP1001878
- Lots 12 and 14 DP875112
- Lot 312 DP1163830

The site has historically been used for agricultural purposes. It features large expanses of flat cleared land and natural amphitheatre areas sloping up on its northern, western and southern sides.

The Billinudgel Nature Reserve is immediately south and east of the site.

Map 2: North Byron Parklands site plan



2.2 History of Parklands

SITG and FFB are internationally renowned cultural music festivals. SITG has been run annually since 2001, with the first nine festivals being held at Belongil Fields in Byron Bay. In 1993, the first FFB was held in Lorne, Victoria and the festival expanded to Byron Bay in 2013.

In 2008, Parklands and SITG event operators identified the need for a purpose-built sustainable cultural events site in the Byron Shire. The parties recognised that cultural events would contribute to the region's economy, workforce and cultural mix. For Parklands, the site at Yelgun met a number of key criteria, including that it is:

- a large cleared and relatively flat site with a natural amphitheatre ideal for outdoor events;
- surrounded by sparsely settled land;
- close to a major highway and interchange;
- within close proximity to several key urban areas and cultural centres;
- appointed to deliver relatively good access to transport; and
- conducive to noise attenuation, being surrounded by hillsides on most sides.

In 2008, Byron Shire Council granted consent for a temporary place of assembly with camping and associated infrastructure at the site. That consent allowed for SITG 2009 to be held with a patron capacity of 22,500. Subsequently, the consent was appealed. The NSW Land and Environment Court ruled that the approval was not valid on the grounds that use of the internal event roads had not been explicitly included in Council's development consent.

In 2009, Parklands sought permanent and concurrent concept and project approval under the former State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005.

Parklands' proposal was for tourist facilities, major convention and exhibition facilities or multi-use entertainment facilities that would employ 100 people or more. Concept approval was granted in April 2012.

The concept plan approval enables use of the site for cultural events up to a maximum of 35,000 patrons and includes:

Stage 1 (complete):

- use of the site for cultural, educational and outdoor events, with ancillary camping and car parking;
- temporary event infrastructure;
- spine road; and
- vegetation management plan.

Stage 2 (not constructed as alternative infrastructure has been constructed):

- water treatment plant; and
- wastewater treatment plant.

Stage 3 (not yet constructed):

- cultural centre; and
- conference centre with associated accommodation.

The PAC noted that large outdoor events should be able to be carried out without significant impacts on the community. The PAC allowed approval of a five-year trial period (until 31 December 2017) capped at 70 per cent of capacity (35,000 patrons) instead of the 100 per cent (50,000) capacity sought in the original concept and project applications.

The original approvals have been modified on four occasions under Section 75W of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act as follows:

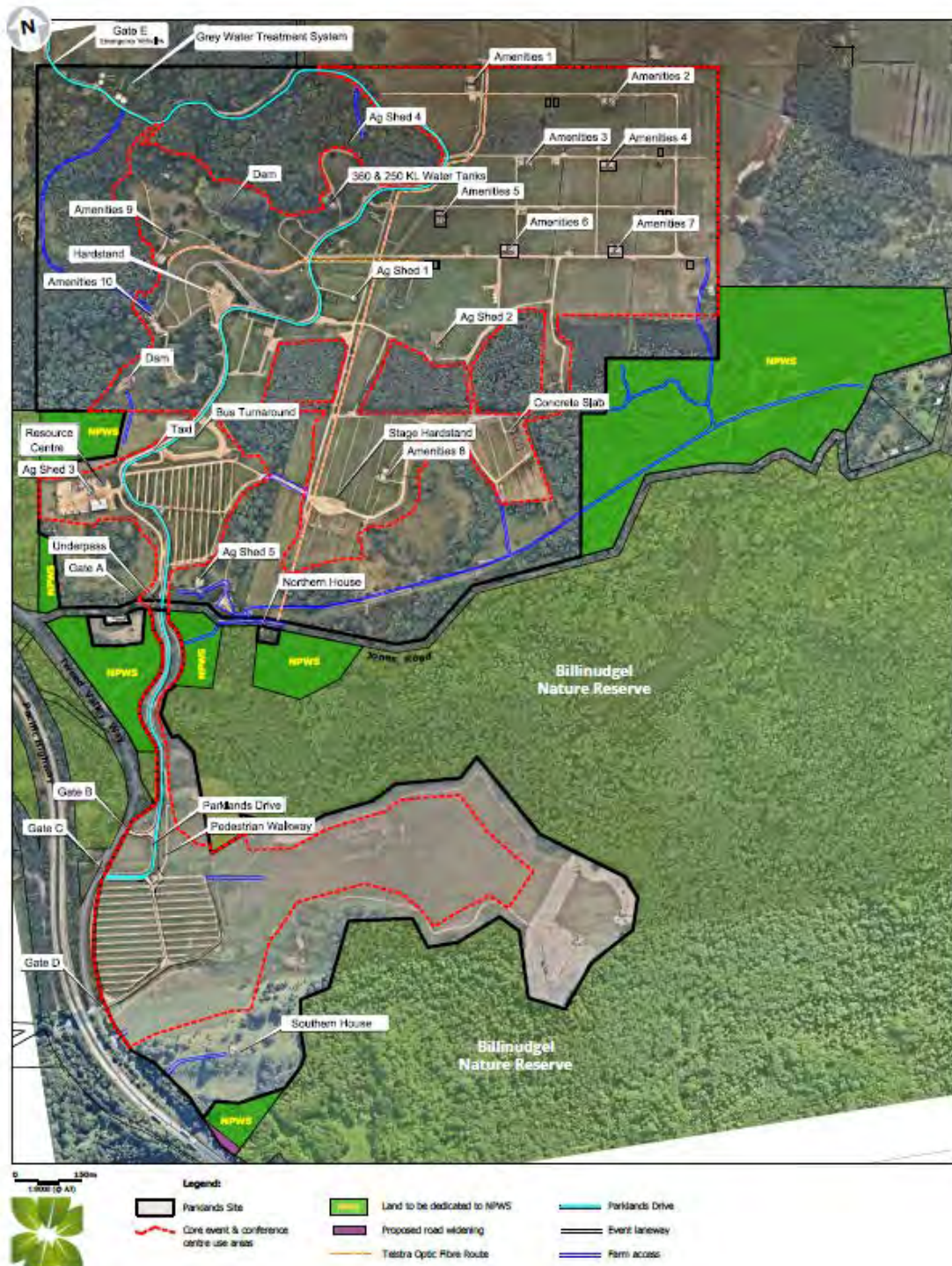
- **Modification 1:** approved by the DP&E on 3 December 2012, involving minor typographical amendments to Conditions B4 and E18 of the project approval;
- **Modification 2:** approved by the DP&E on 29 January 2013, involving a minor typographical amendment to Condition C32 of the project approval relating to a mis-description of Yelgun Creek;
- **Modification 3:** approved by the PAC on 22 April 2016, involving amendments to both the concept plan and project approval. Such amendments included changes to the noise management conditions, approval for small community events and various administrative amendments.
- **Modification 4:** approved by the PAC on 12 September 2017, extending the trial period by 20 months to 31 August 2019. Such extension aims to facilitate continuation of the established SITG and FFB while the present application is being considered.

The local and broader community have had the opportunity to comment on each modification.

2.3 Site improvements

Since the original approval, Parklands has invested over \$25million to develop the site. **Map 3** shows site improvements completed to date. Parklands places focus on ensuring sustainable and low impact infrastructure. Relocatable composting toilets and shower facilities together with water and waste water facilities have been installed across the site. Significant land regeneration and planting has also been undertaken on the site.

Map 3: site improvements



In addition to sustainable amenities installation, Parklands has implemented significant environmental plans and programs to manage and protect flora, fauna and habitat onsite. This includes habitat planting of over 24,200 native trees.

Patrons and the broader community are also invited to participate in tree planting and educational initiatives that contribute to overall improvement of the site's ecology.

2.4 Event history

To date, under the trial approval, a total of nine large and medium events have been held at the site. Table 1 below provides a summary of Parklands' event history to date.

Table 1: Parklands' event history to date

Trial event	Event	Date	Permitted patrons	Event days
1st large	SITG 2013	Jul 13	25,000	4
1st medium	FFB 2013	Dec 13—Jan 14	15,000	4
2nd large	SITG 2014	July 14	27,500	4
2nd medium	FFB 2014	Dec 14—Jan 15	17,500	4
3rd large	SITG 2015	Jul 15	30,000	4
3rd medium	FFB 2015	Dec 15—Jan 16	20,000	4
4th large	SITG 2016	Jul 16	32,500	4
4th medium	FFB 2016	Dec 16—Jan 17	22,500	4
5th large	SITG 2017	Jul 17	32,500	4

Event days listed in the table above do not include bump-in and bump-out days on either side of the events.

SITG is one of the most popular contemporary music and arts festivals in Australia, with tickets selling out on the same day they go on sale. SITG is a four-day, family-friendly, cultural arts festival held in winter. The festival offers a

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diverse line up of local and international music acts. It encompasses multiple entertainment areas, each with different themes and activities including:

- **Global village:** promotes world music, Aboriginal cultural awareness, dance workshops, yoga and meditation
- **Village Green:** includes a healing sanctuary where massage, healers and tarot readers are available
- **Village markets:** clothes and food from local producers
- **Electric garden:** a silent disco
- **Splendour forum:** talks and lectures on various contemporary topics
- **Splendour comedy club:** features a variety of comedy acts
- **Science tent**
- **Splendour in the Craft:** offers opportunities to learn about and practice different crafts
- **Little Splendour:** a child- and family-friendly space
- **Splendour Arts:** outdoor art installations
- **Food trucks and international food stalls**
- **Very small suburb:** includes fashion, make-up and speciality foods.

SITG patrons typically:

- are aged 18—24 years old (61%);
- come from Brisbane (27%), Sydney (17%) or Melbourne (11%);
- work full-time (42%); and
- earn an annual income of \$15,000–\$30,000.¹

¹ Fresh Projects, Online Survey Results, September 2015

Importantly, SITG is a significant cultural event for families living in the regional areas of northern NSW.

Approximately 10% of patrons come from Tweed (2%), Byron (4%) and Northern Rivers areas (4%).²

FFB is three-day music and arts festival held in summer from 30 December–1 January. Falls Festival is an 18+ years only festival. The FFB is typically a smaller festival where the majority of patrons (approximately 84%)³ camp onsite for its duration.

FFB patrons typically:

- are aged 18–24 years old;
- come from Brisbane (31%) or Sydney (22%);
- work full-time (45%); and
- earn an annual income of \$15,000–\$30,000.⁴

Approximately 12% of FFB patrons are residents of Tweed (4%), Byron (5%) and Northern Rivers (3%) areas. In addition to these medium and large events, two small cross-country events were also held in June 2016 and 2017. Both events attracted attendance of 820 school children from 10 regional public schools and their parents. Parklands has been approached by other local community groups to hold additional, smaller events on the site.



Community Events

- 5 events up to 5000 people
- Community events at Parklands so far include:
- Schools Tree Planting Program with Landcare
- Far North Coast Cross Country PSSA



² Fresh Projects, Online Survey Results September 2015

³ North Byron Parklands: trial period extension modification, response to submissions, pjep, May 2017.

⁴ Fresh Projects, Online Survey Results September 2015

3 ESTABLISHED MONITORING MEASURES AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

3.1 Environmental health and safety management system

Events at Parklands are subject to a comprehensive suite of environmental, health and safety (“EH&S”) management, monitoring and reporting requirements and consultation with key stakeholders.

Parklands has established a comprehensive framework for EH&S management of the site encapsulated in a thorough Environmental Health and Safety Management System (“EHSMS”).

3.2 Strategies

The forthcoming section outlines the strategies established by Parklands to minimise the impact of events on the local community.

3.2.1 Community hotline

The community hotline provides residents with a direct and responsive channel through which to provide feedback or make complaints to Parklands during events. Hotline calls are recorded for reporting purposes and action is taken to address the concerns raised.

The community hotline is advertised via full-page advertisements in local newspapers two weeks prior to each event. Pre-event, the community hotline number is also promoted via letterbox drops to 3,500 businesses and residences north and south of the site. Further, the hotline is advertised on both the Parklands’ website and relevant event websites.

3.2.2 Regulatory working group

To ensure regular communication between the community and regulatory bodies, a regulatory working group (“RWG”) has been formed. The RWG comprises a range of authorities and community representatives appointed by Byron Shire Council. Agencies involved include:

- NSW Police
- Roads and Maritime Service
- Byron Shire Council
- Rural Fire Service
- State and Emergency Service
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Community representatives nominated by Byron Shire Council

The RWG oversees the environmental performance of and community relations for events held at the site, covering the following defined aspects:

- habitat restoration program;
- Marshalls Ridge wildlife corridor;
- impacts on threatened species and endangered ecological communities;
- monitoring protocols for pre-construction ecological surveying;
- illegal camping;
- litter;
- security services provision;
- noise;
- event traffic and car parking;
- flooding;
- bushfires; and
- evacuation procedures.

3.2.3 Community manager and community advocate

Parklands' community manager and community advocate liaise with the community throughout the year. Each role is responsible for listening to and actioning residents' concerns and aspirations about the site. Importantly, community feedback gathered by the community manager and community advocate subsequently informs planning decisions.

The community manager begins operation four weeks prior to any event held on the site. The community manager

subsequently works throughout the event and continues in operation for two weeks post-event. During this time, the community manager develops and maintains community relationships while identifying key community-related issues. Further, the community manager coordinates distribution of event passes to those local households most impacted by events and ensures that immediate residents receive important event messaging.

On a wider scale, the community manager ensures application of the EHSMM. To this end, the community manager coordinates the litter response team to ensure streets are kept clean during festival time.

Further, the community manager liaises closely with Council rangers, local police, the community hotline and the community advocate regarding both on- and offsite



Community Management

- Continuation of Community Hotline during events
- Community Manager and Community Advocate liaise with residents throughout the year
- Offsite Event Response Team
- Council nominated Community Reps on Regulatory Working Group
- Up to 400 event tickets to neighbours
- Continuation of Community Grants program



event management issues including illegal parking, illegal camping, anti-social behaviour, rubbish removal and noise.

Attendance at RWG meetings is another function of the community manager and community advocate, as community issues are regularly discussed at this forum. The functions of both the community manager and community advocate are to:

- develop and maintain relationships with community members across events;
- Identify key community-related issues;
- document and report community-related issues; and
- ensure application of the EHSMM, particularly the community management standard.

Parklands' EHSMM sets out the organisation's guiding policies, objectives and targets for the management of identified significant environmental, health and safety risks across all events and activities conducted on the site. One of the EHSMM standards relates to 'offsite management' issues during events. Matters including illegal camping, litter, illegal parking and other community impacts are dealt with under these standards.

3.2.4 Noise management during festivals

Parklands adopts best practice acoustic management techniques to minimise potential acoustic impacts on the surrounding community. These include both design and management measures, which are detailed in Chapter 7.2.3.

Prior to commencement of an event, control measures are audited and signed off by independent noise consultants. Where further modifications to noise attenuation measures are identified by the noise consultants at this juncture, such modifications are implemented following consultation with event organisers as necessary. This process seeks to ensure that the implications for security and

safety (of staff, performers and patrons), emergency personnel access, fire and traffic have all been effectively considered.

Throughout events, proactive and reactive management of noise emissions is provided through event trigger levels. The trigger levels produce feedback to acoustic monitoring personnel and event stage managers when noise levels approach the noise limits at sensitive receptors. Noise levels are measured at the mixing desk and warnings are triggered when short-term noise levels either:

- exceed the event levels established during sound checks; or
- are varied throughout the event due to changes in meteorological conditions.

When short-term trigger levels are exceeded, the event stage manager implements strategies to reduce noise levels.

When noise monitoring identifies that the event is exceeding the set noise criteria, the acoustic consultant implements a three-pronged response, being to:

- review the meteorological data recorded by the on-site monitoring station;
- review front-of-house noise levels to determine whether these are consistent with the levels established for the event; and
- resolves conflict between the actual and recommended front-of-house noise levels. Where required, the acoustic consultant will contact the stage management function to recommend that noise levels be reduced. Monitoring will continue at the location until event noise levels have appropriately reduced.

3.2.5 Environmental management

As previously noted, Parklands operates under a comprehensive EHSMM that applies to all events held onsite. The EHSMM establishes a range of environmental, health and safety objectives, which are intended to direct delivery

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of a sustainable cultural arts and music events venue. It also includes responses to off-site issues by the community manager, including litter, illegal camping and illegal parking.

Furthermore, Parklands has developed a range of environmentally-focussed policies, procedures and monitoring processes. These aim to protect, manage and enhance the environment in which Parklands operates. Examples include a fauna and flora management plan; fauna and flora monitoring program; and habitat restoration program. The habitat restoration program includes the planting of thousands of native trees and shrubs plus the removal of local and exotic weeds.

Parklands has been monitoring flora and fauna at the venue since 2007. Since events at the site commenced in July 2013, the flora and fauna monitoring program has been implemented before, during and after each event. Such monitoring has not identified any significant or long-term negative impacts on flora and fauna on the site.⁵

As part of a separate application to the Shire, consent is sought to permit subdivision of the site. The proposed subdivision will facilitate a land swap with National Parks and Wildlife. Under the swap, a tract of natural bushland that is currently part of the site will be exchanged with grassland in the adjoining Billinudgel Nature Reserve.

The EIS provides more detail on the land swap.

⁵ <http://northbyronparklands.com/2014/> - Environment

3.2.6 Community grants

Parklands, SITG and FFB have created a community grants program that currently delivers approximately \$55,000 annually to local charities and community groups. A \$1 levy is placed on every ticket sold and 100% of the funds generated are distributed to local community and environmental groups.

SITG has donated over \$600,000 in direct cash donations throughout the Byron LGA during its 17-year history. Excluded from this total are:

- the funds raised through ticket donations to schools and community groups; and
- the money raised by community groups at SITG itself over the years.

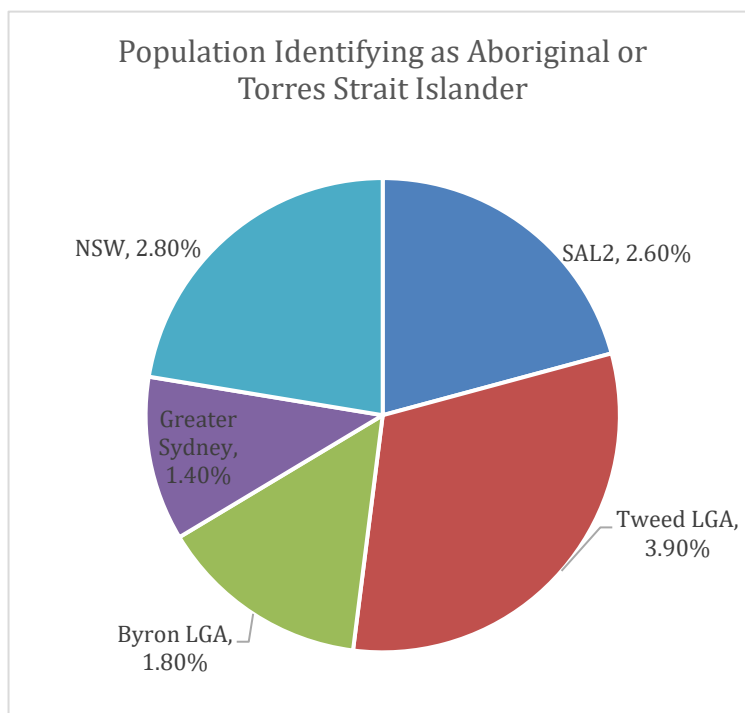
The first Parklands FFB event provided community funding in conjunction with Byron Shire Council to help deliver the Summer Safe program, which was operated by Council over the New Year period.

Additional details of the community grants program are included in Chapter 7.8.

4 CONTEXT

4.1 Demographic profile and characteristics

A demographic profile table including the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the area surrounding Parklands (Brunswick Heads-Ocean Shores statistical area level 2 ("SAL2")), the Byron local government area ("LGA"); the Tweed LGA, compared to Greater Sydney and NSW is included at Appendix A. The demographic profile table includes complete data from the 2016 Census.



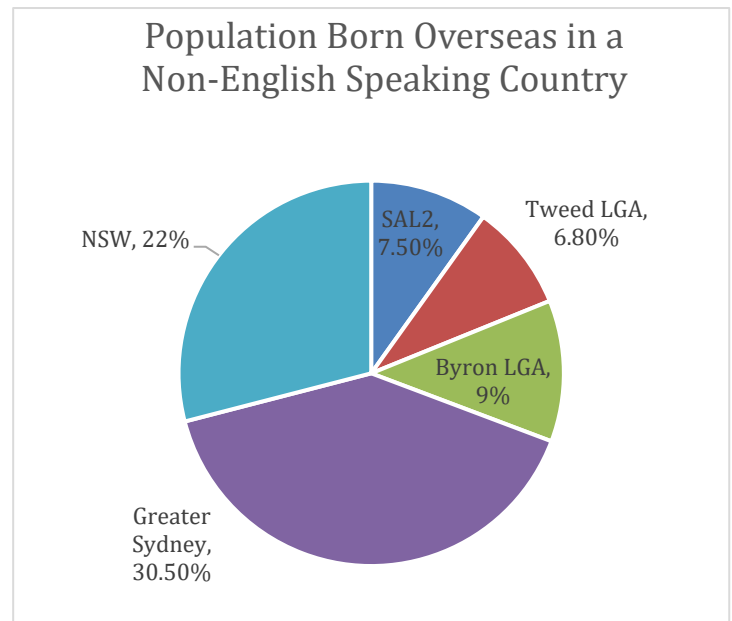
That profile illustrates the following:

- a greater proportion of the population who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the SAL2 (2.6%) and in the Tweed LGA (3.9%), compared to the Byron LGA (1.8%), Greater Sydney (1.4%) and NSW (2.8%).

These figures indicate an increase in the population identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the SAL2 and the Byron LGA of 0.1% together with an increase of 2.7% in the Tweed LGA. There is nothing about the proposed

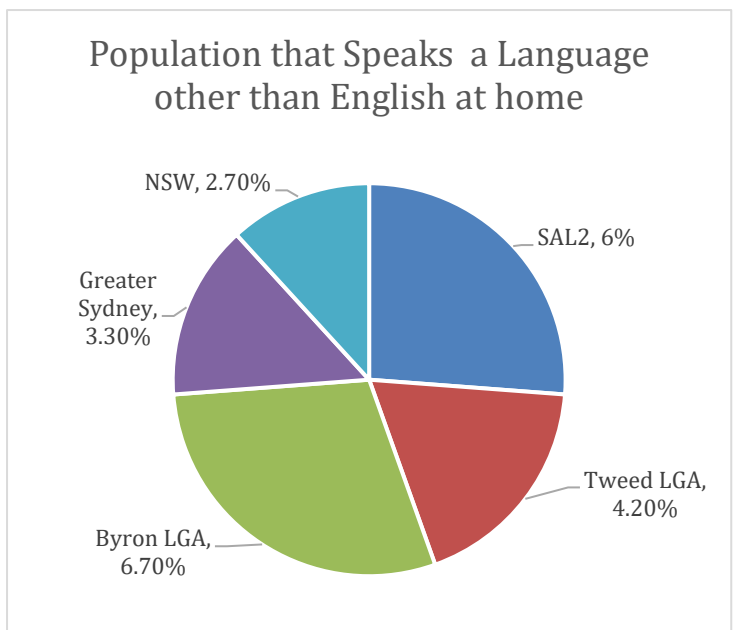
development that is likely to generate any social impacts for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples;

- significantly smaller proportions of the population in the SAL2 (7.5%), the Byron LGA (9.0%) and the Tweed LGA (6.8%) who were born overseas in a non-English speaking country, compared to Greater Sydney (30.5%) and NSW (22.0%). There has been a slight reduction of 0.1% in the number of people in the SAL2 who were born overseas in a non-English speaking country. By contrast, there have been increases



in this population in the Byron LGA (1.6%), the Tweed LGA (1.8%), Greater Sydney (3.4%) and NSW (2.8%). There is nothing about the proposed development that is likely to generate any social impacts for people born overseas in a non-English speaking country;

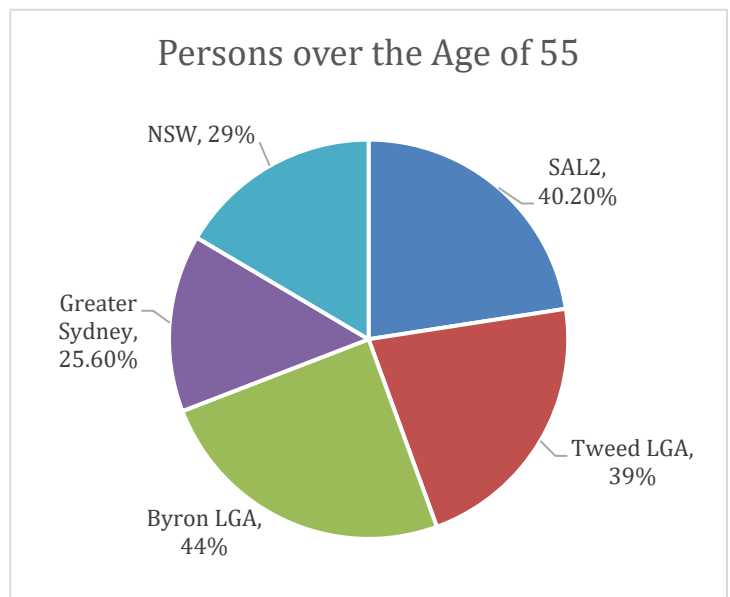
- a smaller proportion of the population who speak a language other than English at home reside in the SAL2 (6.0%), Byron LGA (6.7%) and Tweed Shire (4.2%) compared to Greater Sydney (35.8%) and NSW (25.1%). The proportion of people who speak a



language other than English at home has increased in SAL2 (0.6%), Byron LGA (0.4%), Tweed LGA (0.6%), Greater Sydney (3.3%) and NSW (2.7%). There is nothing about the proposed development that is likely to generate any social impacts for people who speak a language other than English at home;

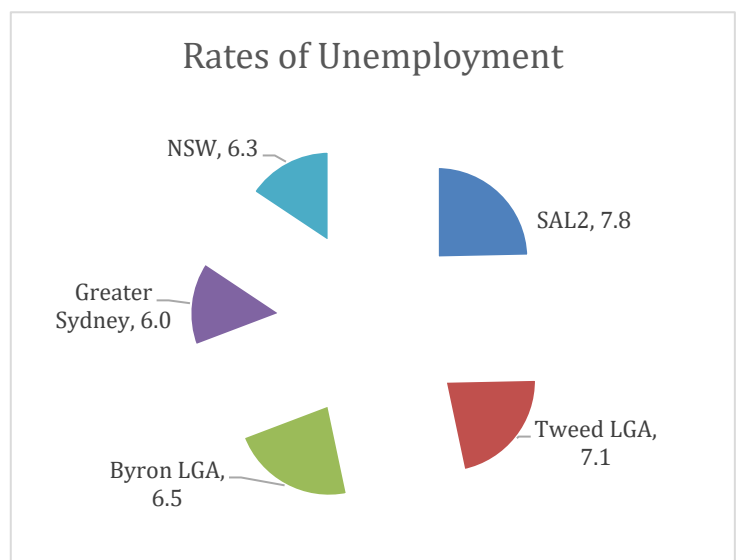
Social Impact Assessment
Prepared by SARAH GEORGE CONSULTING

- a greater proportion of people aged 55 and over reside in the SAL2 (35.3%), Byron LGA (34.0%) and Tweed LGA (40.0%) compared to Greater Sydney (24.6%) and NSW (28.0%). The number of people aged 55 and over has significantly increased between the 2011 and 2016 Census in the SAL2 (4.9%), Byron LGA



(5.0%) and Tweed LGA (4.0%) compared to Greater Sydney (1.0%) and NSW (1.7%). While there is clearly a strong representation of older people in the SAL2, Byron LGA and Tweed LGA, there is nothing about the proposed development that is likely to generate any social impacts for people aged 55 and over. The proposed development does not reduce housing stock in the area, nor does it remove or impede access to services;

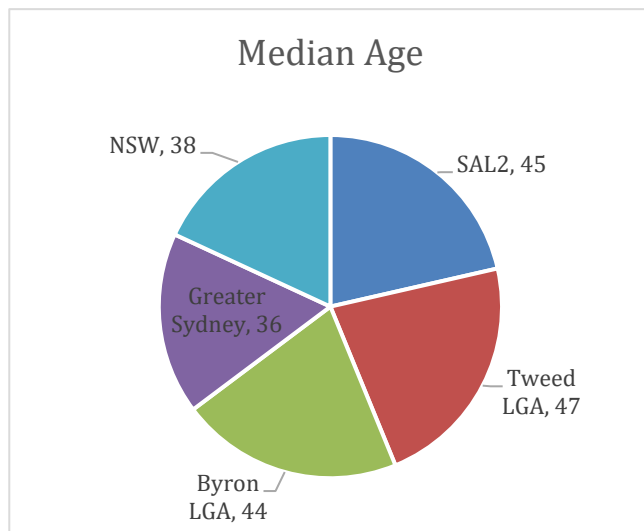
- there were higher rates of unemployment in the SAL2 (7.8), Byron LGA (6.5) and Tweed LGA (7.1) compared to Greater Sydney (6.0) and NSW (6.3). As discussed in detail elsewhere in this report, the subject application has generated significant employment opportunities within the Byron LGA over the



trial period. If the subject application is granted, the employment generated through events on the site will be continued and additional employment opportunities will be generated in the operation of the site and through the running of events and the conference facility, as well as in the wider context of

tourism in the area. The proposed development does not remove any employment opportunities from the local area;

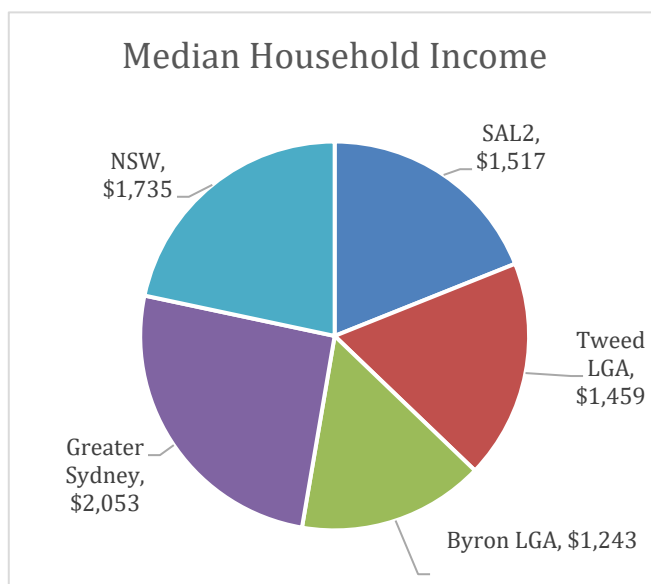
- a higher median age of residents at the 2016 Census exists in the SAL2 (45 years), Byron LGA (44 years) and Tweed LGA (47 years) compared to Greater Sydney (36 years) and NSW (38 years);



- the 2016 Census recorded lower median weekly

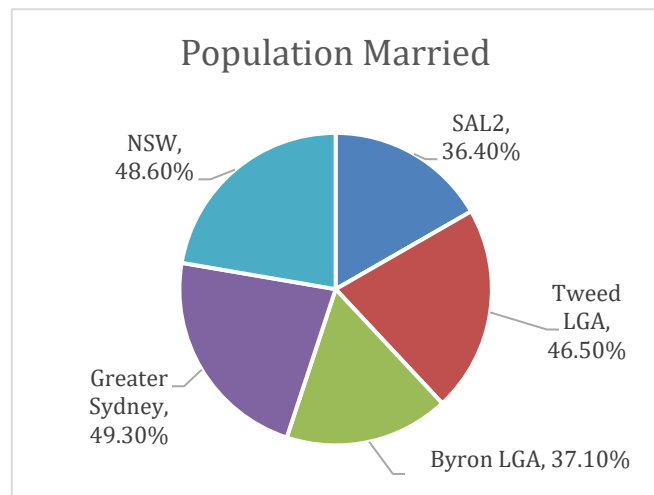
household incomes in the SAL2 (\$1033), Byron LGA (\$1149) and Tweed LGA (\$1064) compared to Greater Sydney (\$1750) and NSW (\$1486). Median

weekly household incomes have increased in all areas between the 2011 and 2016 Census, with an increase of \$484 in the SAL2, \$310 in Byron LGA, \$179 in Tweed Shire, \$303 in Greater Sydney and \$249 in NSW, with the most significant increase being in the SAL2. There is nothing about the proposed



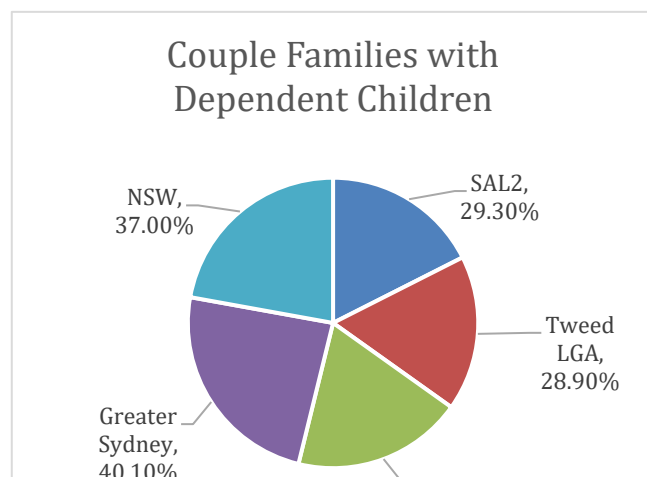
development that is likely to generate any impacts on weekly household incomes in the area, apart from the potential benefits generated through increased employment opportunities;

- as at the 2016 Census, a smaller proportion of the population are married in the SAL2 (36.4%) and Byron LGA (37.1%) compared to Tweed LGA (46.5%), Greater Sydney (49.3%) and NSW (48.6%).



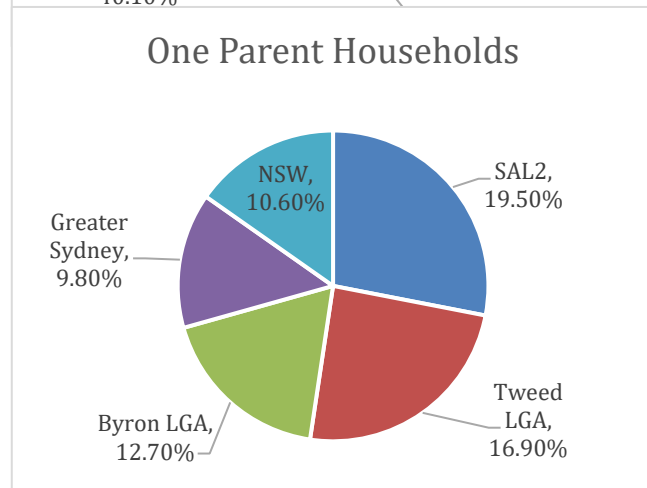
The proposed development is unlikely to generate any impacts on marital rates;

- according to the 2016 Census, a greater proportion of residents in the SAL2 (16.3%), Byron LGA (14.4%) and Tweed LGA (12.1%) are divorced compared to 7.6% in Greater Sydney and 8.4% in NSW.



The proposed development is unlikely to generate any impacts on divorce rates;

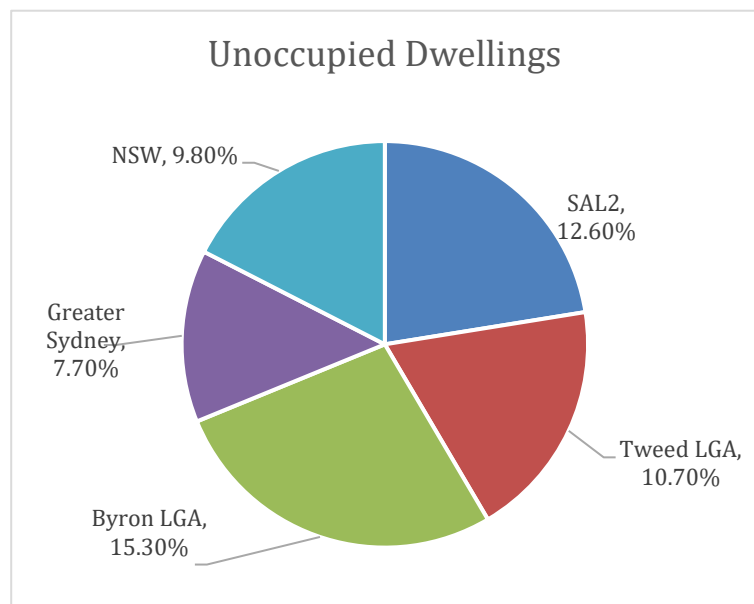
- the SAL2 (29.3%), Byron LGA (31.7%) and Tweed LGA (28.9%) have fewer couple families with dependent children compared to Greater Sydney (40.1%) and NSW (37.0%).



The proposed development is unlikely to generate any long-term social impacts for families. Short-term positive impacts are generated for those local families who might choose to attend events held at Parklands;

- a greater proportion of one-parent households with dependent children reside in the SAL2 (17.7%), Byron LGA (12.0%) and Tweed LGA (11.3%) compared to Greater Sydney (9.1%) and NSW (9.9%). The proportion of one-parent households has reduced between the 2011 and 2016 Census in all areas: SAL2 (1.8%); Byron LGA (4.9%); Tweed LGA (1.4%); Greater Sydney (0.7%); and NSW (0.7%). There is nothing about the proposed development that is likely to generate any social impacts for one-parent households;

- at the 2016 Census, there was a greater proportion of unoccupied dwellings in the SAL2 (12.6%) and Byron LGA (15.3%), compared to Tweed LGA (10.7%), Greater Sydney (7.7%) and NSW (9.8%). The rate of unoccupied dwellings



in the SAL2 and Byron LGA has remained relatively consistent between the 2011 and 2016 Census. The rate currently sits at 13.6% at the SAL2 and 15.4% in Byron LGA. The higher rates of unoccupied private dwellings in the SAL2, Byron LGA and Tweed LGA is not uncommon as these areas are popular for holiday house and holiday home rental properties.

- The proposed development is likely to generate positive impacts in terms of providing short-term occupancy of dwellings during events. The proposed development is unlikely to generate any significant long-term impacts on unoccupied housing in the area. The development does not increase or reducing available housing.

To summarise relevant demographic characteristics and profiles, in comparison to Byron LGA, Greater Sydney and NSW, residents of the SAL2 are generally:

- older;
- on lower incomes;
- more likely to be unemployed; and
- originally born in an English-speaking country.

There is a significantly greater proportion of unoccupied homes in both the SAL2 and Byron LGA compared to Tweed LGA, Greater Sydney and NSW. This reflects the popularity of the area for holiday homes and holiday rental properties. The proportion of unoccupied dwellings has remained relatively consistent between the 2011 Census and the 2016 Census.

The proposed development is unlikely to generate any significant, or long-term impacts in terms of the socio-economic or demographic characteristics of the area.

There are short-term impacts on visitor population numbers during event times. These short-term population peaks are unlikely to generate any significant or long-term social impacts in terms of the characteristics of the population or on demand for local services in the area.

The proposed development is likely to continue to generate positive impacts in terms of driving increased tourists to the area and generating employment before, during and after events, as has been demonstrated throughout the trial. Furthermore, the proposed conference centre will create additional employment opportunities.

There is strong community demand for events, not only in Byron LGA but throughout NSW. Many parts of NSW commonly experience large influxes of people as a result of either tourism or attraction to special events. It is not uncommon for these events to attract significant visitor numbers that, in many instances, surpass the usual resident population. Examples include:

- **Hunter Valley, NSW:** this already popular tourist and wedding destination has also more recently attracted large music acts to the area for outdoor music events on vineyards;
- **Bondi beach, Sydney:** this Sydney landmark attracts a large number of domestic and international visitors. Bondi beach also holds the annual Festival of the Winds and Sculptures by the Sea drawing 520,000 visitors, which significantly exceeds the usual resident population of 10,045;
- **VIVID Festival, Sydney city:** the festival runs for three weeks and in 2016, it attracted 2.3 million people compared to the usual resident population of 17,252; and
- **Manly Food and Wine Festival, Manly:** an annual event that attracts some 76,000 visitors compared to the usual resident population of 15,866.

4.2 Social profile

While socio-economic and demographic characteristics go some way in presenting a snapshot of a community, there are other important community-specific factors that make each distinct. The Byron Shire area has a reputation for attracting artists, creative industries and tourists enticed by the region's beaches and hinterland. Byron Bay, in particular, is a popular destination for day-trippers and weekend travellers from south-east Queensland, as well as domestic and international tourists.

People are attracted to the area because of the natural beauty of its beaches and hinterland, as well as the relaxed lifestyle and range of sub-culture groups that congregate throughout the region.

As an area attractive to artists and creative types, Byron LGA is also well known for hosting a range of festivals including: Byron Bay Blues Festival (Bluesfest), Byron Bay Writers Festival, Mullumbimby Music Festival, Sample Food Festival, Spirit Festival, SITG and FFB. All such festivals contribute significantly to the local economy and maintain the region's colourful cultural fabric.

The socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the area also indicate its popularity with retirees. A greater proportion of the population aged 55 and over resides in the Brunswick Heads-Ocean Shores area (35.3%) and in Byron LGA (34.0%) compared to Greater Sydney (24.6%) and NSW (28.0%).

Byron Shire has a large number of active community groups that are dedicated to ensuring the maintenance of local identity, protection of the environment and enhancement of lifestyles.⁶

4.3 Tourism profile

As noted previously, the Byron area is a popular tourist destination. Tourism is both the largest industry and the principle economic driver in Byron LGA.⁷ Data from *Destination NSW* indicates that for the year to September 2014, Byron LGA received 1,376,000 overnight and domestic day-trip visitors. Tourism is a year-round industry in Byron LGA, with visitor volumes increasing significantly over the warmer summer months and peaking around December and January.

FFB corresponds with this peak time, taking place over New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The larger SITG event takes place in the winter months, providing an economic boost in a typically quieter time.

The improvement of roads from south-east Queensland to NSW, specifically the 2009 upgrade of the Pacific Motorway to a dual carriageway, has facilitated a significant increase in tourists from Queensland and traffic in Byron LGA. Tourists from within NSW comprise approximately 217,000 visitors (42%) per year. This is equal exactly to the number of visitors travelling to Byron from Queensland.

⁶ <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/community-groups>

⁷ <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/tourism-research-and-resources>

4.4 Political profile

The subject application for a cultural events site at Parklands comes at a time when the political context of the shire is highly charged. This political climate is due, in part, to a substantial rate increase to support essential infrastructure such as roads and amenities.

The rate issue has been raised and criticised numerous times in local publications such as the 'Echo'.⁸ Byron Shire Council notes that the rate rise is essential to fix the "*crumbling road network and reduce its infrastructure backlog*".⁹

Community feedback, as detailed in Chapter 6, suggests a community impression that events like SITG and FFB plus the resultant increase in vehicles on the road associated with such events, are responsible for the state of local roads. Feedback also suggests a view that Parklands does not contribute to the community in terms of rates.

⁸ <https://www.echo.net.au/2017/02/byron-shire-rates-rise-7-5-per-cent/>

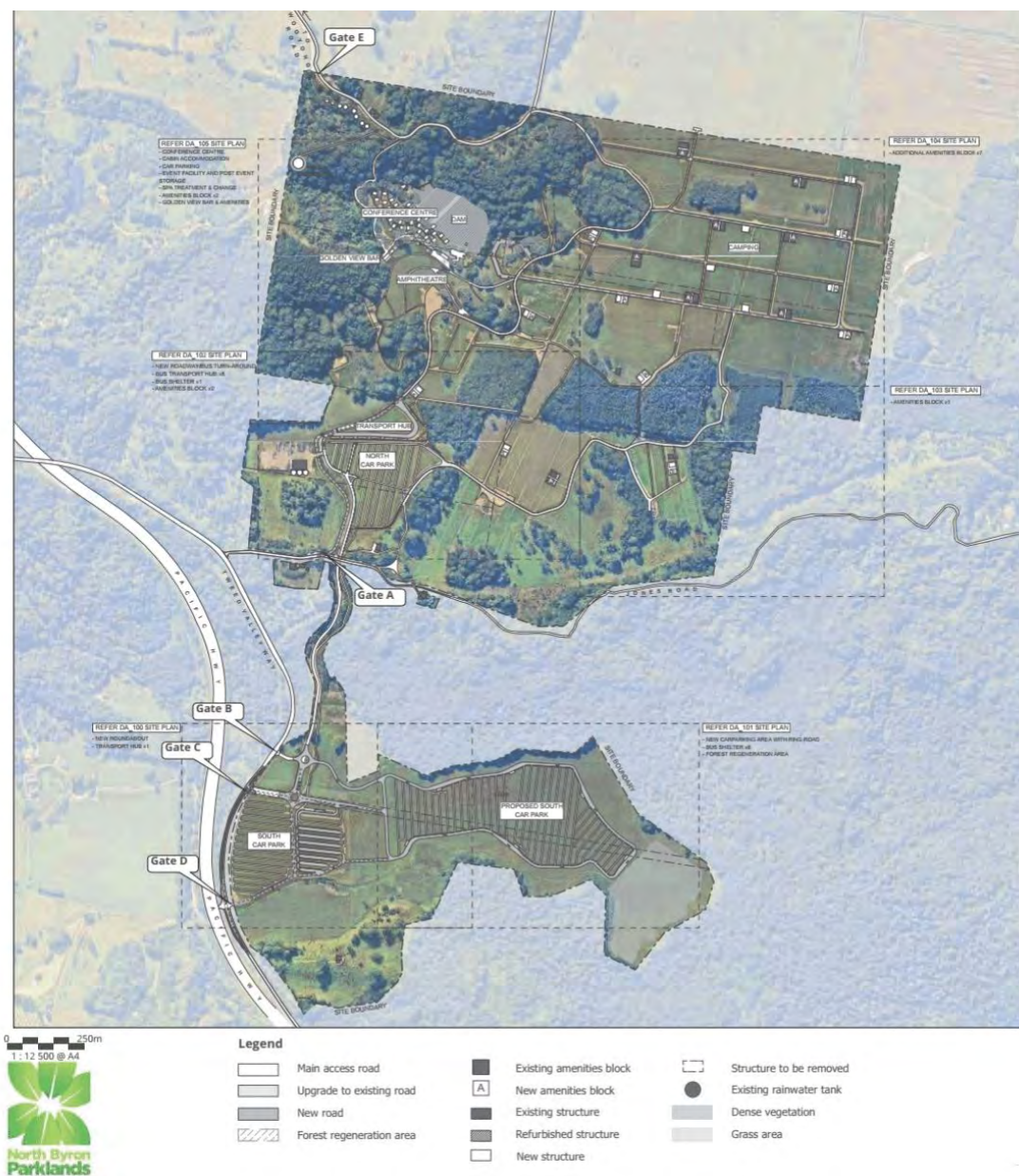
⁹ <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/faq/why-did-council-not-provide-a-no-rate-increase-option-for-the-community>

5 PROPOSAL

5.1 Development characteristics

The subject application seeks approval to hold events at Parklands so that the site can be a permanent cultural events site. Figure 1 shows the master plan of the project.

Figure 1: Parklands master plan



Approval was initially sought for a proposal of 12 event days drawing up to 50,000 patrons and eight smaller event days, being a total of 20 event days per year. Figure 2 summarises the original Parklands events proposal.

Figure 2: summary of original Parklands events proposal



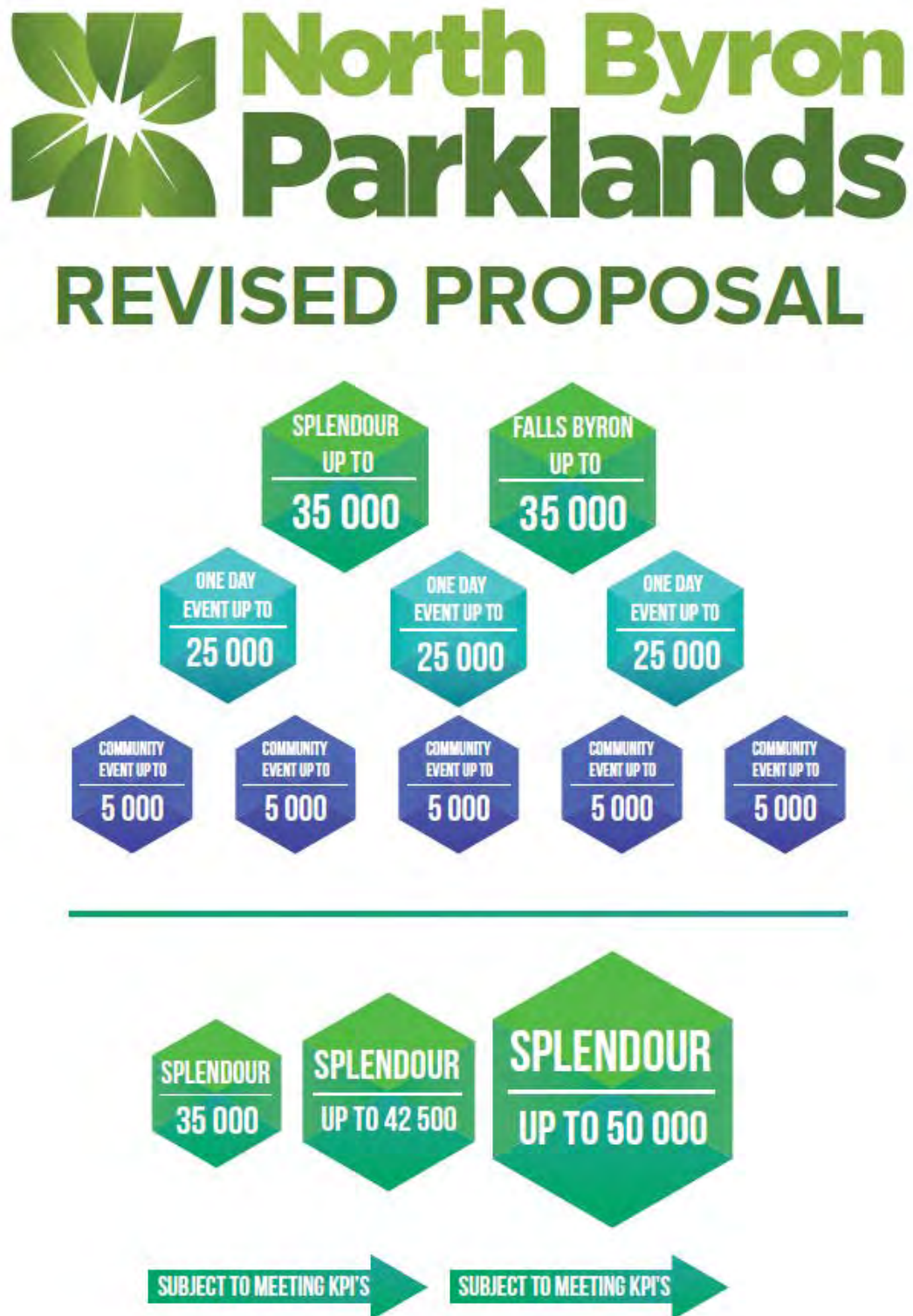
Community feedback was sought specifically relating to the impact of increased visitor numbers and more event days with more patrons. As a result of such feedback, Parklands reassessed patron numbers and event days and is now seeking approval to use the site for cultural events, including only one annual event with a 50,000-person capacity.

The present application seeks approval to use Parklands as a Recreation Facility (Major), with a total of 20 event days and patron capacity as follows:

- two large events per year, being the existing SITG and FFB, catering for up to 35,000 patrons over a maximum of five days each;
- three medium event days catering for up to 25,000 patrons, either cumulative or separate;
- five small community event days catering for up to 5,000 patrons, either cumulative or separate; and
- two minor not-for-profit/educational event days catering for up to 1,500 patrons.

Consent is also being sought to allow for the orderly growth of SITG from 35,000 to 42,500 and then 50,000 patrons, but only upon achievement of rigorous KPIs. Figure 3 summarises the revised patron numbers proposed for Parklands events.

Figure 3: revised patron numbers for Parklands events



In support of the application, approval is also sought for the following:

- On-going use of existing facilities;
- Temporary camping associated with outdoor events;
- Continuing environmental repair work; and
- Additional facilities, being:
 - o Construction of:
 - conference facility for 180 people with accommodation for 120 guests
 - administration building and golden view bar
 - event area infrastructure upgrades
 - on-site and off-site road infrastructure

The proposed additional facilities will be implemented as staged works to complement the orderly and economic implementation of the development.

The proposal is outlined in more detail in the EIS.

5.2 Operational characteristics

The subject application will result in use of the site for events for a total of 20 days, 10 of which could be used for larger events such as SITG and FFB. Under the trial approval, there has been capacity for one additional large event that has not been used to date.

Over the course of the trial period, Parklands has developed and refined the operational characteristics of SITG and FFB to minimise disruption to surrounding areas in terms of noise, traffic and influx of people to the area.

It is anticipated that, with consent, the operation of events on the site will continue to run without any long-term significant or unexpected impacts on the

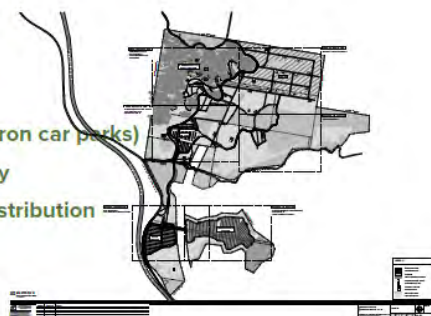
surrounding area. It is expected that the proposed investment in infrastructure on the site will further reduce the impacts on the surrounding area.



North Byron Parklands

PROPOSED WORKS

- South-East carpark
- Roundabouts
- Southern Pick-up & Drop-off Zone
- Transport Hub upgrade
- Gate A Works - road improvements
- Amphitheatre works
- Wooyung Road intersection works
- Emergency road bitumen seal
- Amenities blocks (composting toilets and showers)
- Administration building
- Electrical distribution works
- Lane rebuilding and sealing
- Security fencing
- Spine road sealing
- Internal bus stops (in day patron car parks)
- Waste water treatment facility
- Potable water storage and distribution
- Conference Centre



Large and medium events, such as SITG and FFB, currently include patrons on the site for four days each. Day patrons can park onsite or, alternatively, camp with their cars. Camping is currently available for up to 25,000 patrons.

Camping patrons are permitted onsite the day before commencement of the first event day. Patrons who stay onsite are required to leave the day after the last event day.

Larger events generally require access to the site between 14 to 21 days prior to the event for bump-in and 7 to 14 days at the conclusion of an event for bump-out.

For events such as SITG and FFB, live music typically starts at 11.00am and will run until midnight on the main stages. Cafes and bars operate until 2.00am as a management strategy to encourage patrons to stay onsite and avoid seeking alternative entertainment either in Byron township or in residential areas. The event precinct gates close at 2.00am so all non-camping patrons must depart the site at or before that time.

Buses are provided between 10.00am and 3.00am each event day to transport patrons to and from the site. During the event, more than 12 separate bus routes operate to service localities north and south of the site.

Onsite security is currently provided by In-Front Security and IESC Security. These services are present at all times during events. Typically, for large events, more than 300 registered security staff are present on the site. Pay-for-use police are also onsite during multi-day events.

Parklands staff and event organisers are continuously onsite during events. Parklands has implemented noise attenuation measures to ensure that noise levels

at surrounding properties are within the approved noise criteria. Such measures include the installation of noise monitoring equipment at key locations and procedures to manage any elevated noise levels, either proactively or reactively.

Community liaison officers are employed by Parklands to respond to community hotline calls and meet with community members before, during and after events. Such community liaison is to ensure that any reported issues are investigated.



Conference Centre

- **Currently approved as part of Parklands concept plan in 2012**
- **Conference Centre designed by local award-winning architect**
- **Conferences and functions up to 180 people**
- **Entry to Conference Centre via Wooyung Road**
- **Centre not visible from public roads**



5.3 Areas most likely to be affected by the proposed development

The subject application has the potential to provide benefits locally in terms of increased:

- tourism activity, particularly during winter;
- occupancy in local accommodation;
- patronage at retail and commercial premises; and
- cultural benefits for locals who attend the events.

Feedback on the recent Mod 4 application to extend the trial approval indicated far-reaching support from residents in southern Queensland, Tweed, Byron, Lismore and Ballina Shires.

Data collected on the community hotline, feedback from the local community during RWG meetings and most recently, in response to the Mod 4 application all indicate that the areas most likely to be affected by the proposed development include the suburbs of Wooyung, Yelgun, South Golden Beach, Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores. The Mod 4 application drew objection primarily within the Byron LGA with 85 submissions being made. Only four objections were received from Tweed Shire residents.

Wooyung, located in Tweed Shire LGA and Yelgun, located in Byron LGA are both characterised by large rural and semi-rural allotments adjoining nature reserve. Both villages have small of areas of settlement and permanent populations of 118 and 103 respectively. South Golden Beach, Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores are more densely populated villages, with permanent populations of approximately 809, 1737 and 5137 respectively according to the 2016 Census.

Some residents in these areas have historically reported being able to hear music or noise from events. Other issues raised in the past have included illegal camping, use of public facilities, interruption to daily life and traffic issues.

Parklands and the events acknowledge that its closest neighbours may be impacted by the events from time to time. Households most likely to experience disruption are compensated in a range of ways, including the distribution of 400 complimentary tickets as shown on Map 4 that follows.

Residents of these areas and the wider Bryon and Tweed LGAs were invited to comment on the subject application.

Parklands is within close proximity to the Billinudgel Nature Reserve. As such, environmentally-focussed special interest groups have also highlighted concerns regarding the potential environmental impacts of events onsite. Several local community groups, both environmentally-focussed and otherwise, were invited to comment on the subject application. Community consultation processes and outcomes are addressed in Chapter 6 of this SIA.

Map 4: complimentary ticket area



- Immediate neighbours who receive complimentary tickets

6 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

6.1 Feedback on events during the trial

Since 2013, Parklands has held five large, four medium and two minor community events. Community feedback on these events and associated impacts has been gathered through the community hotline, RWG representatives, direct feedback to Parklands from the community plus feedback from NSW Police and local community groups. A record of calls and issues raised via the community hotline is summarised below under the community hotline heading.

Parklands works closely with NSW Police to plan and develop contingencies in order to ensure patrons' safety.

Parklands also meets regularly with local residents, business owners and community groups such as Taking Care of Brunswick Heads During Falls Festival, Burringbar Residents Association, North Byron Chambers of Commerce. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the site, events and any issues that may have arisen from these.

6.1.1 Community hotline

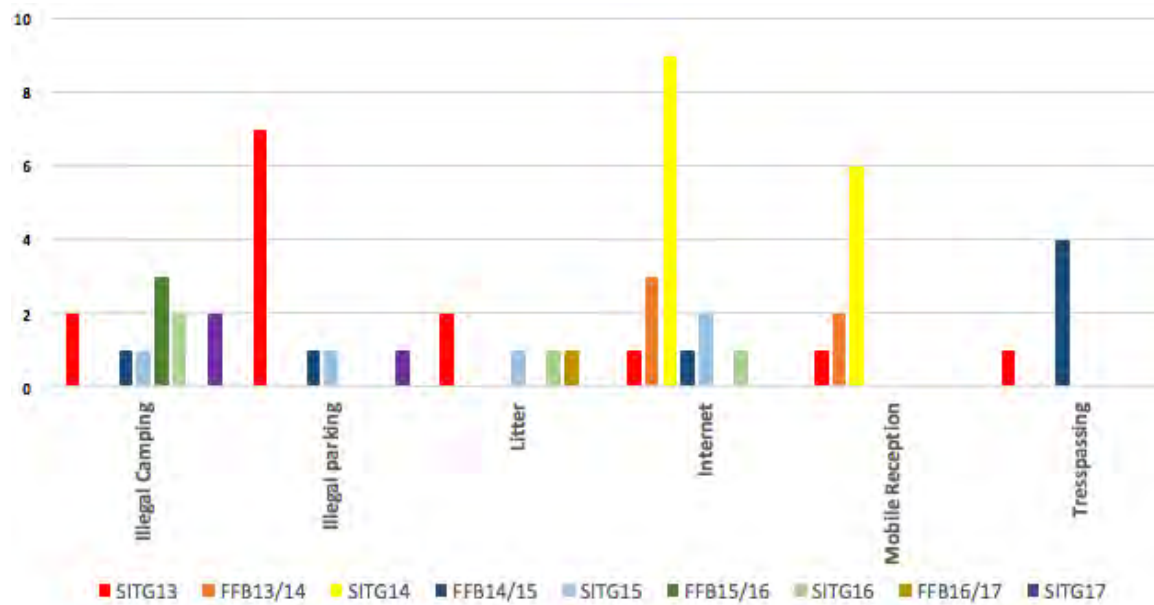
The following table includes a summary of issues raised from calls and emails to the hotline since 2013. Importantly, calls to the hotline have reduced every year for multi-day events held at Parklands as shown in Figure 4 that follows.

Table 2: calls to community hotline during events at Parklands

Event	Total calls received	Issues raised
SITG 2013	136	• Traffic • Noise • Internet access • Mobile reception • Rubbish • Illegal camping • Illegal parking
SITG 2014	161	• TV reception • Noise • Internet access • Hotline access • Mobile reception • Rubbish • Illegal camping • Illegal parking
SITG 2015	127	• Noise • Internet access • Rubbish • Illegal parking • Illegal camping
SITG 2016	29	• Noise • Internet • Rubbish • Illegal camping

Event	Total calls received	Issues raised
SITG 2017	13	• Noise • Buses • Illegal camping
FFB 13/14	43	• Noise • Internet access • Traffic
FFB 14/15	48	• Noise • Internet • Lighting • Security • Parking • Illegal camping • Fireworks • Smoking
FFB 15/16	10	• Noise • Illegal camping
FFB 16/17	22	• Noise • Fireworks • Litter

Figure 4: community hotline call types 2013–2017



Throughout the consultation undertaken for the subject application, some community members expressed a lack of confidence in the community hotline and its usefulness in having issues resolved. Despite this, the community hotline remains a practical and immediate channel through which residents can report issues thereby having these recorded and addressed.

Details of how community-raised issues have been addressed throughout the trial are included in Chapter 6.

6.1.2 Feedback from cultural event patrons

In addition to feedback from the wider community, event participants have also been surveyed to gauge their views on events on the site.

Fresh Projects undertook an electronic survey of people who ‘follow’ SITG and FFB on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter or who had signed up to mailing lists. Those surveyed were asked to rate their experience at the most recent SITG and FFB, including their camping experiences. They were also asked to share their thoughts about the site and events in general. In total, 11, 270 responses were received. In terms of Parklands, survey respondents provided the following feedback summarised in Figure 5 below.¹⁰

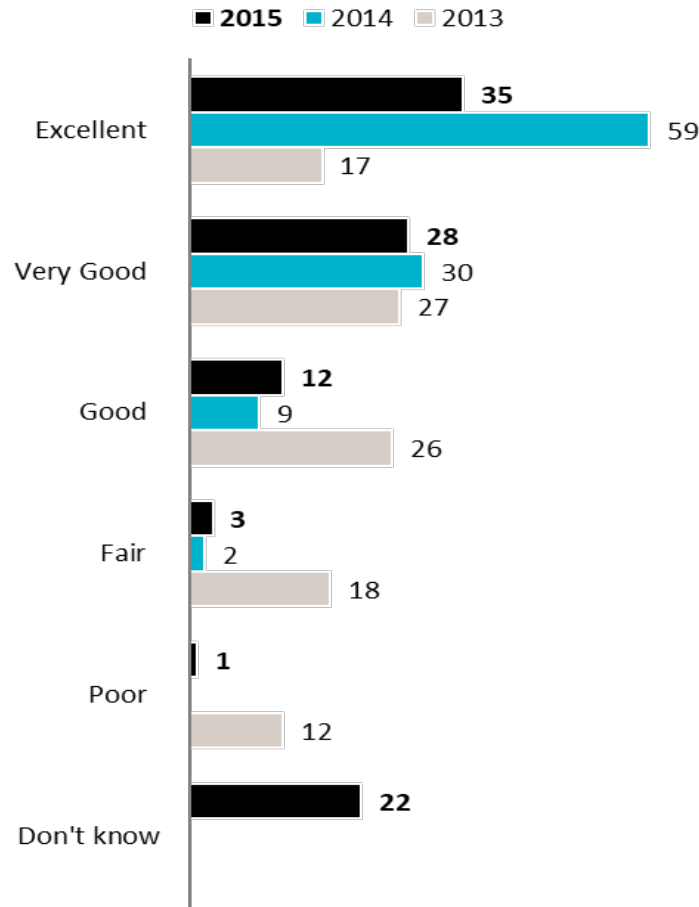


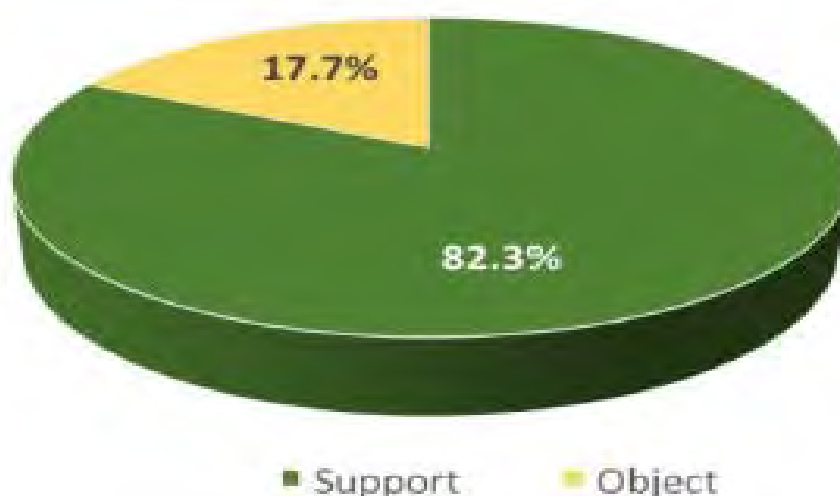
Figure 5: feedback from event patrons about Parklands

¹⁰Fresh Projects, final online survey report, September 2015

6.1.3 Feedback on modification applications

Submissions in response to Mod 4 were overwhelmingly supportive of extending the trial. Over 82% of respondents supported the application and only 17.7% objected to the application as reflected in Figure 6 below.¹¹

Figure 6: submitter stance on Mod 4



Community feedback indicates considerable support for the continued use of Parklands as a cultural events site. A small but vocal proportion of the community actively oppose use of the site for cultural events. Such opposition is based on issues that are both:

- Tangible: being noise, litter and anti-social behaviour; and
- Intangible: being how the proposal makes people feel, opinions about site owners and operators plus belief that use of the site in this way is inconsistent with the character of the local area.

Many of the issues raised in opposition to Mod 4 were echoed during consultation undertaken as part of preparing the subject application.

¹¹ North Byron Parklands – Trial Period Extension Modification – Response to submission, pjep, May 2017

6.2 Submissions on SEARs

Eight agency submissions were sent to DP&E in response to the SEARs, as follows:

- **NSW Police:** identified issues with safety and security, including intoxication, illicit drugs, access, lighting and terrorism; traffic management; and emergency management. NSW Police noted that in order to mitigate identified risks the following measures would be required: police resources would need to be dramatically increased at future events; improvements to road infrastructure would need to be improved prior to any increase in patron numbers; and an audit of the site would be required to ensure the risk of crowd crush is avoided.
- **NSW Rural Fire Service:** noted that a bushfire report, concept fire management plan and concept bushfire emergency evacuation plan must be prepared based on patron numbers of 50,000.
- **Tweed Shire Council:** made two submissions. The first noted traffic impact and insufficient buses to the Tweed area, leaving patrons stranded and relying on taxis and walking to get to and from the site. Council noted a detailed traffic impact and management report would be required. Council also noted that event organisers need to be more visible to Council and stakeholders *“as it had proved [sic] very difficult to make enquiries and lodge complaints in the past”*. Council also raised the issue of noise and requested an acoustic management plan be prepared including low frequency noise and sleep disturbance on surrounding properties.

In their second submission, Council also required off-site impacts be considered, including: storage and use of chemicals onsite; solid waste management, including litter control and solid waste storage; liquid waste management encompassing sewerage, wastewater management from swimming pools, food vans, showers and more; noise management; traffic management including pedestrian traffic; fire control measures; emergency management including evacuation management; and illegal camping.

- **Byron Shire Council:** included commentary on access and egress in relation to traffic; pedestrian/cycle access; ecology; acoustic; effluent disposal; water supply; expansion of the existing footprint; market and food stalls; and requirement for consultation of surrounding towns.
- **DP&E:** noted a requirement to consider land use conflict; koala management; protection of adjoining nature reserve; construction; and operational management plans.
- **Roads and Maritime Services:** noted the requirement for a comprehensive traffic and traffic transport impact assessment, including a traffic management plan.
- **Department of Primary Industries:** recommended a change of zoning from RU 1 (primary production) and noted requirements to be considered in the environmental impact statement.
- **Office of Environment and Heritage:** noted the requirements to be considered in the environmental impact assessment.

The social planning issues raised by respondents to the SEARs are addressed in Chapter 7.

6.3 Stakeholder identification

In determining stakeholders for consultation purposes as part of the subject application, consideration was given to individuals and groups who may experience potentially negative impacts and those who might benefit from positive impacts.

Stakeholder identification factors included:

- **Geography**, particularly those residents whose properties adjoin the site or those who live in close proximity to the site and are therefore most likely to be affected by events. These residents and properties are considered to be in the immediate vicinity of the site.

- **Location of complaints** made to the community hotline and directly to Parklands during events. This ensures inclusion of those areas that are further away from the site but that experience impacts as a result of events on the subject site, including South Golden Beach, Yelgun, Brunswick Heads, Ocean Shores and Wooyung. These areas are considered to be the local community.
- **The wider communities of Byron Shire and Tweed Shire** that are considered to be the broader community.
- **Special interest groups** representing local residents, businesses and the environment.
- **Other stakeholders** such as local police.
- **Groups who benefit from events at the site**, including patrons at events; performers, participating musicians, artists and entertainers; food and beverage vendors; site and event operators; transport providers; local accommodation providers; and local businesses.

6.4 Scope of community consultation for subject application

Extensive and comprehensive community consultation was undertaken to gauge community opinion on the application, with consideration given to the events run to date under the trial approval. Comment was sought from the community on the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (“PEA”) and links to the report were provided to the community.

Community feedback was sought in a variety of ways, including notices in local newspapers; two onsite community meetings; and letter box drops to properties in surrounding suburbs, neighbours, wider community, special interest groups and regulatory agencies as outlined in Appendix B.

Letters calling for feedback were delivered to 3,500 residential addresses and PO Boxes in Ocean Shores, North Ocean Shores, South Golden Beach, New Brighton, Crabbes Creek, Billinudgel, the Pocket, Middle Pocket, Wooyung and

Yelgun. Between 10 February and the consultation end date of 3 March 2017, a total of 21 written responses were received from residents and two community groups as outlined in Appendix B.

Letters were also sent to 61 key community and environmental groups in the area, a list of which is included at Appendix B.

Over two weeks, a notice calling for feedback was placed in local papers with a combined distribution of 77,000 papers per week in Tweed and Byron Shires. The PEA link and request for feedback was also posted on Parklands' website as shown in Appendix B.

Members of the local community were invited to attend a community meeting held at Parklands on 12 February 2017. That meeting attracted 51 people, including local business owners, residents of neighbouring properties, residents of surrounding suburbs and representatives from Byron and Tweed Councils.

The community meeting provided attendees with an opportunity to comment on: past events at the site; the subject application; and any other issues or concerns they had about the site.

In addition, community members were given the appropriate email address to contact Sarah George Consulting directly with feedback. At the time this report was finalised, 21 submissions had been made by email as can be seen in Appendix B.

The meeting held on 16 February 2017 was specifically for Parklands' immediate neighbours. In total, 55 local residents and adjoining land owners attended.

A final community information session was held onsite on 19 August 2017. The information session was advertised by way of direct letterbox drop to 3,500 homes. Advertisements were also run in local newspapers for the four weeks

immediately prior to the information session. Approximately 50 community members attended the meeting. After the meeting, a letter was delivered to 3,500 homes notifying them of the amendments to the proposed application as detailed in Appendix B.

6.4.1. Consultation with Aboriginal groups

Separate consultation and site survey was undertaken with two local Aboriginal groups. The primary Aboriginal organisations for the area are the Tweed Byron Aboriginal Land Council (“TBLALC”) and the Bundjalung of Byron Bay, Arakwal Aboriginal Corporation (“AAC”). Parklands provided copies of the following via email to TBLALC and AAC on 10 May 2017:

- State significant development–environmental assessment requirements, cultural events site, North Byron Parklands (“SSD 8169”);
- Permanent cultural event site–North Byron Parklands cultural heritage due diligence assessment, peer review; and
- Audit and gap analysis.

Sarah George Consulting was advised that, in carrying out consultation with local Aboriginal groups, Parklands drew attention to attachment A (standard requirements) and particularly attachment B (specific requirements OEH–Part C). Copies of the Collins (2010) report would be made available on request, however, no copies were requested by TBLALC or AAC. Further detail on Aboriginal group consultation is provided in the EIS.

6.4.1 Further local group consultation

The author of this SIA reached out to a local group called Australians for Animals, who felt that they had not been invited to comment. After contacting the group directly by phone and email, the author of this report was advised by a group representative that their spokesperson was overseas and unable to comment

until late April. At the time this SIA was finalised, no comment from Australians for Animals or their representatives had been received.

Another local group who moderates the Facebook page 'Byron Underbelly' (<https://www.facebook.com/Byron-Underbelly-1646105345403525/>) also circulated the message that Sarah George Consulting was seeking community input into the subject application (Appendix B). The post generated no comments and it is unknown if the post resulted in any additional feedback from the community. The 'Byron Underbelly' Facebook page continues to post information and objection to applications related to Parklands. The page also calls for community support in opposing any applications.

A group calling themselves 'Community Alliance for Byron Shire' started a petition on change.org in April 2017 called 'Stop festivals trashing Byron and Tweed Shire' (https://www.change.org/p/nsw-minister-for-planning-stop-festivals-trashing-byron/c?source_location=petition_show). The petition attracted 314 signatures in four weeks.

A final opportunity to comment on the proposal was offered to the wider community between July 2017 and August 2017, during which SITG 2017 was held. This consultation included notices in the local Tweed and Byron newspapers over four weeks calling for written submissions (Appendix B).

6.5 Issues raised in consultation

Throughout the consultation period, support for the continuation of events at Parklands was expressed with community members citing the positive benefits generated for young people in the area; benefits to the tourist industry, employment and local businesses; and the significant site improvements. The last community information session was held in August 2017. Here, the majority of attending community members noted the success of noise and traffic management processes for SITG17.

Those submissions that expressed opposition to the continued use of the site for events raised issues of concern that can generally be categorised in the following way:

- Lifestyle and amenity issues
- Transport issues
- Environmental issues
- Site issues

The main tangible areas of concerns related to noise; environmental impacts, increases in population in small towns; anti-social behaviour; changes to local communities; and safety concerns.

A number of less tangible concerns were expressed, relating to: how events at the site during the trial had impacted on people's lives; how such events made people feel; and how having events onsite was out of keeping with the character of the area.

As noted in Chapter 4.2, the Byron and Tweed areas have highly motivated, passionate residents who participate in the community. Such residents have formed special interest groups focussing on environmental, business and community issues. Throughout the trial period, Parklands has maintained communication with local community groups through correspondence and participation in meetings with local groups. A complete list of groups consulted with throughout the trial and for the preparation of the subject application is included at Appendix B.

Feedback from community groups was mixed. Some community groups identifying the positive impacts generated by events on the site, as well as the potential future benefits to community groups to hold events on the site.

Other community groups raised issues regarding the environmental impact of events, impacts on local towns generated by an influx of people and impact on local roads.

RWG representatives provided feedback to the RWG based on comments they received from the local community. With permission, comments were forwarded to Sarah George Consulting from one of the RWG community representatives for inclusion in this SIA. Other comments were sent directly to the author from community members.

The final community information session was held at the site on 19 August 2017. Here, the majority of feedback related to onsite management issues rather than issues external to the site. Onsite management issues raised related to environmental impacts onsite, particularly litter, glitter, small plastics and waste.

Positive feedback was expressed regarding the management of SITG 2017 and site improvements overall. One attendee noted that, in terms of noise impacts, SITG 2017 was the worst it has been. By contrast, many other attendees noted minimal noise impacts. Other issues raised pertained to localised traffic nuisances, bus routes and vibration.

The issues raised during the community consultation process are addressed in Chapter 7.

7 SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Social impacts

As noted in Chapter 1, social impacts refer to the social or community consequences of a proposed development. SIA typically include the processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the social consequences of developments and any social change processes generated by developments. Consideration is given to all social consequences, whether these are positive or negative, intended or unintended.

The SIA is informed by the existing socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the area in which a proposed development is located. Identification is made of the likely changes to that population brought about by the proposed development, whether the impacts are short- or long-term. Another key consideration is whether a development is likely to generate any unreasonable impacts for the local community when balanced against the potentially positive social impacts generated.

It is also necessary to distinguish between the tangible impacts generated (both positive or potentially negative) and the intangible impacts generated by a development. Tangible impacts are those that people experience, being factors that can be seen or heard. Tangible impacts are more easily mitigated or enhanced. Contrastingly, intangible impacts are more difficult to quantify and relate to impressions or feelings about a development.

A SIA typically assesses the social impact potential of a proposed development in terms of the following:

- population change;
- housing;
- mobility and access;

- community facilities and services;
- cultural values or beliefs;
- community identity and connectedness;
- health and wellbeing;
- crime and safety; and
- the local economy and employment.

7.1.1 Population change

The proposed application at Parklands is unlikely to generate any significant, long-term impacts in terms of the socio-economic or demographic characteristics of the local area. While events at Parklands generate tourist population spikes, the proposal does not include housing. As such, the proposal will not produce an increase in the residential population and therefore, will not influence the demographic characteristics of the area in terms of population size, cultural and linguistic diversity or characteristics such as household income.

7.1.2 Housing

The proposed development does not involve the construction of housing. Nor does it result in the loss of housing in the area.

The proposal does not generate any impacts in terms of housing availability or affordability in the area.

7.1.3 Mobility and access

The proposed development does not generate any impacts in terms of mobility and access.

Events at the site are generally easy to access, with accessible toilet and shower facilities and parking available. Patrons with special mobility or access needs are asked to contact event organisers prior to events for specific information about relevant access, accessible parking and location of accessible amenities.

Challenges to site accessibility can arise after rain due to muddy grounds. Patrons are advised to prepare for this where applicable.

Platforms are provided at main stages for people in wheelchairs.

7.1.4 Community facilities and services

Community facilities and services typically refer to the likes of libraries, halls, child-care centres, hospitals and medical centres. The proposed development does not result in any long-term increases in demand for community facilities or services in the area. Nor does the proposal remove any community facilities or community services.

No other significant or long-term impacts on community services are likely to be caused by the proposed development.

As detailed in Chapter 7.2.7, medical and emergency services are provided onsite to reduce any impact on local services. The level of provision of fee-for-service ambulance and medical staff is such that the need for public services is eliminated in all but the most serious cases.

The Community Grants Program established by Parklands, SITG and FFB provides financial support to local community services and organisations, representing a positive impact for these services.

7.1.5 Cultural values and beliefs

Local community feedback identified a belief that the use of Parklands for large events was out of keeping with the character and values of the community. As discussed in Chapter 4.2, the Byron area is known for its natural features as well as its creative/cultural industries and communities.

Reflecting such characteristics, Parklands seeks approval to hold cultural events onsite on an ongoing basis. The cultural events held onsite throughout the trial, including SITG and FFB, include music, talks, arts and volunteering opportunities. Such events have also focussed on recycling and sustainability, all of which are complimentary to the established culture of the area.

Representatives of two local Aboriginal groups were invited to the site to discuss Aboriginal cultural heritage significance onsite. Board Chairman of TBLALC and Tweed Shire Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Des Williams and AAC CEO Gavin Brown attended onsite. No culturally significant areas were identified. Neither were any significant Aboriginal heritage issues raised in terms of using the site for events. An Aboriginal cultural heritage report prepared by Everick Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd accompanies the application.

7.1.6 Community identity and connectedness

During the consultation process, it was noted that Parklands and its use for cultural events was not in keeping with the quiet, natural environment. Feedback also cited that Parklands has caused divisiveness in the community, particularly between those who welcome events and the positive benefits these bring and those who are opposed to events at the site.

In active communities, there will always be issues that lead to different opinions and there may be no one solution that satisfies everybody. After the 12 February 2017 onsite community meeting, Parklands committed to holding more such meetings to engage with members of the local and broader community in discussing any issues that have arisen during events. These meetings are proposed to occur at regular intervals and will be in addition to the existing methods of direct communication with Parklands staff via the community hotline, community email address, Parklands website plus the community manager and community advocate. It is anticipated that more regular meetings with members of the local and broader communities will generate better communication and reduce misinformation.

Parklands also hosts the RWG, which includes three community representatives nominated by Byron Shire Council as well as key stakeholders such as Council representatives, NSW Police and other government agencies. These twice-annual meetings ensure that there is a forum for the community and stakeholders to report on the performance of the events; meet and discuss any issues; plan for events; and discuss mitigation and enhancement measures.

As outlined earlier, free tickets are provided to households in close proximity to Parklands. Further to this, tickets for events onsite are also made available to local residents for purchase before general ticket sales begin. This encourages increased local attendance and promotes community involvement in events.

As previously discussed, the Byron region is widely identified as a place of natural beauty with a highly creative population. In that respect, Parklands provides the potential for cultural events to be held on a site with uniquely compatible features such as a natural amphitheatre and appropriate areas for camping. Essentially the use of Parklands in this way aligns closely with the established community identity.

If approved, the proposed development has the potential to boost community connectedness through increased use of the site for community events. Such connectedness will be among the continued benefits expected to flow to those local residents who wish to attend events.

7.1.7 Health and wellbeing

The proposed development is unlikely to generate any long-term impacts on the health and wellbeing of the local or broader community.

Some parties in the consultation process noted health impacts resulting from sleep disturbance caused by vibrations and noise emissions from events onsite.

Such feedback was provided by residents living in the immediate vicinity and by the local and broader community.

Parklands acknowledges that its immediate neighbours are most likely to be affected by events on the site. To ameliorate the impacts on immediate neighbours, Parklands distributes four tickets per household for residents to participate and has made financial or other arrangements with all immediately adjoining residents with the exception of one.

Under the proposed development, impacts such as vibration and sleep disturbance have the potential to occur for a total of 13 nights per year when the medium and larger events are held. These potential impacts are considered in the acoustic impact assessment for the proposal, and it is unlikely that these impacts will generate any significant or long-term impacts.

The proposed development represents a positive impact in terms of the economic health and wellbeing of the area, through increases in tourism during events and the proposed conference centre.

7.1.8 Crime and safety

The proposed development is unlikely to generate significant impacts in terms of crime rates in the local and broader community.

It is noted, however, that there have been issues throughout the trial in terms of illicit drug use, fence-jumping and some anti-social behaviour. These issues are addressed in detail in Chapter 7.3.4.

Safety issues for patrons on the site were raised during the community consultation. These issues are addressed in Chapters 7.6.1 and 7.6.4.

7.1.9 Local economy and employment

The proposed development has the potential to generate significant contributions to the local economy and employment. Parklands engaged RPS Australia to undertake a detailed economic impact assessment of SITG 2016 and FFB 2016.

That assessment found that the two events generated:

- a total economic output of \$126.4 million, of which \$34.6 million is attributed to the Byron Shire;
- direct expenditure of \$55.1 million, of which \$16.6 million was in the Byron Shire;
- gross value added of \$60.7 million, with \$17.1 million in the Byron Shire; and
- 788 full time equivalent jobs, including 246 jobs in the Byron Shire (representing 2.25% of the Byron Shire workforce).¹²

If consent for the subject application is granted and the planned investment in the site as a permanent cultural events venue is made, it's likely that more employment opportunities will be created. Such employment will encompass jobs in construction, site works, site maintenance, promotion, operation, events and in the operation of the proposed conference centre.

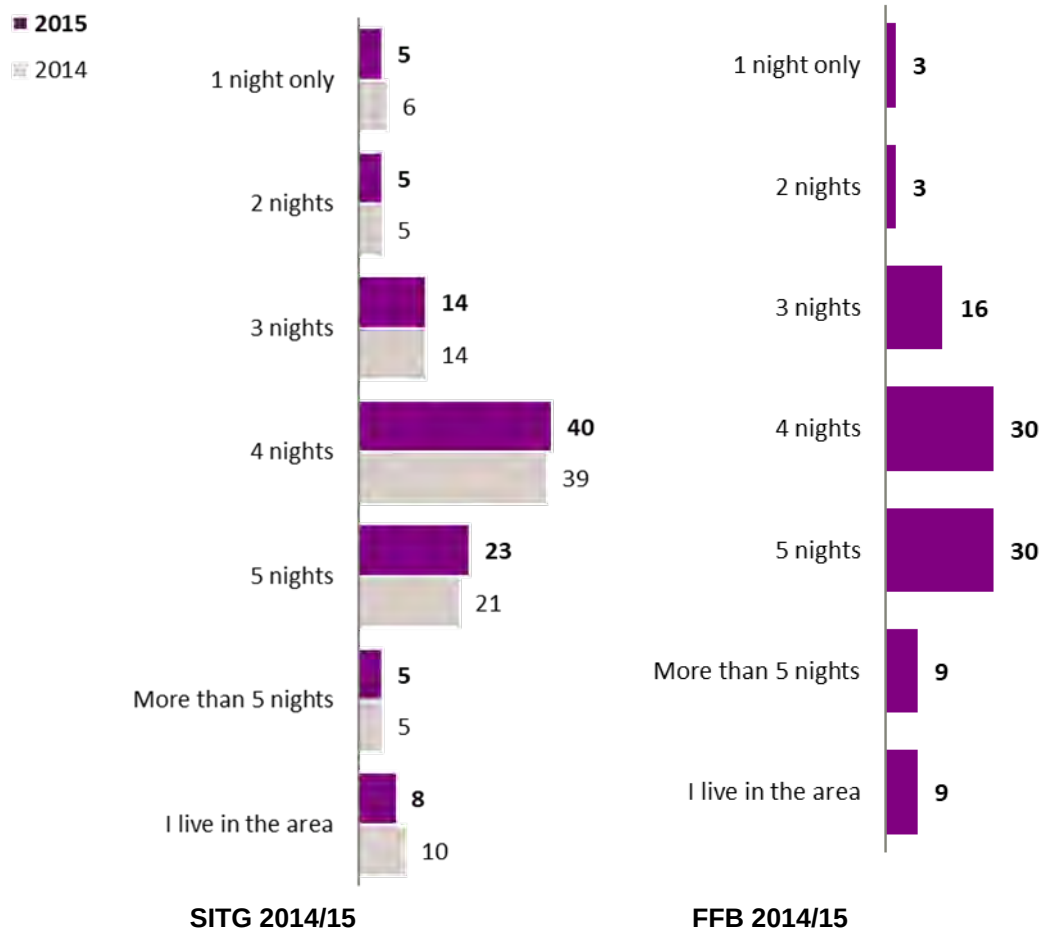
The proposed development will generate positive social impacts for tourism, employment and the local economy.

Patron surveys indicate that the majority of event patrons spend additional time in the area before and after events. Some 40% of SITG respondents stated that they stayed four nights, while 23% stayed five nights and 5% stayed more than five nights.¹³

¹² North Byron Parklands – Trial Period Extension Modification Environmental Assessment, pjep. March 2017

¹³ Fresh Projects: final online survey report, September 2015

Figure 7: length of stay data



The benefits generated by increased visitor numbers around the events, while short term, provide overall benefits for local accommodation providers, producers, growers, restaurants and other local retail and commercial outlets.

7.1.10 Issues raised during consultation

Many of the issues raised during the community consultation process are largely not issues typically addressed in social impact terms. Rather, these are typically short-term environmental and amenity issues. In social planning terms, the majority of issues raised do not constitute issues that are likely to significantly alter the social character of the area.

Nevertheless, the issues that have been raised are important to the local community and as such, need to be acknowledged and considered.

Accompanying reports to this application address in detail those issues relating to the environmental and ecological impact of events at Parklands, as well as traffic and parking issues. Such reports include the environmental impact statement and traffic impact assessment report. Environment and traffic issues, while noted in this SIA, are not considered in detail.

To the extent that the issues raised during the community consultation process can be addressed in social impact terms, they are addressed in the following. In addition to the issues identified during consultation, public interest benefits are also considered.

7.2 Community and amenity issues

As identified in Chapter 6, several issues that can be broadly grouped together as lifestyle and amenity issues were raised during the community consultation period. These include:

- Patron numbers and the size of future events
- Impact on nearby towns
- Noise/acoustics
- Anti-social behaviour in the community, including illegal camping, drug and alcohol use/misuse and disturbance
- Impact on telecommunications
- Insufficient onsite accommodation
- Impact on emergency services
- Impact on local businesses
- Divisiveness in the community
- Changes to lifestyle of local residents
- Security of neighbouring premises

7.2.1 Patron numbers and size of future events

A number of respondents to the community consultation process, queried the increase in patron numbers from the current level of 32,500 to 50,000. The issue of population increase during events over and above the usual residential population of the Byron LGA (31,556 as at 2016 Census) was of significant concern. The maximum capacity of the site has been determined to be 50,000 patrons .

The original application for the use of the site for cultural events, such as music festivals, included patron numbers of up to 50,000 people for 12 event days. As noted in Chapter 2, a precautionary approach was adopted by PAC and allowed for a maximum of 35,000 patrons for the five-year trial.

After consideration of community feedback, the number of large events and maximum patron numbers have subsequently been revised down.

In terms of event days and patron numbers, Parklands is now seeking consent for a total of 20 event days, comprising:

- two large events per year, being the existing SITG and FFB, catering for up to 35,000 patrons over a maximum of five days each;
- three medium event days catering for up to 25,000 patrons, either cumulative or separate;
- five small community event days catering for up to 5,000 patrons, either cumulative or separate; and
- two minor not-for-profit/educational community event days catering for up to 1,500 patrons.

Consent is also being sought to allow for the orderly growth of SITG from 35,000 to 42,500 and then 50,000 patrons, but only upon achievement of agreed traffic-related KPIs.

Organisers of SITG have identified that increasing patron numbers will allow investment in international artists that cannot presently be secured based on existing patron numbers due to current economic constraints.

7.2.2 Impact on nearby towns

Several submissions raised the issue of impacts on nearby towns, including Brunswick Heads, associated with increased visitors as a result of Parklands events. Impacts specifically related to the number of visitors, impacts on parking, increased rubbish and impacts on public amenities. It was specifically noted that during the peak holiday season, these particular public amenities already experience high traffic. Consequently, with the added influx of FFB patrons in this period, it is reported that public toilets in Brunswick Heads were unable to cope with demand.

Certainly, it is acknowledged that events on the site result in increased visitor numbers at local beaches and towns. It is reasonable, however, to expect that the large majority of event patrons will stay onsite for the duration of events. During FFB, 85% of event patrons (approximately 21,250) camp at Parklands. The majority of the remaining 3,000 patrons are local ticket buyers.

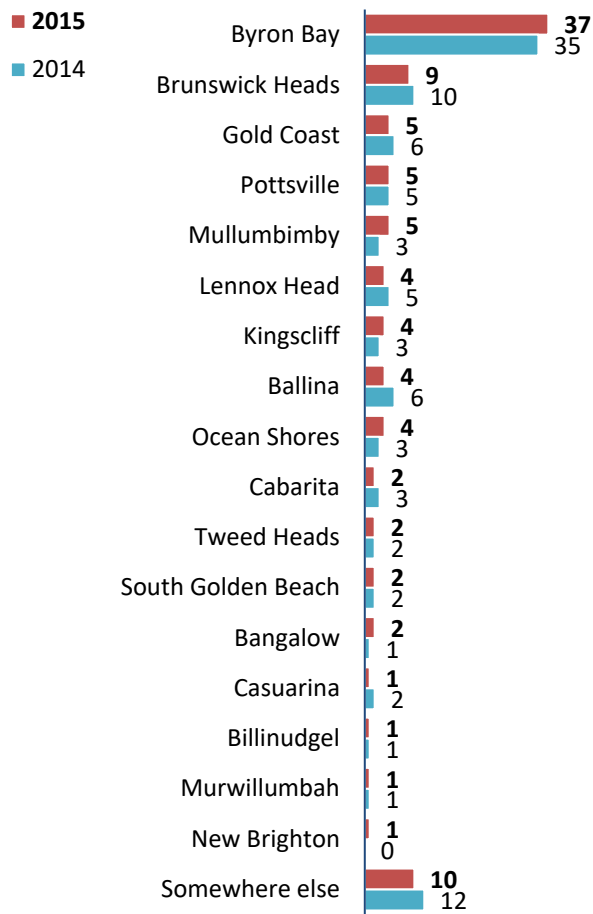
For SITG, approximately 13,000 patrons secure accommodation offsite, providing an economic boost in a typically quieter tourist time.

Since 2015, FFB event organisers have worked closely with Brunswick Heads Visitors Centre, Brunswick Heads Chambers of Commerce and community groups including Brunswick Heads Surf Life Saving. Such collaboration has centred on the development and delivery of 'Taking Care of Brunswick Heads During Falls'. Funded by the festival, the initiative is managed by a local resident who is employed to coordinate volunteers and contractors in Brunswick Heads. These personnel meet and greet festival patrons and remind them of community standards as they arrive in Brunswick Heads. They also ensure timely response to maintaining the cleanliness of public toilets and parks.

One key strategy to minimise impacts is to ensure that event patrons are not transported to this location after lunch-time. The strategy has proved popular with event patrons and FFB event organisers alike. Meanwhile, Parklands' general manager, community advocate and community manager continue to work closely with local residents and businesses to mitigate potential negative impacts on community amenity.

FFB also finances cleaning staff to manage toilets, bins and litter at Brunswick Heads for the duration of the event. This arrangement has worked well during what is traditionally a busy time for Brunswick Heads. Parklands and event staff continue to monitor and assess the needs of this cleaning initiative.

Figure 8: location of accommodation–SITG 2014 and 2015



Each event is also required to provide a litter response team (LRT) for the event's duration. The LRT is responsible for monitoring the cleanliness of roadsides and bus stops associated with the event. Further, the LRT is in regular contact with the community hotline and responds to any reported litter issues.

The potential impact of an influx of people on local towns is likely to generate a number of impacts. Some may be positive impacts and others may be perceived as being negative.

Positive impacts are present in the form of increased patronage at shops, food and beverage outlets and accommodation providers. Such increased patronage generates positive economic impacts as well as employment opportunities.

Potentially negative impacts include accessibility challenges to facilities like parking, shops and road networks together with potential impacts on public amenities such as public toilets. Consideration is given to mitigation measures aimed at reducing these impacts wherever possible. Possible initiatives include increasing ranger presence and financing the provision of additional resources for cleaning public amenities. In the context of events at Parklands, these impacts are short-term and limited to those days when large events are being run. None of the impacts discussed here are sustained long-term impacts on the community.

7.2.3 Noise/acoustics

Noise complaints during events at Parklands has been an issue raised throughout both the trial and consultation process.

Tweed Shire and Byron Shire Councils also raised noise and acoustic issues. Noise and acoustics are not typically considered to be social impacts to the extent that disruptive noise can impact on the way someone lives and experiences their lives. These impacts can, however, be considered in social impact terms.

Noise criteria are set in conditions of consent as part of the trial approval. The limits set in the consent were determined



Noise Management

- Complying with approved noise criteria
- 90% reduction in complaints since 2014
- 7 noise related calls to the community hotline for SITG17
- Continual improvement and investment in on-site noise mitigation measures
- State of the art directional PA speaker design - good for the community and patrons
- Acoustic Managers and Community Hotline providing proactive real-time noise management



to be the most appropriate to ensure patron enjoyment while protecting the amenity of the surrounding community.

Parklands is aware that, during events, there are noise emissions. The topography, landscape and natural amphitheatre of the site reduce noise emissions to some extent. Further, it is acknowledged that while some close neighbours reported a marginal level of disturbance during events, other community members noted that, when events are running, the noise is so intrusive that they need to shut their windows and doors to minimise its impact.

In context of noise disturbances to residents, it is relevant to note that potential disturbances will be limited to a maximum of 13 days/nights per year. Larger events typically shut down the main stage areas at midnight, with cafes and bars operating until 2.00am, which reduces noise levels from the site.

The largest event proposed on the site operates over five days and four nights. Consequently, the noise disturbance is a temporary short-term impact, despite being frustrating and intrusive for some and dependant on weather influences such as wind. At the latest large event (SITG17), a total of seven noise complaints were logged with the community hotline. Sarah George Consulting is advised that measurements were taken at each of the five locations and were compliant with approved noise criteria.

Parklands has developed a number of proactive and reactive noise management measures to minimise noise emissions from the site during events, as follows:

Design measures

Best practice acoustic management techniques incorporated into the design of the event include:

- where possible, directing public address speakers, event stages and speakers away from sensitive receivers;

- speaker directivity and selection of speakers arrays to minimise spillage of noise beyond the venue area;
- direction of amplified noise away from the Billinudgel nature reserve as far as practicable;
- downward incline of pole-mounted or elevated speakers to a minimum angle of 45 degrees from the horizontal or having speaker placement otherwise designed to reduce noise spillage to the surrounding environment;
- positioning of event stages and speakers to use any noise attenuation to sensitive receivers provided by the natural topography of the site and surrounding area;
- using fixed or portable barriers like shipping containers to construct acoustic barriers where necessary to limit noise emissions from event activities; and
- using time synced unattended noise monitoring equipment at receptor and stage locations to allow analysis of noise levels (front-of-house and receptor levels) post-event and calibration of predictive noise modelling for future events.

Management measures

A variety of management measures are adopted by festivals at Parklands to limit unacceptable noise impacts on nearby sensitive receptors. Both proactive and reactive measures are implemented.

Proactive noise management measures adopted include:

- provision of guidelines for all sound engineers on acceptable event front of house noise levels;
- appointment of dedicated event stage managers to manage noise emissions from sound amplification equipment;

- use of trigger levels by consultants to provide advance warning of the potential to exceed acceptable noise limits;
- consultation with community and regulatory groups; and
- timely response to complaints.

Parklands collects meteorological data from two onsite monitoring stations. This data is reviewed to determine the need for specific acoustic controls to accommodate the influence of weather conditions on noise emissions during events.

To compensate for noise disturbances, surrounding neighbours in the site's immediate vicinity receive free tickets to the events. This allocation typically accounts for approximately 400 tickets across 100 residents. Financial and/or other agreements are in place with all immediate adjoining neighbours, with the exception of one, to mitigate and help compensate for any impacts generated by events.

Residents raised an additional noise issue regarding noise generated by buses returning patrons who either live or are staying locally. While it's a disturbance to residents, this noise represents a short-term impact. Those residents concerned about noise generated by event-related buses can contact the community hotline to express their concern. Corrective actions can be considered where appropriate.

7.2.4 Anti-social behaviour

Community consultation raised the issue of anti-social behaviour from patrons, largely in reference to issues such as illegal camping; litter (addressed in 7.4.1); illegal parking; public intoxication; and drug and alcohol use/misuse. Calls to the community hotline during past events have also related to illegal camping, illegal parking and litter.

The NSW Police submission as part of the SEARs noted that a post-event review of SITG 2016 was undertaken, that *'highlighted the critical impact this event at current levels has upon the resources of the Tweed Byron LAC'*.

The submission further states that, *'from a policing perspective, a number of key issues were identified that should be considered for any EIS that proposes expansion of approvals to a capacity of 50,000 people'*. Among these issues raised here was safety and security, including the need for increased police presence onsite for first response as well as crowd control; patron safety; consumption of illicit substances; onsite access; lighting; terrorism; traffic management; and emergency management.

In relation to patron safety in terms of intoxication, the submission notes the following:

- **SITG 2016:** having 19 bars in operation poses significant risk to patrons in terms of monitoring and minimising harm. Difficulties are experienced by police in mitigating risk due to crowd numbers, lighting and site layout
- **SITG 2016:** for the first time in its history, this event was rated Extreme for Violence on ELORM
- **SITG 2016:** intoxicated minors were identified at this all-ages event. Detection of secondary supply and pre-loading was extremely difficult to achieve due to venue layout (including camping), venue lighting and patron numbers compared to the number of attending RSA/police/security.

Regarding consumption of illicit drugs, the following comments were made:

- *'SITG2016 saw 322 drug detections up from 188 in 2015:*
- *Drug detection operation only ran during limited hours for three of the five days, with an inability to cover all festival entry points*
- *Drug dogs were continually stood down because police were tied up processing offenders*

- *Detections equated to one every 1.45 minutes during operation*
- *Detection of adult supplying illicit drug to 16-year old female*
- *85 persons presented to onsite medical facility for drugs and/or alcohol-related complaints*
- *One patient transported by ambulance to hospital due to drug overdose.'*

While the content of the Police SEARs submission is acknowledged, comments from local police after SITG 2016 praised patron behaviour overall:¹⁴

'Police have praised the good behaviour of the majority of festival-goers during the annual Splendour in the Grass festival at the weekend.

'More than 33,500 people attended the festival each day between Friday (22 July 2016) and Sunday (24 July 2014[sic]), which included around 17,500 ticketholders camping onsite.

'A high-visibility police operation was in place from Wednesday (20 July 2016), which focused on maintaining a safe and secure event for everyone involved, while working to minimise the impact of the festival on the wider community.

'The five-day operation involved police from Tweed/Byron Local Area Command, assisted by General Duties officers from across the Northern Region, as well as the Dog Unit, Public Order and Riot Squad (PORS), Operations Support Group (OSG) and Traffic and Highway Patrol Command (THWPC).'

While the above notes the incidents of drug detection and infringements handed out, it also observes:

14

https://web.archive.org/web/20160801093002/http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/news/media_release_archive?sq_content_src=%2BdXJsPW0dHBzJTNBJTJGJTJGZWJpenByZC5wb2xpY2UubnN3Lmdvdi5hdSUyRm1lZGlhJTJGNTU5MDQuaHRtbCZhbGw9MQ%3D%3D

'Tweed/Byron Local Area Commander, Detective Superintendent Wayne Starling said he was pleased with the overall behaviour of festival-goers at this year's event.

"Once again police worked closely with Splendour organisers to ensure a safe and enjoyable festival, so it was positive to see that the majority of attendees heeded police warnings and behaved themselves," Det Supt Starling said.

"Our officers were even approached by music fans who thanked them for being there to keep everyone safe – it was tremendous to see such great support from the event community".'

Similarly, the police provided positive feedback on the operation of FFB 2016/17¹⁵:

'Tweed/Byron Local Area Command deemed their operation throughout festivities successful with low crime figures consistent with the previous year.

The command reported a mere five illicit drug detections out of the estimated 23,000 festival-goers who attended this year's event compared to 27 the 2015/16 event.

Officers maintained a 24-hour police presence throughout the three-day music event at the Byron Parklands.

Trespass into the popular summer festival has nearly halved, with 27 trespassing incidents recorded compared to more than 50 recorded the previous year.

The latest statistics indicate vehicle searches more than doubled, with 15 vehicles searched in contrast to seven recorded at the last festival."

¹⁵ <https://m.northernstar.com.au/news/low-crime-statistics-end-falls-on-high-note-police/3128955/>

NSW Police released a statement¹⁶ after SITG 2017, noting the following:

"Police pleased with festival-goers at Splendour in the Grass

Monday, 24 July 2017 02:26:11 PM

Police are pleased with the behaviour of the majority of festival-goers during the annual Splendour in the Grass festival at the weekend.

More than 32,500 people attended the festival each day between Friday (21 July 2017) and Sunday (23 July 2017), including tickets to camp onsite for 22,500 ticket-holders.

A high-visibility police operation was in place from Wednesday (19 July 2017), which focused on maintaining a safe and secure event for everyone involved while working to minimise the impact of the festival on the wider community.

The police operation involved officers from Tweed/Byron Local Area Command, assisted by General Duties officers from across the Northern Region, as well as the Dog Unit, Mounted Unit, Public Order and Riot Squad, Operations Support Group and Traffic and Highway Patrol Command.

As a result of the drug dog operation, 267 people were detected in possession of prohibited drugs, including cannabis, 'ice', MDMA and cocaine.

Police subsequently issued 76 cannabis cautions and more than 142 field court attendance notices.

¹⁶http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/news/news_article?sq_content_src=%2BdXJsPW h0dHBzJTNBJTJGJTJGZWJpenByZC5wb2xpY2UubnN3Lmdvdi5hdSUyRm1lZG lhJTJGNjQ5OTEuaHRtbCZhbGw9MQ%3D%3D

In addition, 12 people were charged over alleged drug supply.

Of note, about 6.45pm yesterday (Sunday 23 July 2017), a 21-year-old Gold Coast man was allegedly found with 60 ecstasy pills. He was arrested and taken to Byron Bay Police Station where he was charged with supply prohibited drug and possess prohibited drug. He was refused bail to appear at Tweed Heads Local Court today (Monday 24 July 2017).

Five people were charged with assault, including a 26-year-old man who allegedly entered a fenced stage area and became violent towards security officers. As police were arresting the man, he allegedly resisted them and assaulted three senior constables. He was taken to Byron Bay Police Station and charged with six offences: behave in offensive manner in a public place; resist officer in execution of duty; assault police officer in execution of duty (x2); assault police officer in execution of duty causing aggravated bodily harm; and intimidate police officer in execution of duty. The man was granted conditional bail to appear at Byron Bay Bail Court on Saturday (22 July 2017) and will next reappear at the same court on Monday 21 August 2017.

Police also issued more than 65 criminal infringement notices over alleged trespassing offences after people were detected attempting to enter the event grounds without valid tickets.'

Tweed/Byron Local Area Commander, Detective Superintendent Wayne Starling, said he was pleased with the overall behaviour of festival-goers at this year's event.

"We work closely with the organisers of Splendour to ensure the festival is safe and fun for event staff, performers and music fans and are pleased the overwhelming majority of revellers were well-behaved," Det Supt Starling said.

“It’s disappointing there were still some people who ignored our advice and tried to bring illegal drugs into the event; however, they were intercepted by our drug-detection dogs. In many cases, charges were laid against those who chose to do the wrong thing and they will now be brought before the courts to address those offences. We cannot reiterate enough how dangerous these substances can be; they are not only illegal but they can be incredibly harmful to your health and in some instances, fatal.”

“The safety and wellbeing of people attending the festival is our number one priority and we will continue to run operations to help ensure they are safe,” Det Supt Starling.

Notwithstanding the comments above, Parklands acknowledges the incidents that have occurred to date, and the issues raised by some stakeholders including NSW Police. Parklands is committed to addressing these issues through a number of measures, including:

- continuing to undertake incident simulation exercises with NSW Police;
- increasing lighting levels in licensed areas of events;
- maintaining pay-for-use levels of NSW police force members as determined by NSW Police;
- improving site layouts in consultation with NSW liquor licensing officers;
- partnering with Drinkwise Australia to promote a commitment to shaping a healthier, safer drinking culture in Australia;
- involvement in the STEER Youth Safe Transport Project to assist patrons who are driving to make an informed decision on whether to drive home or not if they may be unsure of their blood alcohol concentration. This program will be expanded into the campgrounds on the Monday morning when campers are departing;
- partnering with Byron Youth Services, that also operate a free breath-testing service;

- revision of the ticket terms and conditions, which allow promoters to remove non-compliant patrons from the site; and
- expanding education programs to patrons surrounding alcohol and drug use through various social and media channels.

Responsible service of alcohol

Alcohol is sold at events such as SITG and FFB under a limited licence. As SITG is a family-friendly festival, all patrons aged 18 and over who wish to consume alcohol are required to show identification. Upon tendering valid ID, those patrons will receive a tamper-proof wristband to identify them as an over-18.

Those under the age of 18 receive a different coloured tamper-proof wristband to allow for easy identification.

To obtain a “Limited Licence” for selling alcohol at a special event in NSW, the applicable authority (Liquor and Gaming NSW) must be of the opinion that the event would have a beneficial social or economic impact on the community at a regional, state or national level. The application for a ‘Limited Licence’ must include how the proposed licensed area will be physically defined and how access will be controlled to prevent liquor being brought into or being taken away from the proposed licensed area, and ensuring responsible service of alcohol practices are observed and intoxication prevented. In this regard, the following issues are taken into consideration:

- will liquor be available throughout the proposed licensed area or only in one consolidated area?
- is there an event management plan in place, with particular reference to the management of liquor and security?
- how will patrons attending the event be supervised and controlled?
- will security officers be engaged for the duration of the event?
- will local police be consulted in relation to security arrangements?

- where entertainment is to be provided at the event, describe the nature of the entertainment.
- describe the nature and quantity of food that will be available throughout the event.
- describe the availability of sanitary facilities and first aid services at the event.

Both SITG and FFB prepare comprehensive alcohol management plans for each event to ensure that alcohol is sold and consumed in a responsible, legal and safe manner. One strategy included in the plans is to sell mid-strength alcoholic beverages only which reduces the speed and degree to which people become intoxicated.

Drug use/misuse

With regards to issues relating to drug possession at previous events, both SITG and the FFB, clearly communicate to patrons via conditions of ticket sales, websites and social media that the sale or use of illegal drugs or illicit substances are strictly prohibited at the events. In addition patron's bags and vehicles are searched on entry. Police use drug dog detection services to deter patrons from attempting to bring illicit substances on site, and to confiscate any illicit substances detected. Patrons who attempt to smuggle illegal substances on to the site, run the risk of arrest from Police if caught and if caught, are not permitted entry to the site.

The Police submission noted "NSW Police resources will need to be dramatically increased at future events to mitigate risks identified in this report". NSW Police determine the number of pay for use Police required each day for events, and the cost is covered by event operators. It is anticipated that with the incremental increase in patron numbers, the required number of pay-for-use police will increase.

Anti-social behaviour offsite

Community members expressed a belief that Parklands and event operators have a responsibility for patrons, and their behaviour, once they leave the site. In particular, it was expressed that Parklands need to do more to address illegal camping, including associated fires and rubbish and illegal parking on residential streets. Offsite impacts were also raised by Tweed Shire Council, including illegal camping.

Of relevance, a number of community members noted that illegal camping is an issue throughout the year and not something necessarily related to events at Parklands.

Parklands have processes in place to ensure minimal disturbance to surrounding areas that have been refined throughout the trial. As noted previously, Parklands employ a Community Manager and Community Advocate to respond to issues raised by the community during events, and include actively going out to sites where illegal camping has been reported and talking to campers; and collecting rubbish when it has been reported.

Over the nine events held to date, a total of 10 illegal camping incidents have been reported to the Community Hotline. Only two of these cases were identified as being related to the festival in question. Importantly, tourism data from Destination NSW¹⁷ indicates that 4% of domestic day trippers admitted to parking their caravan, or camping near a road, or on private property. This supports the assertion from a number of community members, that illegal camping is a year-round issue and not one that is specifically associated with events at Parklands.

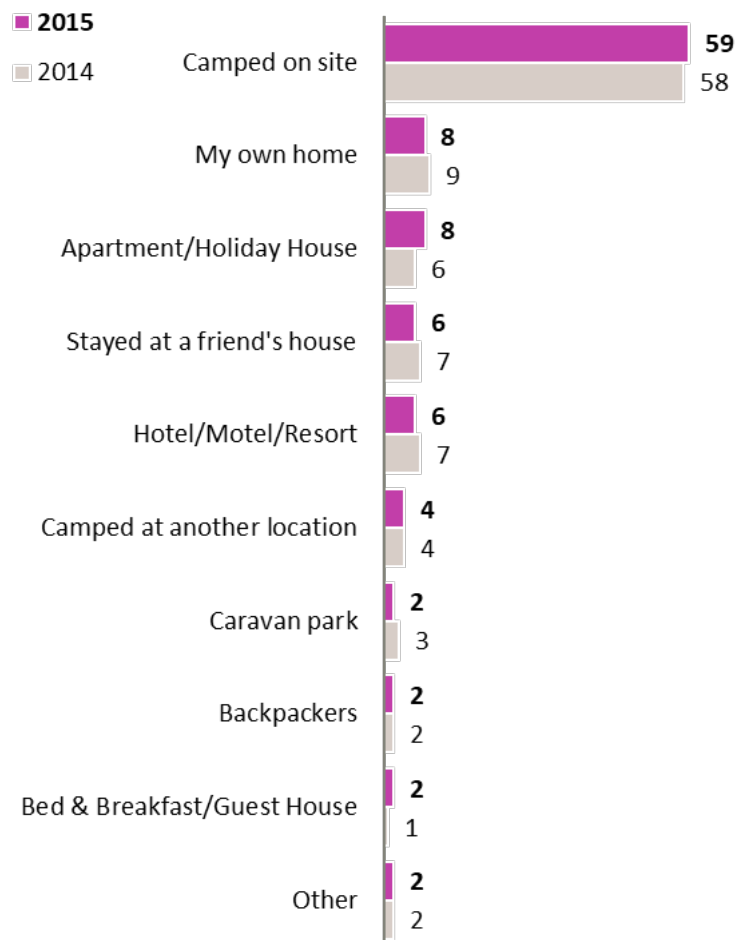
During SITG 2017, in response to a recommendation made by a community member representative on the RWG, signs warning of the penalties for illegal camping were installed on the main entrance road to North Ocean Shores and

¹⁷ LGA Profile – Byron – Four year annual average to year ending September 2014
(<http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Byron-LGA-profile-1.pdf>)

South Golden Beach. Two calls to the Community Hotline were recorded during SITG 2017, the Community Manager interviewed the drivers of the campervans in question, and determined they were not patrons of the event.

Surveys of patrons at events held at Parklands undertaken by Fresh Projects¹⁸, identified that patrons at Splendour utilised the accommodation types outlined in Figure 9 below.

Figure 9: accommodation types for SITG



¹⁸ Fresh Projects – Final Online Survey Report, September, 2017

As can be observed, the vast majority of patrons camp onsite (59%), stay in their own home (8%) or take up holiday accommodation (8%).

Prior to and during events, event operators regularly communicate with patrons requesting that they respect the neighbourhood and help to minimise impacts on neighbouring towns. Communications are made via email and social media. Ticketholders are warned about the risk of fines associated with littering, traffic and illegal camping.

Parklands has previously approached Byron Shire Council to discuss funding for additional rangers during event times. Ranger resources would respond to issues such as illegal camping and parking. Rangers have the authority to fine illegal campers, which is likely to act as a deterrent for those tempted to camp illegally in the future.

Parklands has advised that it is committed to investigating options such as funding additional rangers in both Tweed and Byron Shires, to address issues outside of the site, that are, or are perceived to be associated with events at the site.

A community member raised the issue of illegal access to the site, including fence-jumpers and trespassers, as both a safety consideration and a local concern.

Access to the site during events is controlled in a number of ways, including:

- Access on a ticketholder basis only. Patrons must produce their tickets in order to be granted entry to the site. In exchange for their tickets, patrons are given tamper-proof wrist-bands. Entry points for patrons include main vehicular and pedestrian entry to the site from Tweed Valley Way. A second site entry/exit point for patrons comes off Wooyung Road. Event organisers and site operators can access the site through several other perimeter gates,

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Prepared by SARAH GEORGE CONSULTING

however, these are kept locked and security personnel are assigned to each access point during events. Security and event staff control access to the site;

- CCTV monitoring of perimeter fencing around the site
 - Stationing of security personnel around the perimeter during events.
-
- Throughout the five-year trial, the following processes have been implemented to deter trespassers and fence-jumpers:
-
- Increased security along certain venue boundaries;
 - Collaboration with NSW Police to detain and fine fence-jumpers for trespassing;
 - Installation of signage around the venue perimeter advising that would-be fence-jumpers will be fined if caught;
 - Publishing information about fence-jumping penalties on event websites and social media channels, such as Facebook and Instagram; and
 - Informing local high schools about fence-jumping dangers and penalties.

As noted previously, police data from FFB 2016/17 noted that the number of incidents involving attempted illegal accessing of the site has almost halved. Police noted that at SITG 2017, 65 infringement notices were issued to people attempting to gain illegal access to the site. The strategies implemented so far, including police presence on and around the site, are effective deterrents against people attempting to gain illegal access to the site.

As increased patrons numbers converge on the site, security and police numbers will be correspondingly increased. Event operators will fund the extra police contingent. It is anticipated that with such increased security and police presence, existing trespass deterrent strategies will be even more effective.

7.2.5 Impact on telecommunications

A number of community members noted that internet access and mobile phone access were impaired. Such feedback came with an acknowledgement that phone and internet access could be patchy throughout the year as well as during festival times. Impaired telecommunications triggered several issues, including impacts on business operation. Another key area of concern was impeded communication in the event of an emergency such as a bushfire, not only for patrons on the site, but also for the local community.

Parklands itself has experienced some telecommunications issues during earlier events in the trial approval period. In response, Parklands has addressed these issues by having Telstra optic fibre installed across the site. Provision of this high capacity connection coupled with installation of mobile telecommunications towers during events (including Optus and Vodafone towers) means that telecommunication coverage is now at or above coverage levels experienced in the area when events are not in operation, even during large events.

Effectiveness of this telecommunications infrastructure is reflected in the community hotline data from the past six events. No complaints have been made in relation to poor mobile phone coverage.

7.2.6 Insufficient onsite accommodation

An issue was raised about the inability to accommodate all patrons onsite. The site is currently able to accommodate approximately 20,000 to 25,000 patrons in its camping grounds.

The proposed conference centre will have the capacity to accommodate 120 people. This constitutes an increase in onsite accommodation. It must be noted that, during events on the site, event staff will exclusively use the extra accommodation delivered by the proposed conference centre. Nonetheless, the

extra capacity afforded by the proposed conference centre does constitute increased onsite accommodation.

The ability to accommodate more campers is currently limited to the existing infrastructure onsite. Expanding the southern car park enables vehicles currently parked in the camping areas to be relocated, thereby creating additional space for campers. If consent for the subject application is granted, then Parklands is able to justify the cost of installing a greater number of composting toilets and showering facilities. This means that more patrons will be able to camp onsite during festivals.

Increased onsite accommodation for campers will not necessarily mean that all those attending events on the site will choose to camp there. Some patrons may choose to stay in other parts of the Byron and Tweed Shires, in caravan parks, hostels, motels or private rental homes.

Event patrons typically spend between \$350–\$500 in securing event and camping tickets to festivals held at Parklands. The majority of event patrons prefer to camp at Parklands. For FFB, approximately 85% of patrons camp at Parklands. Most of the remaining 3,000 patrons are local ticket buyers. For SITG, approximately 13,000 patrons secure accommodation offsite while approximately 25% (approximately 3,000 patrons) are local ticket-buyers.

Local accommodation options are already stretched and this issue was raised as a social impact. The demand for local accommodation is a positive social impact in terms of the local economy. This is particularly true in relation to SITG, which is held in the traditionally quieter winter period. It was suggested, however, that due to limited accommodation options this would result in increased illegal camping.

The Byron Tourist Accommodation Profile prepared by *Destination NSW*¹⁹ is included in Chapter 3. Data from the profile indicates that most hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15 rooms or more experience rates of around 71%. This indicates that these types of accommodation are not being utilised to capacity.

Tourism data²⁰ also indicates that the five accommodation types used by domestic visitors to Byron LGA are caravan parks or commercial camping grounds (13%); staying with friends or relatives (39%); rented houses, apartments or units (10%); hotels, resorts, motels and motor inns (25%); or parking a campervan or camping near a road, or on private property.

Data for the Tweed LGA²¹ indicates that the top five accommodation types for visitors are friends or relatives' property (39%); caravan park or commercial camping ground (13%); hotel, resort, motel or motor inn (25%); rented house, apartment, flat or unit (10%); and own property, such as a holiday house (4%).

In addition to more traditional forms of tourist accommodation, there are a significant number of dwellings and rooms available for rent from homeowners through services such as *AirBnB* and *Stayz*.

7.2.7 Impact on emergency services

Community members suggested that emergency services, such as police and ambulance, are already stretched. As a result, it's perceived that the wider community is left vulnerable due to response delays and a lack of adequate support services.

Parklands and event operators pay for police and ambulance support during event days. These emergency services staff are sought from around the state

¹⁹ <http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Byron-LGA-accommodation-profile.pdf>

²⁰ <http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Byron-LGA-profile-1.pdf>

²¹ <http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Tweed-LGA-profile-1.pdf>

and are only able to work at events on their regular or rostered days off from their usual duties. Fees paid by Parklands and event operators cover wages, transport and accommodation for emergency services staff and there is no resultant reduction in available services to local areas.

Emergency Medics has been contracted to manage medical services at SITG since 2008 and has also been the medical service provider for FFB since its inception at Parklands in 2013

In consultation with the Ambulance Service of NSW and other healthcare providers, Emergency Medics ensures that each festival has a diligent standard of care and that all areas of potential risk are planned for and managed according to strict guidelines. As the onsite service provider, Emergency Medics provides a level of clinical practice and patient safety that exceeds the level of clinical care achievable by the ambulance service at events. Patrons attending festivals at Parklands have 24-hour access to a fully-equipped and -staffed medical centre.

The following medical resources are made available onsite:

- senior emergency registrar (doctor);
- general practice specialist;
- critical care paramedic;
- x4 Registered nurses;
- x9 advanced care paramedics;
- x12 standard care paramedics; and
- x50 crowd care support officers.

The capabilities of Ambulance Service of NSW are enhanced as event organisers pay \$5,000 per event for the rostering on of additional crews. These crews are not located at the event but rather at their normal ambulance station

(i.e. Byron Bay) and will only undertake patient transfers from events to hospital upon request. Given the high level of onsite medical facilities at each event, patients can be maintained at the triage centre until ambulance resources are available. This is possible, even when taking into account the extra crew paid for by event organisers.

This provision of onsite services helps to decrease any resource drain on local ambulance networks.

A representative of Tweed NRMA was in attendance at the community meeting at Parklands on 12 February 2017. The representative noted that, during the trial period, the demand for NRMA services had increased meaning that NRMA was obliged to purchase more trucks to accommodate demand. The concern was whether increased visitor numbers to the site would correspondingly cause further increased demand for NRMA services. Of associated concern was that funding wasn't forthcoming from NRMA.

NRMA is a member-based service and as such, only paid members utilise the service.

It is reasonable to assume that with the improved access from south-east Queensland provided by the motorway and increased traffic through the area, NRMA sub-branches would be experiencing greater demand.

The concerns of the NRMA representative are acknowledged, however, potential increased demand for NRMA services that may be generated by events at Parklands are likely to be limited to those times when events are being run. As such, there is likely to be only short-term increase in demand.

The continuation of events at Parklands is unlikely to generate any significant impact on NRMA services over and above temporary peaks in demand.

7.2.8 Impact on local business

Impacts on local businesses related to telecommunications disruptions are covered earlier in 7.2.5. In addition, issues were raised regarding increased traffic and people in nearby towns inhibiting usual business activities such as dispatching and receiving deliveries. No specific details were provided by local businesses during the consultation period in regard to these issues.

If this disruption does in fact relate to the increase in people and traffic as a result of events at the site, then, the impact is short-term. If all 20 of the proposed event days are used in a year, which invariably cover a number of weekends and public holidays, that still only equates to potential disruption to normal trade and operations for a small proportion of the year.

Events are planned well in advance and dates for events are advertised well ahead of time to enable ticket sales and other preliminary aspects to be taken care of. As such, potentially affected businesses have the opportunity to work around event dates. In addition, events are typically run over weekends and on public holidays when there is a reduced likelihood for interruption to business operations.

This issue also needs to be considered against the benefits to local businesses, which have been noted by other community members and are supported by the economic data presented in Chapter 7.1.9. Such economic data highlights the significant economic and employment benefits generated for Byron LGA throughout the trial period as a result of increased tourism together with use of local accommodation, transport, retail and food and beverage outlets.

On balance, the proposal's positive impacts on local business far outweigh the minor short-term negative impacts.

7.2.9 Changes to lifestyle of local residents

It is unclear from community commentary exactly what changes to their lifestyles would be generated if consent is granted for a permanent cultural events site.

As previously discussed, the subject application is unlikely to generate any impacts or changes in terms of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the area.

Under the proposal, a total of 20 event days over the course of a year will be permitted. It is acknowledged that there are some impacts on local residents generated by events, including increased people in the area, increased traffic and noise issues. All such issues, however, are limited to event days and generate only short-term impacts.

Community feedback noted concern that local residents were vacating their homes during festival times and renting these out to festival patrons. This practice was seen to create 'party houses', which create neighbourhood disturbance. One resident noted that long-term rental properties were being changed to holiday rentals and long-term tenants were being driven out of the area.

Parklands has limited ability to control homeowners exercising their rights to rent out their premises to holiday-makers or event participants. If tenants of a property are disturbing neighbours, then those neighbours can access usual channels such as calling the police to address the issue. Neighbours can also communicate with each other and discuss issues that may have arisen while a property has been rented. Parklands is able to assist in these communications through its existing community engagement framework, including the Community Manager and Community Advocate.

Housing data derived from the 2016 Census indicates that there were:

- 471 unoccupied dwellings in the SAL2, accounting for 12.6% of all housing in the area; and
- 2057 unoccupied private dwellings in the Byron LGA, accounting for 15.3% of all housing in the area.

These statistics indicate that there is an existing pool of holiday rental housing in the area that is not being leased through the private rental market. Notably, the proportion of unoccupied private dwellings in SAL2 in 2016 has reduced from 13.6%. It is unlikely that events at Parklands are significantly impacting on these figures.

Private rental property figures in the SAL2 and Byron LGAs have also remained relatively stable from 2011–2016. In SAL2, private rental property figures comprised 29.8% in 2011 and 29.7% in 2016. Comparatively in Byron LGA, private rental property figures comprised 30.8% in 2011 and 29.4% in 2016.

Certainly, short-term, limited impacts generated by events at Parklands are important to those who are experiencing them. Such impacts are, however, offset to an extent by the range of ameliorative measures taken by the event organisers and through the wider longer-term positive impacts potentially generated by approval for permanency of cultural events at the site. Such longer-term positive impacts include:

- economic benefits of patrons attending events, and spending money offsite on accommodation, transport, food, beverages and local retail;
- increased tourism;
- employment opportunities for local youth and other job-seekers;

- a unique, sustainable world-class event site;
- free tickets and other compensation measures for immediate neighbours;
- financial benefits to local residents who rent out their properties to event patrons;
- increased access to the site for local groups and schools; and
- environmental benefits through the proposed land swap and land regeneration which has occurred over the past 10 years.

7.2.10 Security of neighbouring properties

As with any event or large congregation, security is an integral safety component. During Parklands event days, security personnel are stationed throughout the site, around the perimeter and at pre-agreed residential homes to ensure the security of the site and surrounds. In particular, security assists with preventing illegal access to the site; maintaining with traffic flow; and addressing any security risks.

7.3 Traffic and transport

Transport, traffic and parking issues are not typically social planning impacts. Changes to traffic and parking patterns can, however, result in impacts to a person's day-to-day life. Furthermore, community members raised these issues in the consultation phase. As such, transport issues are addressed in the following section:



Traffic Management

- Continual improvement in traffic management
- Full compliance for SITG17 traffic
- Zero traffic complaints SITG17
- Building new transport infrastructure to better manage traffic
- Dedicated drop off/pick up zones
- Expanded satellite carparking for staff
- Locating guest services offsite
- Continuing incentives and rebates for carpooling



Community feedback noted concern regarding traffic impacts generated by events on the site that create extra vehicular flow onto the motorway and local roads. Another key concern was the exacerbation of parking issues if patron numbers are increased from current levels. Tweed and Byron Shire Councils, DP&E and Roads and Maritime Services noted issues around traffic and site ingress/egress. In their response to the SEARs, NSW Police also noted issues with traffic management, particularly issues that arose during SITG 2016.

Traffic and transport assessment consultants, Greg Alderson and Associates (the “traffic consultants”) monitors and reports on traffic and parking during events. Such work involves active and reactive traffic and parking monitoring to count vehicles, ingress and egress and traffic flow out of the site.

The traffic consultants have recommended implementation of additional measures to acceptably reduce traffic impacts at the Yelgun interchange. Recommended measures include encouraging higher bus use, additional reduction in cars coming into the site, traffic management measures to monitor and manage queues at the Yelgun Interchange and traffic control. Full details of the traffic management plan are included in the traffic and transport impact assessment accompanying this application.

Strategies implemented throughout the trial to reduce vehicles on roads and onsite include incentives in the form of fee reductions for patrons if they car-share. This includes those who are camping onsite and have three or more people in their vehicles plus day-trippers who have four or more people per car.

Sarah George Consulting is advised that traffic was successfully managed at SITG17. At the SITG RWG debrief meeting, both NSW Police and RMS praised event operators for a seamless traffic management system. No impacts were reported on external roads for the duration of the event. It is reported that the public transport system operated without delay, allowing patrons to leave the site

at night in a timely manner. The departure of campers on the Monday post-festival was reportedly the fastest to date.

A community information session was held in August 2017. Here, a resident noted that there was some confusion over traffic arrangements on local roads that generated some short-term impacts in the form of resident reluctance to go out. This issue can be resolved through clearer communication between Parklands and local residents for future events, or through local residents contacting the community hotline to clarify arrangements.

The experience at SITG17 indicates that traffic and patron transport to and from the site can be managed by existing traffic management strategies so as to reduce impacts on local roads. It is anticipated that the same traffic management systems can be implemented to manage larger patron numbers.

7.3.1 Ingress and egress to/from the site

Community members and NSW Police noted previous issues during SITG 2016 with cars entering and leaving the site from TVW. Cars queued and disrupted traffic flow on TVW, as well as onto the motorway. It was also noted that a number of event patrons have been observed walking to the site and leaving the site on foot.

Parklands and its traffic consultants, in consultation with RMS and emergency services, undertook a detailed review of this issue both as it occurred and after the event. The review found that the congestion primarily resulted from onsite traffic congestion at the pick-up and drop-off facility, which impeded parking and movement in the northern car park and bus turnaround facility. This, in turn, caused congestion and queuing on the public road network. Congestion at the pick-up and drop-off facility was identified as largely resulting from an unprecedented increase in ride-sharing services like Uber and parent/family pick-ups compared to previous events.

In response to the issues experienced during the first two days of SITG 2016, an adaptive management approach was implemented during the event in conjunction with applicable regulatory agencies. The issues were resolved by the final day of the event by moving all taxi and shuttle bus pick-ups and drop-offs to the southern car park. Upon implementation of this change, traffic flows returned to normal and bus services ran on schedule.

The changes to pick-up and drop-off arrangements are now being implemented at all future large events.

Additional transport and demand management measures are being implemented as part of the traffic management plans for Parklands, all aimed at reducing traffic volumes on the Yelgun interchange and key intersections. Such measures include:

- spreading traffic flows to the Cudgera Creek and Brunswick Heads interchanges to ease congestion on the Yelgun Interchange. This will be achieved through the use of variable message signs at each interchange;
- use of clear directional signage and traffic controllers;
- discouraging onsite parking through parking changes;
- encouraging carpooling through reimbursement of parking charges for vehicles with multiple passengers;
- enforcement of on-street parking bans;
- provision of bicycle parking; and
- provision of event bus services and bus parking facilities.

The abovementioned measures have been demonstrated to be effective at SITG17 where traffic management, public transport for patrons and camper departure were all managed without incident.

The same adaptive management approach will be taken should any unanticipated issues with ingress/egress or traffic arise for future events with greater patron numbers.

7.3.2 Consideration of transport options

Several community members and stakeholders raised the issue of transport to and from the site during events. As noted previously, the traffic consultants have identified this as an issue and proposed some additional measures to address traffic and transport. Such measures include encouraging greater use of buses and reducing the number of cars coming into the site.

Tweed Shire Council noted that consideration of bus routes to and from Parklands to Tweed Shire need to be reviewed and possibly increased to accommodate existing demand. Community members suggested that bus routes be reconsidered, with some requesting that buses drop people off on their streets and others requesting that buses not go down their street.

Some towns see events at Parklands as an opportunity to attract more visitors. The Burringbar Resident's Association has requested consideration of a bus route between Parklands and Burringbar for locals attending events and to encourage patrons to stay in the town during events. In response, such a service was trialled during SITG 2017 along Tweed Valley Way between Burringbar and Parklands. The Tweed Valley communities were very pleased with the service. Parklands, SITG and FFB are now in discussion with transport providers to extend the service to Murwillumbah.

Bus routes have been designed to ensure equitable and convenient delivery of patrons to surrounding areas. Parklands is open to feedback from the community and other stakeholders regarding alterations to established event bus routes and frequency.

7.3.3 Parking in nearby towns

Community members raised the issue of increased people and cars in local towns around event times and the subsequent issues locals experience in accessing car parking. Other community members acknowledged that this was an issue at other times throughout the year and was not confined solely to event times.

Increased parking demand in local towns during events at Parklands is a short-term impact that lasts only for the duration of the event. Presumably, while increased patronage at shops does potentially increase demand for parking, it would also generate positive economic impacts in those towns.

7.3.4 Deterioration of local roads

As noted in Chapter 4.3, the deterioration of local roads is an issue throughout the Byron Shire and one that has resulted in a Council rates rise.

A number of community members attributed the deterioration of local roads to events at Parklands. These community members expressed concern that an increase in patrons would exacerbate the deterioration of local roads, with no financial compensation from Parklands.

This issue is one that has been expressed with a lot of emotion. The state of the roads is a tangible issue. Less tangible is the emotional response to the Byron Bay Council rate rise to undertake road improvements and the impression that the state of local roads is the result of events at Parklands.

It is noted that Parklands pays Council rates and has contributed significantly to offsite road works. Furthermore, Parklands has funded some recent intersection improvements in the locality so is supporting enhancement of local road infrastructure. It is also noted that Byron Shire Council is the regulatory authority responsible for maintaining local roads.

7.4 Environment

Detailed assessment of the subject application's environmental impacts is made in the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by PJEP together with other specialist reports accompanying the application. While the environment and environmental impacts are important community issues, these are difficult to address in social impact terms. The issues raised through the consultation process that are able to be addressed, to some extent, in social impact terms include:

- issues of waste management; and
- improvements to Parklands over the trial period that have generated positive environmental impacts that benefit the whole community.

7.4.1 Waste generation/waste management

Waste generation and management at events was raised as both an issue and a challenge to the sustainability of events at the site.

Currently, waste is collected throughout the event by waste collectors and volunteers. Patrons are provided with garbage and recycling bags, for which daily collections are made. Patrons are also asked to remove their tents and other camping



Environmental Management

- To date, 220 days of environmental auditing by ecologists and botanists
- No long-term impacts identified for any flora or fauna
- Ongoing habitat restoration program
- Expansion of current composting toilets (246) and low-flow showers (192)
- Vision to treat 100% of liquid waste onsite
- Engaging festival patrons in sustainability programs at events
- Investigating alternative energy sources



equipment upon departing the site.

Waste generation is an issue at large events. Parklands and event organisers are aware of the need to ensure better waste reduction options at the events. Solid waste management plans are developed for each event. These aim to minimise the creation of general waste (directed to landfill) while increasing the ability to capture materials suitable for reuse and recycling.

During events, primary waste and recycling infrastructure is located in a flood-free area of the site that is connected by a service road built above the 1:100 year flood level. All waste and recycling materials are transported by licenced operators and disposed of at appropriately licenced waste and recycling facilities.

Some strategies implemented to help patrons manage waste at events include:

- provision of two garbage bags to each camping patron, one being for waste and the other for comingled recyclables. Patrons are also given a map directing them to the appropriate disposal locations together with educational flyers encouraging recycling and responsible waste disposal;
- over 100 collection points distributed throughout the festival camping areas. Collection points are approximately 10m apart and located near key access roads and camping areas to facilitate quick, easy collection. These areas are designated by tall signage for easy visibility;
- 100 'waste pods' spread throughout the festival site for waste disposal. These pods include relevant signage and use the same colour-coding as household bins to facilitate separation of waste from recyclables. Each bin onsite is changed approximately 16 times throughout a festival; and
- a specific strategy to increase recycling at events.

Social media is also used to promote sustainable practices at events. At SITG17, for example, patrons were asked to be a 'Splendour Enviro Unf\$%ker' and participate in the numerous waste reduction strategies being deployed.

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Some of the listed initiatives and strategies include:

- **Eco Cops:** environmental science students from Australian universities who ensure that event patrons are acting in an environmentally responsible manner
- **Waste Warriors:** environmental science students who help combat waste in the site campgrounds, educate campers and promote recycling
- **Green Team:** this group works around the campgrounds and event areas explaining the waste and recycling programs and collecting discarded recyclable materials
- **Tree planning program:** compliments the already extensive habitat restoration taking place onsite and for the three years to 2016. Event patrons have assisted in planting 4,500 native trees to date.

Patrons are also encouraged to use the correct bins; seek out the composting toilets; have short showers; plant a tree; and catch public transport or ride-share.

It's important to note that the site is owned and operated by locals who live in the area with their families and who have a vested interest in ensuring that the natural features of the site are maintained. This includes ensuring that, after events, the site is waste-free and continues to be an attractive venue for future events.

At the community information session held at Parklands on 19 August 2017, attending community members noted concerns regarding the potential environmental effects of plastics left onsite and glitter used by SITG 2017 patrons. These issues can be addressed through revised litter collection practices, as well as mandated use of eco-glitter that was used in Splendour in the Craft bus craft activities.

Site works and impacts on the catchment

One community member queried whether the works onsite had contributed to flooding of other areas and generated impacts within the catchment.

Parklands advises that no works had been undertaken onsite to change upstream or downstream flood levels. Parts of the site that are used for parking and camping were already levelled for previous agricultural uses.

7.5 Site issues

7.5.1 Safety of patrons

Community members who stated that they had attended events onsite noted issues with safety, particularly regarding pedestrian paths through the site. At previous events onsite, temporary paths have been installed for foot traffic to protect the land as well as pedestrian safety, particularly when the weather is wet. It was noted that these paths are well utilised and can get slippery.

Part of the subject application site improvements, such as installation of all-weather walkways throughout the site to improve pedestrian safety.

Patron safety is paramount during events. To ensure patrons behave appropriately and to uphold their safety, private security staff are employed throughout events. Such staff continue to work overnight for the safety of campers. Security management plans are prepared prior to events to ensure adequate security is provided.

As previously detailed, comprehensive medical support is provided onsite during events. This reduces the need to rely on public ambulance and medical support. The level of service delivery provided onsite enables a standard of care for patrons that is comparable or higher than the resources available from an ambulance service provider.

Parklands events yield the capacity to manage complex conditions onsite without the immediate requirement for transportation to other healthcare facilities. This ensures patrons receive an appropriate level of care without having to attend local medical facilities unless absolutely necessary.

7.5.2 Human waste

Under the initial concept for the site, a sewerage and waste treatment plant was proposed. This aspect of the proposal will no longer proceed because superior and more environmentally sustainable options have been explored, approved by Byron Shire Council and implemented. Such options include the installation of 246 composting toilets and sustainable shower facilities. Existing facilities are located in the camping grounds, so additional port-a-loos have to date been required in event areas.

Parklands proposes to install additional composting toilets and permanent shower facilities as part of the proposed application. These measures would minimise the need for port-a-loos at large events.

The composting toilets currently installed on the site reduce the need for human waste to be removed and treated off-site by up to 90%. With permanency, it is envisaged that no human waste will be required to be removed and treated offsite.

Comprehensive details regarding the management of human waste can be found in the EIS accompanying the application.

7.5.3 Offsite facilities

A local business owner noted that security personnel located on Jones Road, as well as people collecting patrons from events, were frequently requesting access to their bathroom facilities.

Parklands acknowledges the need to provide bathroom facilities to security staff on the site and will include this in their planning for future events to minimise disturbance to neighbouring properties by event staff.

7.5.4 Emergency evacuation

Concern was raised about the ability for patrons to exit the site in the event of an emergency. This was also raised by NSW Police and expressed as a concern by Tweed Shire Council given recent flooding on the site.

Sarah George Consulting is advised that Parklands has a close working relationship with local police and that NSW Police are represented in the RWG to ensure that patron safety is made a priority in event planning.

Prior to each event, Parklands and NSW Police meet to discuss potential emergency incidents and evacuation strategies. The two parties work together to ensure venue and event operators are trained in emergency response procedures for a number of different scenarios. Parklands and event operators frequent incident simulation exercises with NSW Police and other emergency services to continuously improve incident response capabilities.

There are five dedicated and approved entrances to the site, being gates A to D and emergency gate E. After further consultation with adjoining landowners and emergency services, another six ingress/egress points have been identified and mapped as part of the bushfire emergency evacuation plan and flood evacuation plan.

An evacuation management plan is in place to ensure the safe evacuation of patrons, workers and performers should a significant weather event, such as a flood, occur while an event is being run. The existing evacuation plan will be amended to specifically plan for the evacuation of 50,000 patrons.

7.6 Other issues

7.6.1 Ownership of events

Community concern was expressed about international investment from the Live Nation group. Such concerns centred on money going off-shore and potential pressure from Live Nation to host bigger events on the site. Community impression is that Live Nation now owns part of the Parklands site.

Live Nation has invested in Secret Sounds, an Australian company that manages and represents contemporary recording artists. Secret Sounds also shares investment in music and arts festivals, including SITG and FFB. Live Nation has no investment in the Parklands site itself though. Rather the site is wholly owned by Australians, many of who are members of the local community.

The partnership between Live Nation and Secret Sounds was formed to give Australian audiences access to better-known international and Australian artists and to help ensure the future sustainability of the events themselves

Regardless, the size and scale of events on the site will be limited to the approved patron numbers, capacity of the site and infrastructure to accommodate the set patron numbers. The proposed numbers sought under the subject application are those that have been deemed acceptable on the site to ensure sustainability, infrastructure capacity and economic viability.

7.6.2 Modification for FFB 2017/2018

One participant in the community meeting questioned the modification to the trial to allow for FFB 2017/18. At the time the community meeting was held, no application for a modification had been made.

As previously noted, since that meeting an application has been made to modify the trial approval and extend the trial period for an additional 20 months to 31 August 2019. The extension will allow event organisers to secure acts for SITG

2018/19 and FFB 2018/19 while the application for permanency is being prepared, submitted and considered.

7.6.3 Non-compliance with conditions of trial approval

Community feedback noted non-compliance with conditions of the trial approval including noise emissions, which is addressed earlier. One resident who identified themselves as a neighbouring property owner noted that, under the conditions of the trial approval, Parklands was obliged to soundproof their dwelling to reduce noise intrusion into the same. The resident noted that this has still not occurred.

Sarah George Consulting is advised that Parklands has worked with this resident since 2013 to attenuate parts of their dwelling. As part of the DP&E request in December 2014, an attenuation assessment was undertaken by an acoustic attenuation expert before detailed architectural plans were prepared and a scope of works developed. After further negotiations, the scope of works was approved and signed off by the resident. Three registered builder quotes were obtained in April 2016 with regard to the scope of works. Parklands advises that it has complied with the noise attenuation requirements stipulated in the DP&E's letter dated 19 December 2014 and that it is awaiting approval from the resident to commence works.

7.7 Public interest benefits

To ensure a balanced assessment, it is important for the benefits generated by events at Parklands to be considered. Music festival such as SITG and FFB provide positive benefits for a variety of groups, including participants, bands, promoters, vendors, accommodation providers, local shops, transport providers, and waste management companies.

Admittedly there is a proportion of the community who are actively opposed to Parklands, for both tangible and intangible reasons. Conversely though, there is

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also a significant proportion of the community who support the application for a cultural events site.

The original concept plan and project application generated significant community response, both for and against the project. Of the 5,540 submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the original proposal, 87% were in support while only 13% opposed the development. Submissions made in respect of the Mod 4 application indicate significant levels of community support for events at Parklands. Some 82.3% of the 634 submissions expressed support for an extension of the trial while only 17.7% expressed objection.

Such community support stems from the experience of the community throughout the trial period and the benefits generated to the local community by events being held on the site. Community support also recognises the potential for increased community events on the site, as proposed under the application for permanency.

One significant positive outcome generated by events at Parklands has been the establishment of the community grants program.

Parklands has collaborated with SITG and FFB event operators to establish the Parklands community grant fund. This program provides funding and in-kind support to community organisations and services. Since 2001, SITG and FFB have donated approximately \$600,000 to community groups in the Northern Rivers.

Direct contributions to community groups during the most recent performance reporting period totalled \$56,000, including grants to:

- Byron Bay Community Centre (\$15,000);
- Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre (\$10,000);
- Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre (\$8,000);

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- Pottsville and District Men's Shed (\$5,000);
- Mullumbimby Showground Trust (\$4,750)
- Brunswick Valley Meals on Wheels Services Inc. (\$3,500);
- Crabbes Creek Primary School P&C Association (\$2,500);
- Brunswick Nippers, Junior Life Saving Club (\$2,000);
- Byron Youth Theatre (\$1000); and
- Ocean Shores Primary School (\$5,000).

In 2017, SITG community grants were given to seven local community groups and organisations being:

- Lions Club of Brunswick-Mullumbimby
- Brunswick Heads Girl Guides
- Corem Mullumbimby
- The Uncle Project
- Lone Goat Gallery, Byron Bay
- Ocean Shores Primary School
- Elysium Project, Lateen Lane, Byron Bay

In addition to these direct contributions, over \$50,000 worth of event tickets were donated to charitable organisations and public schools to assist with fundraising activities.

A complete list of contributions made through the community grants program is included at Appendix C.

If the subject application for a cultural events site is granted, the following public interest benefits will be continued or generated:

- Continued access for regional Australians to world-class contemporary arts and culture;

- Continued provision of a world-class, sustainable, unique event venue that attracts tourists to the area;
- Increased patronage at local shops, accommodation and businesses, providing benefits to the local economy;
- Increased access to the site for smaller community groups and events;
- Investment in the site to improve infrastructure, access and amenities;
- Increased investment in the broader community through ticket levy fees and community group funding. Larger patron numbers will correspond with community grants increases;
- Increased employment in an area with high unemployment rates;
- Increased traineeship opportunities, including youth programs, to provide vocational training to young people to gain experience in the running and management of events;
- Provision of a conference centre; and
- Environmental improvements generated by the proposed land swap with Billinudgel Nature Reserve. Such improvements include flora, fauna and habitat regeneration and monitoring.

8 IMPACT MITIGATION PLAN

8.1 Enhancement of positive and mitigation of negative impacts

The positive impacts generated by the proposed development will only be realised if consent is granted for the on-going use of the site as a cultural events site. As previously detailed, the application has the potential to generate a number of positive social impacts and public interest benefits in the local and broader community. Of chief note in this regard are the generation of employment, benefits to the local economy and advantages to patrons, artists, promoters and event organisers.

The tangible social impacts generated by events at Parklands, particularly large and medium scale events, have been addressed through management and monitoring strategies detailed in Chapter 7. Such impacts include noise and acoustics, temporary increases in local town populations, traffic impacts, waste and rubbish and anti-social behaviour. Corresponding management and monitoring strategies will be reviewed and revised as necessary in line with increased patron numbers.

Intangible impacts are more difficult to measure and mitigate. Primary examples of such impacts are community perceptions regarding site operators and the way events at Parklands are run. These intangible impacts relate to how people feel about events and the site in general. As such these can, to some extent, be ameliorated through relationship-building and improved communication between Parklands owners and operators and the local and broader community.

To attempt to address the intangible impacts, Parklands has committed to hosting more community meetings to discuss events onsite and to address community concerns.

8.2 Contingency plans

Parklands has applied adaptive management strategies throughout the trial. These strategies ensure that, if issues arise that are unable to be managed through established plans, then plans and strategies will be amended to address them. Evidence of this approach in action is provided by the manner in which traffic issues were addressed during SITG 2016 and demonstrably resolved for SITG 2017.

These same adaptive management strategies will apply with the subject application to ensure Parklands operates within conditions of consent and to minimise impacts in the immediate vicinity as well as in the local and broader community.

Emergency site evacuation plans to activate in the event of a bushfire, flood or other significant event are already in place. These have been updated for the subject application to ensure the safe evacuation of 50,000 patrons.

The community hotline should be the first point of contact for community members wishing to register a complaint or a compliment regarding events. If an issue requires attention, the community manager should respond in person to discuss the issue with the complainant. If community members feel that their concerns have not been adequately addressed, they should escalate their complaint to the appropriate authority. Such authorities encompass Council rangers, NSW Police or the DP&E where the community member considers that a condition of consent has been breached.

8.3 Monitoring and response plans

A number of monitoring and response strategies have been developed and refined over the trial period. These include noise management monitoring, the community hotline and the community manager responding to reports of incidents offsite during events.

It is anticipated that these strategies will remain in place with the subject application and be further amended as required by increased patron numbers.

During events, the community hotline is the chief channel through which the community can communicate with Parklands during events. The hotline will continue to be an important strategy for both community reporting of issues and for monitoring event impacts in the local and broader community.

8.4 Community consultation programs

As noted previously, increased community consultation is required to address issues regarding perceptions of Parklands, its operators and event operators within the local and broader community.

Parklands has noted its commitment to further increasing the frequency of local community meetings following those meetings undertaken as part of preparing the subject application.

It is anticipated with more regular meetings with members in the immediate vicinity, plus the local and broader community, will facilitate the building of better relationships and thus reduce the amount of community misinformation.

Another key ongoing community consultation strategy will be the RWG and in particular, the community representatives who form part of that group.

In addition to these strategies, the existing community hotline and the community manager's role will be key in continuing consultation with the community.

8.5 Review and update of impact management plan

As per established practice throughout the trial period, it is recommended that the impact mitigation plan be reviewed after each event to ensure the effectiveness of channels for community contact with Parklands.

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9 RECOMMENDATIONS

As previously noted, Parklands has revised down the patron numbers being sought under the application for permanency at the site. This revision is in made response to community feedback.

In addition to revising down patron numbers, the following recommendations are suggested to further mitigate potentially negative impacts and to enhance the positive impacts generated by permanency on the site:

- work with Byron and Tweed Shire Councils to review services and investigate pay-for-service rangers to address perceived issues of illegal camping during festivals; illegal parking, illegal beach fires and more;
- continue onsite security and amenities for security personnel to minimise disturbance to immediate neighbours;
- continue to provide and pay for police attendance at events at rates determined by NSW Police. Also, continue to receive advice from and work with police to ensure patron safety and security;
- continue and improve traffic monitoring with the implementation of traffic management procedures as recommended by the traffic consultants; and
- investigate alternative bus routes and additional buses to minimise disturbance from buses and to accommodate existing and future event patrons.

Community attitude towards and misinformation about Parklands requires further attention. The presence of such attitudes and misinformation was evident in community feedback and constitutes the intangible impacts discussed in this SIA. To this end, it is recommended that the existing strategies employed by Parklands are supplemented by the following:

- investigation of avenues to increase engagement with the local and broader community, over and above those meetings already held;
- continuation of community representatives on RWG to act as spokespeople for the local community;
- continuation of community manager and community advocate positions to liaise with community members; and
- continuation of the community hotline in the lead-up to, during and a week post- events onsite.

10 CONCLUSION

This SIA considers the social impact potential of the application for permanency at North Byron Parklands, 126 Tweed Valley Way, Yelgun. The contextual factors considered in the SIA are:

- the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the local community;
- the trial approval experience; and
- feedback from the local community received as part of the consultation process.

The comprehensive consultation process, as well the experience of Parklands over the trial period to date, has identified a number of positive and negative impacts generated by events at Parklands.

Short-term, limited impacts generated by events at Parklands are important to both those who are experiencing them and also to event operators and Parklands management. Such impacts are, however, largely offset by:

- the range of ameliorative measures taken by event organisers; and
- the wider, longer-term positive impacts generated by the continuation of events on the site.

Residents in the immediate vicinity of the site are offered free tickets to events. Further, financial arrangements and/or other arrangements have been made to compensate these residents for disturbance. These arrangements would continue if the subject application is approved.

The negative impacts identified by the local community can be addressed through both current mitigation measures already implemented by Parklands and

the implementation of further possible mitigation measures. The key negative impacts identified by the local community relate to:

- noise;
- traffic;
- public amenities;
- illegal camping; and
- disruption to daily life.

As noted throughout this report, extensive noise management procedures and monitoring processes are in place to ensure that noise levels remain within approved levels. Evidence of the effectiveness of these measures is provided by the significant reduction of noise-related calls to the community hotline for the last festivals held onsite.

It is important to consider that the potential amenity impacts generated by events are temporary and short-term. Further, such impacts are limited to those times that events are held onsite which, under the subject application, is limited to 20 days per year.

The positive impacts generated by Parklands in the local and broader community, will only be realised if the application for permanency is approved. These positive impacts include:

- management and enhancement of fauna, flora and habitat;
- employment opportunities;
- benefits to the local economy; and
- provision of a sustainable and unique venue for events.

It is acknowledged that large events, including music events, are going to generate impacts in terms of noise and traffic. In response, Parklands has

developed a range of proactive and reactive measures in an attempt to reduce impacts on residents, as well as to ensure patron satisfaction at events.

The positive impacts generated by permanency on the site include:

- increased access for regional Australians to world-class, contemporary arts and culture;
- provision of a world-class, sustainable, unique event venue that will attract tourists to the area;
- economic benefits generated by event patrons spending money offsite on accommodation, transport, food and beverages and local shopping;
- increased access to the site for smaller community groups and events;
- investment in the site to improve infrastructure, access and amenities;
- increased investment in the broader community through ticket levy fees and funding of community groups. Larger patron numbers will also correspond with an increase in community grants funding;
- increased employment and traineeship opportunities in the area, which is currently characterised by high unemployment levels; and
- environmental improvements generated by the proposed land swap with Billinudgel Nature Reserve together with flora, fauna and habitat regeneration and monitoring.

These impacts will only be realised if the subject application for a Recreation Facility (Major) at Parklands is granted.

APPENDIX A

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE TABLES

Demographic profile table: 2016

Demographic characteristic	Brunswick Heads – Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2(SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Total Persons	8 212	31 556	91 371	4 823 991	7 480 228
ATSI	213 (2.6%)	574 (1.8%)	3 616 (3.9%)	70 135 (1.4%)	216 176 (2.8%)
NESB Persons (i) No. born overseas in non-English speaking country.	289 (3.5%)	1488 (4.7%)	3242 (3.5%)	1 474 715 (30.5%)	1 646 057 (22.0%)
(ii) No. speaking lang. other than English at home	498 (6.0%)	2132 (6.7%)	3845 (4.2%)	1 727 574 (35.8%)	1 882 015 (25.1%)
In need of assistance	412 (5.0%)	1384 (4.4%)	6 519 (7.0%)	236 139 (4.9%)	402 048 (5.3%)
Age range:					
0-4 years	420 (5.1%)	1,553 (4.9%)	4,779 (5.2%)	310,173 (6.4%)	465,135 (6.2%)
5-14 years	955 (11.6%)	3,739 (11.8%)	10,546 (11.5%)	590,126 (12.2%)	921,195 (12.3%)

Demographic characteristic	Brunswick Heads – Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2(SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
15-19 years	502 (6.1%)	1,607 (5.0%)	4,990 (5.5%)	288,362 (5.9%)	448,425 (5.9%)
20-24 years	288 (3.5%)	1,194 (3.7%)	3,929 (4.3%)	340,737 (7.0%)	489,673 (6.5%)
25-34 years	736 (8.9%)	3,390 (10.7%)	8,219 (8.9%)	774,405 (16.0%)	1,067,524 (14.2%)
35-44 years	1,149 (13.9%)	4,381 (13.8%)	10,268 (11.3%)	696,037 (14.4%)	1,002,886 (13.4%)
45-54 years	1,245 (15.1%)	4,879 (15.5%)	11,917 (13.1%)	627,580 (13.0%)	977,984 (13.0%)
55-64 years	1,437 (17.5%)	5,482 (17.3%)	13,583 (14.8%)	524,011 (10.8%)	889,763 (11.9%)
65-74 years	897 (10.9%)	3,371 (10.6%)	12,026 (13.1%)	372,488 (7.7%)	677,020 (9.0%)
75-84 years	389 (4.7%)	1,270 (4.0%)	7,535 (8.2%)	204,051 (4.2%)	373,115 (4.9%)
85 years and over	188 (2.2%)	687 (2.1%)	3,581 (3.9%)	96,022 (1.9%)	167,506 (2.2%)
Unemployment rate	7.8	6.5	7.1	6.0	6.3
Median weekly household income	\$1033	\$1149	\$1064	\$1750	\$1486
Med Age	45	44	47	36	38
Ave household size	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.6
Marital Status (aged 15+)					
Married	2 489 (36.4%)	9 753 (37.1%)	35 375 (46.5%)	1 934 134 (49.3%)	2 965 285 (48.6%)

Demographic characteristic	Brunswick Heads – Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2(SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Separated	294 (4.3%)	955 (3.6%)	2 859 (3.7%)	111 495 (2.8%)	190 199 (3.1%)
Divorced	1 117 (16.3%)	3 801 (14.4%)	9 252 (12.1%)	298 433 (7.6%)	512 297 (8.4%)
Widowed	360 (5.2%)	1334 (5.0%)	6 111 (8.0%)	185 646 (4.7%)	331 655 (5.4%)
Never married	2 574 (37.6%)	10 435 (39.7%)	22 446 (26.5%)	1 393 988 (35.5%)	2 094 457 (34.3%)
Family Structure					
Couple families with dependent children under 15 years and other dependent children	621 (29.3%)	2 386 (31.7%)	7 040 (28.9%)	501 238 (40.1%)	718 364 (37.0%)
Couple families with no children	830 (39.2%)	2 995 (39.8%)	10 759 (44.3%)	416 588 (33.4%)	709 524 (36.5%)
One parent households with dependent children	375 (17.7%)	910 (12.0%)	2 765 (11.3%)	113 772 (9.1%)	192 626 (9.9%)

Demographic characteristic	Brunswick Heads – Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2(SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Other families	29 (1.1%)	96 (1.2%)	312 (1.2%)	22 992 (1.8%)	32 483 (1.6%)
Car Ownership					
None	126 (3.8%)	411 (3.6%)	2 104 (5.9%)	179 500 (11.0%)	239 625 (9.2%)
One	1 255 (38.5%)	4 114 (36.1%)	13 777 (39.2%)	603 062 (3.7%)	946 159 (3.6%)
Two	1 280 (39.2%)	4 407 (3.6%)	12 293 (35.0%)	532 633 (32.8%)	887 849 (34.0%)
Three	331 (10.1%)	1 281 (11.2%)	3 577 (10.1%)	164 918 (10.1%)	283 044 (10.8%)
4 or more	123 (3.7%)	614 (5.4%)	1 758 (5.0%)	89 744 (5.5%)	152 500 (5.8%)
Housing (dwellings)					
Sep house	2 626 (70.3%)	9 266 (69.0%)	22 929 (58.3%)	924 225 (52.5%)	1 729 820 (59.8%)
Semi-detached	219 (5.8%)	819 (6.1%)	6 489 (16.5%)	227 238 (49.8%)	317 447 (35.7%)
Unit	265 (7.0%)	727 (5.4%)	4180 (10.6%)	456 233 (25.9%)	519 380 (17.9%)
Other dwelling	117 (3.1%)	389 (2.9%)	1 211 (3.0%)	9 129 (0.5%)	23 583 (0.8%)
Unoccupied dwellings	471 (12.6%)	2 057 (15.3%)	4 208 (10.7%)	136 055 (7.7%)	284 741 (9.8%)
Home fully owned	1 181 (36.2%)	4 150 (36.5%)	14 166 (40.3%)	472 635 (29.1%)	839 665 (32.2%)

Demographic characteristic	Brunswick Heads – Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2(SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Being purchased	963 (29.5%)	3 233 (20.4%)	9945 (28.3%)	539 917 (33.2%)	840 665 (32.2%)
Private rental	968 (29.7%)	3 342 (29.4%)	8 515 (24.2%)	485 404 (29.9%)	722 020 (27.7%)
Public housing	30 (0.9%)	158 (11.5%)	898 (2.5%)	67 845 (4.1%)	104 902 (4.0%)
Dwelling Structure - # of bedrooms					
0	43 (1.3%)	175 (1.5%)	240 (0.6%)	12 812 (0.7%)	17 157 (0.6%)
1	204 (6.2%)	818 (7.2%)	1 835 (5.2%)	118 881 (7.3%)	157 194 (6.0%)
2	557 (17.0%)	1974 (17.3%)	8 073 (23.0%)	402 675 (24.8%)	577 675 (22.1%)
3	1 610 (49.4%)	5 077 (44.6%)	14 503 (41.3%)	548 987 (33.8%)	970 001 (37.2%)
4	634 (19.4%)	2 423 (21.3%)	7 661 (21.8%)	376 427 (23.1%)	633 184 (24.3%)
5	104 (3.2%)	438 (3.8%)	1441 (4.1%)	101 053 (6.2%)	148 851 (5.7%)
6+	25 (0.7%)	125 (1.0%)	313 (0.9%)	23 774 (1.4%)	34 370 (1.3%)
Migration					
Same add 1yr ago	6063 (74.5%)	22 180 (70.9%)	68 757 (75.9%)	3 695 742 (77.5%)	5 718 965 (77.3%)

Demographic characteristic	Brunswick Heads – Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2(SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Same add 5 yr ago	4002 (51.3%)	14 476 (48.2%)	44 758 (51.6%)	2 402 160 (53.2%)	3 775 527 (53.8%)
Occupation					
Manager	381 (11.0%)	2 034 (15.0%)	3 954 (11.0%)	311 762 (13.7%)	456 084 (13.5%)
Professional	792 (22.9%)	3 312 (24.4%)	6 168 (17.2%)	597 798 (26.3%)	798 126 (23.6%)
Technical	551 (15.9%)	1 924 (14.1%)	5 595 (15.6%)	265 056 (11.6%)	429 239 (12.7%)
Community	463 (13.4%)	1 666 (12.2%)	4 917 (13.7%)	218 206 (9.6%)	350 261 (10.3%)
Clerical	362 (10.4%)	1 285 (9.4%)	4 356 (12.1%)	331 135 (14.5%)	467 977 (13.8%)
Sales	350 (10.1%)	1 310 (9.6%)	3 927 (10.9%)	205 051 (9.0%)	311 414 (9.2%)
Machinery op	133 (3.8%)	473 (3.5%)	2 2029 (5.6%)	128 020 (5.6%)	206 839 (6.1%)
Labourer	377 (10.9%)	1 318 (9.7%)	4 1479 (11.7%)	171 450 (7.5%)	297 887 (8.1%)
Travel to work					
Car driver	2 242 (64.9%)	8 048 (59.3%)	24 510 (68.6%)	1 197 269 (52.6%)	1 953 399 (57.7%)
Train	0	14 (0.1%)	33 (0.9%)	247 051 (10.8%)	252 786 (7.4%)

Demographic characteristic	Brunswick Heads – Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2(SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Bus	19 (0.5%)	73 (0.5%)	319 (0.8%)	125 503 (5.5%)	133 903 (3.9%)

Source: 2016 Census data (www.abs.gov.au) – General Community Profile – as at November 2017

Demographic profile table: 2011 Census

Demographic Characteristic	Brunswick Heads-Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2 (SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Total Persons	7732	29209	85105	4 391 674	6 917 658
ATSI	195 (2.5%)	1900 (6.5%)	2490 (1.2%)	54 747 (1.2%)	172 621 (2.5%)
NESB Persons (i) No. born overseas in non-English speaking country.	573 (7.5%)	2399 (8.2%)	4326 (5.0%)	1 189 873 (27.1%)	1 329 098 (19.2%)
(ii) No. speaking lang. other than English at home	419 (5.4%)	1846 (6.3%)	3124 (3.6%)	1 425 534 (32.5%)	1 554 333 (22.4%)
In need of assistance	366 (4.1%)	1316 (4.5%)	5865 (6.9%)	192 325 (4.4%)	338 362 (4.9%)
Age range:					
0-4 years	464 (6.0%)	1,642 (5.6%)	4,868 (5.7%)	298,900 (6.8%)	458,735 (6.6%)
5-14 years	1,026 (13.2%)	3,748 (12.8%)	10,289 (12.0%)	544,315 (12.4%)	873,776 (12.6%)

Demographic Characteristic	Brunswick Heads-Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2 (SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
15-19 years	443 (5.7%)	1,694 (5.8%)	5,211 (6.1%)	275,786 (6.3%)	443,416 (6.4%)
20-24 years	285 (3.7%)	1,224 (4.2%)	3,667 (4.3%)	307,257 (6.9%)	449,687 (6.5%)
25-34 years	689 (8.9%)	2,832 (9.7%)	7,564 (8.8%)	676,894 (15.4%)	941,496 (13.6%)
35-44 years	1,163 (15.0%)	4,398 (15.0%)	10,295 (12.0%)	653,490 (14.8%)	971,629 (14.0%)
45-54 years	1,302 (16.8%)	5,152 (17.6%)	12,166 (14.3%)	594,978 (13.5%)	950,451 (13.7%)
55-64 years	1,156 (14.9%)	4,629 (15.8%)	11,578 (13.6%)	475,608 (10.8%)	810,290 (11.7%)
65-74 years	652 (8.4%)	2,120 (7.2%)	9,401 (11.0%)	298,140 (6.8%)	541,687 (7.8%)
75-84 years	410 (5.3%)	1,198 (4.1%)	7,163 (8.4%)	185,238 (4.2%)	336,756 (4.8%)
85 years and over	143 (1.8%)	572 (1.9%)	2,903 (3.4%)	81,067 (1.8%)	139,735 (2.0%)
Unemployment rate	9.3	8.5	8.3	5.7	5.9
Median weekly household income	\$839	\$885	\$845	\$1447	\$1237
Med Age	42	42	45	36	38
Ave household size	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.6

Demographic Characteristic	Brunswick Heads-Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2 (SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Marital status					
Married	2422 (38.8%)	9156 (38.4%)	33236 (47.5%)	1 764 146 (49.7%)	2 758 853 (49.3%)
Separated	263 (4.2%)	875 (3.6%)	2551 (3.6%)	100 407 (2.8%)	170 429 (3.0%)
Divorced	1005 (16.1%)	3463 (14.5%)	8136 (11.6%)	269 464 (7.6%)	461 146 (8.2%)
Widowed	360 (5.7%)	1254 (5.3%)	5783 (8.3%)	182 720 (5.1%)	324 517 (5.8%)
Never married	2183 (35.0%)	9073 (38.0%)	20240 (28.9%)	1 231 723 (34.7%)	1 870 202 (33.4%)
Family composition (families)					
Couple families with dependent children under 15 years and other dependent children	568 (27.0)	2406 (32.4%)	6755 (28.9%)	457 283 (39.6%)	676 389 (36.9%)
Couple families	771 (36.7%)	2797 (37.6%)	10444 (44.8%)	385 716 (33.4%)	669 019 (36.5%)

Demographic Characteristic	Brunswick Heads-Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2 (SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
with no children					
One parent households with dependent children	411 (19.5%)	1261 (16.9%)	2955 (12.7%)	113 013 (9.8%)	193715 (10.6%)
Car ownership (dwellings)					
None	132 (4.1%)	550 (4.9%)	2642 (7.8%)	184 242 (12.1%)	258 152 (10.4%)
One	1341 (42.5%)	4504 (40.2%)	14276 (42.4%)	584 187 (38.3%)	933 952 (37.8%)
Two	1144 (36.3%)	4159 (37.1%)	11225 (33.3%)	500 581 (32.9%)	840 655 (34.0%)
Three	297 (9.4%)	1121 (10.0%)	29787 (8.8%)	140 633 (10.4%)	245 018 (9.9%)
4 or more	90 (2.8%)	458 (4.0%)	1253 (3.7%)	66 229 (4.3%)	115 058 (4.6%)
Dwelling characteristics					
Sep house	2530 (69.3%)	9194 (69.3%)	21839 (57.6%)	926 062 (22.6%)	1 717 701 (62.7%)
Semi-detached	197 (5.4%)	1024 (7.7%)	6418 (16.9%)	194 169 (4.7%)	263 926 (9.6%)
Unit	324 (8.8%)	604 (4.5%)	4144 (10.9%)	391 889 (9.5%)	465 188 (16.9%)

Demographic Characteristic	Brunswick Heads-Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2 (SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Other dwelling	97 (2.6%)	351 (2.6%)	1157 (3.0%)	7004 (0.4%)	21 141 (0.7%)
Home fully owned	1038 (32.9%)	3922 (35.0%)	13401 (39.8%)	462 150 (30.3%)	820 006 (33.2%)
Being purchased	939 (29.8%)	3223 (28.7%)	9407 (27.9%)	529907 (34.8%)	824 293 (33.3%)
Private rental	1014 (32.2%)	3449 (30.8%)	8605 (25.5%)	411 561 (27.0%)	634 209 (25.6%)
Public housing	24 (0.7%)	162 (1.4%)	912 (2.7%)	69 047 (4.5%)	180 841 (4.4%)
Migration					
Same add 1yr ago	6090 (79.6%)	22368 (77.3%)	67842 (80.5%)	3513769 (81.1%)	5532851 (81.0%)
Same add 5 yr ago	3765 (51.8%)	14510 (52.6%)	43896 (54.7%)	2319487 (56.6%)	3691522 (57.1%)
Occupation					
Manager	351 (10.9%)	1864 (14.7%)	3669 (11.2%)	273916 (13.2%)	418333 (13.3%)

Demographic Characteristic	Brunswick Heads-Ocean Shores Statistical Area Level 2 (SAL2)	Byron LGA	Tweed LGA	Greater Sydney	NSW
Professional	693 (21.5%)	2960 (23.4%)	5428 (16.6%)	526564 (25.5%)	713547 (22.7%)
Technical	456 (14.2%)	1773 (14.0%)	5130 (15.7%)	251471 (12.2%)	414669 (13.2%)
Community	409 (12.7%)	1443 (11.4%)	4049 (12.4%)	182059 (8.8%)	297668 (9.5%)
Clerical	369 (11.5%)	1273 (10.0%)	4105 (12.5%)	333435 (16.1%)	473140 (15.0%)
Sales	345 (10.7%)	1281 (10.1%)	3846 (11.7%)	185951 (9.0%)	290497 (9.3%)
Machinery op	137 (4.2%)	470 (3.7%)	1975 (6.0%)	118136 (5.7%)	199438 (6.3%)
Labourer	388 (12.0%)	1308 (10.3%)	3940 (12.0%)	151324 (7.3%)	273129 (8.7%)
Travel to work					
Car driver	2102 (65.4%)	7301 (57.8%)	21608 (66.1%)	1106965 (53.6%)	1807359 (57.6%)
Train	6 (0.1%)	8 (0.06%)	39 (0.1%)	187761 (9.1%)	193098 (6.1%)
Bus	14 (0.4%)	81 (0.6%)	319 (0.9%)	107895 (5.2%)	116657 (3.7%)

Source: 2011 Census data (www.abs.gov.au) – Basic Community Profile

APPENDIX B

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



CALLING FOR COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

North Byron Parklands has entered the final year of its five-year trial approval with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and we are now looking to the future.

Parklands is currently preparing its submission to become a permanent home for arts and cultural events in Byron Shire.

We value community input, and to assist with our planning we invite you to provide feedback on the Preliminary Environmental Assessment available at <http://www.northbyronparklands.com/PEA-ESTIMATE.pdf>

Please send your comments to:
community@northbyronparklands.com
or by mail to
North Byron Parklands,
PO Box 517,
Bangalow, NSW 2479,
by COB Friday 3, March, 2017.



INTRIGUING: The beauty of the night sky at Hastings Point is captured in this "star trails" image.
PHOTO: RYAN FOWLER PHOTOGRAPHY

Gazing for star trails at Hastings



BEHIND THE LENS
RYAN FOWLER

HAVE you ever simply sat and watched the stars? It's something I believe everyone should do at least once in their life.

If you do, or if you have,

you would see what looks like their rotation across the sky. This is actually us rotating around them. It may take several hours to witness the change of position in relation to the stars but this is possible to capture on camera.

The technique used in this photo is called "star trails" and shows the movement of the sky over time. Capturing this requires a lot of

patience to just sit and admire the night sky.

Each frame has been photographed individually and merged together in post-processing. The total count of images that have made up this photo is 110. Settings for something like this were two images taken to capture the foreground properly and 108 night sky images taken at 30-seconds, f/2.8 and ISO1600.



CALLING FOR COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

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Please send your comments to:
community@northbyronparklands.com
 or by mail to
 North Byron Parklands,
 PO Box 517,
 Bangalow, NSW 2479,
 by COB Friday 3, March, 2017.



PEACEFUL: Sunrise at Cabarita on the Tweed Coast.

PHOTO: RYAN FOWLER PHOTOGRAPHY

Catching the cool sunrise at Caba



BEHIND THE LENS
 RYAN FOWLER

SUNRISE is one of the best times of the day, especially for photographers. At the moment, it's probably the coolest time of the day and when you first feel the

gentle kiss of the sunlight touch your skin, it's a subtle warmth that will inspire you for the rest of your day.

This specific morning, it didn't look like the clouds would illuminate with colour. However, about five minutes before the actual sunrise, there was a flare that lasted about two minutes and the waves came in to match perfectly.

To achieve an effect on the water like this, you need to

use a slower shutter speed like 0.6 seconds which will keep the shutter open long enough to capture the movement but it's also quick enough to keep the detail in the water. Settings for this image were f/8, ISO50 and 0.6 seconds shutter speed.

Ryan Fowler is a Casuarina-based photographer. He can be contacted at ryanfowler.photography



10 February 2017

PO Box 517
Bangalow NSW 2479
www.northbyronparklands.com
02 6680 4049

Dear neighbour,

RE: AN INVITATION TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON NORTH BYRON PARKLANDS' APPLICATION FOR PERMANENCY

North Byron Parklands (Parklands) has now entered the final year of its five-year trial approval with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E), and we are now looking to the future.

To give certainty to the events that are held at Parklands, we are now preparing our submission to the DP&E to make Parklands a permanent home for sustainable, world-class Arts and Cultural events in the Northern Rivers.

Over the years we have valued all forms of community feedback, and we are interested in your thoughts regarding our proposed application. As we move into this next planning phase we invite you to raise any concerns, provide constructive feedback, and share your unique input for Parklands' submission for permanent approval.

Please take the time to view a summary of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment at <http://www.northbyronparklands.com/PEA-ESTIMATE.pdf> and provide feedback by Friday 3 March, by email to community@northbyronparklands.com, or by mail addressed to North Byron Parklands, PO Box 517, Bangalow, NSW 2479.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mat Morris".

Mat Morris
General Manager



PO Box 517
Bangalow NSW 2479
www.northbyronparklands.com
02 6680 4049

Wednesday 2 August, 2017

Dear resident,

As you may be aware North Byron Parklands is in the final stages of its five-year trial approval with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Earlier this year we invited the community to provide feedback on our draft application for permanency. We'd like to thank the many residents for taking the time to share their thoughts in writing and for attending information meetings at Parklands. The constructive feedback we received from the community proved invaluable in preparing our final Development Application for the DP&E.

Please join us for a community information afternoon at Parklands on Saturday 19 August from 1pm - 3pm to view the plans and share our vision to become a permanent home for world-class arts and cultural events in the Northern Rivers.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mat Morris".

Mat Morris
General Manager
North Byron Parklands

RSVP: Monday 14 August at community@northbyronparklands.com
Please enter the main gate at 126 Tweed Valley Way and follow signs.

www.northbyronparklands.com

Community groups consulted

Group Name
Byron Bay and Bangalow Farmers Market
Brunswick Heads Progress Association
Bangalow Market
Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce
Brunswick Tourism Group
Taking Care of Brunswick Heads During FFB
Brunswick Dunecare
Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.
Byron Bay Runners Group
Brunswick Landcare
Brunswick Girl Guides
Brunswick Scouts
Brunswick Heads Yacht Club
Brunswick Valley Historical Society
Brunswick Valley Historical Society
Junior AFL
Brunswick Heads CWA
Brunswick Valley Rural Fire Service
Brunswick Valley Rotary

Social Impact Assessment

Brunswick Vally Lions
Brunswick SES
Brunswick Red Cross
Brunswick St Vinnies
Woodchop Committee
Old & Gold Committee
Mullum to Bruns Paddle
Bruns Triathlon
Boatharbour Group
Brunswick Heads Junior Soccer Club
Bruns Surf Club
Bruns Boardriders
Sk8Brunswick Taskforce
Byron Youth Activity Centre
Brunswick Valley Pony Club
Byron Community Market Beachside Market Summer Artisan Market

Trains on our Tracks (TOOTS)
Byron Bay Softball Club
Crabbes Creek Film Society
Cabarita Beach Pony Club
Hastings Point Progress Association
Mooball & District Moovers
Burringbar & Mooball Catchment Landcare Group
Mullumbimby Pony Club
Mullumbimby Community Market
New Brighton Farmers Market and Mullumbimby Farmers Market
New Brighton Progress Association
Ocean Shores Pre-school
Shara Community Gardens
Ocean Shores Community Centre
Crabbes Creeek Film Festival
Ocean Shores Community Association

Ocean Shores Tidy Towns
Ocean Shores Art Expo
Ocean Shores Public School
Shores United
Pottsville Beach Business Association
Pottsville Residents Association
Pottsville Markets
South Golden Beach Community Association
Yelgun/Middle Pocket Progress Association
The Pocket Public School

Summary of issues raised

Issue	Comments
1	- Queried the type of cultural festivals on the site, and whether, in the future, events such as art, psychic and other types of events would be held - Issue of traffic on Tweed Valley Way during events
2	- Noise from buses travelling to and from the site at times into the early morning - Impact on wildlife - C02 emissions - Anti-social behaviour such as illegal camping, rubbish and fires on beaches - Drug use at events - Police capacity to cope with additional demand - Impact on roads and infrastructure with increased patron numbers and locals paying for repairs - Ability to complain and challenge operations on a SSD
3	50,000 patron capacity big for events given the size of the shire and questioned ability of infrastructure to cope with that number - Believe 35,000 patron capacity is sufficient - Limit the number of large 'festival' events to the existing two and have another permitted four single day events of a max of 25,000 - Propose unlimited use of the site for community events (maximum 2000 patrons) - Improvements to public transport - Fund Council rangers for each event to patrol for illegal camping and parking - Annual contribution to Council to maintain public facilities

	that get used during festivals, e.g. public toilets • Improved pathways through the site • Rubbish collection at bus stops etc.
4	• Where will the additional 15,000 patrons be accommodated with local accommodation already stretched? • Support additional Council rangers to address illegal camping
5	• Appreciate free tickets that are provided • Acknowledged improvements to noise emissions and traffic flow, though noted that, when the wind changed, noise levels were excessive
6	• Potential issues regarding flooding which haven't yet been tested due to weather conditions • Only use composting toilets with no port-a-loos and regular auditing by Council, with audit outcome made public. • Event patrons to be bussed to venues other than just Brunswick Heads to reduce overcrowding of food outlets, public toilets and parklands • Employment of temporary rangers to complement existing Council Rangers to address illegal camping and illegal parking, before, during and after events. • Rangers to supplement existing parks and wildlife rangers to address illegal camping and fires in nature reserves and on the beach, before, during and after events • Cleaners engaged to clean public toilets in Torakina, Banner Park, Brunswick Heads and the Terrace during events. • Rubbish collection on an on-going basis.
7	• Against additional festivals at Byron • Feels that BluesFest is enough • Concern regarding the impact on wildlife • Noise impacts

8	• Support the application • Suggest increased rubbish collection along roadways • Noise levels acceptable • Concern regarding sewage overflow and runoff in high rain periods and impacts on local catchment
9	• Impressed with submission • Noise impacts • Issue of illegal camping: acknowledged this was likely outside of the festival's control and also noted this occurred outside of festival times also. • Issue with rubbish left behind by illegal campers. • Suggested a printed warning on tickets for fines and other penalties for illegal camping and littering
10	• No issue with events being held in the area plus support activities for young people • No issue with noise, traffic etc • Concern regarding ability of existing infrastructure to cope with illegal camping, rubbish and private rental of private homes to large groups of people • Concerns regarding the ability of public toilets and garbage bins to cope with increase during events
11	• Impact on local roads: questioned what event organisers do to address/compensate for this • Increased traffic during events • Don't receive complimentary tickets
12	• Oppose permanency • Rural area not suitable for more large events • Large crowds in opposition to quiet rural lifestyle • Concern regarding expansion over and above that proposed • Contributions insufficient to ameliorate impacts • Big festivals are not able to be sustainable due to their rubbish and carbon footprint

	• Little permanent employment generated • Insufficient composting toilets will mean that port-a-loos always required • Noise levels annoying • Money generated by festival mostly leaves the country
13	• Supportive of the application • Provided suggestions to improve traffic in and around the site • Recommended noise levels that are mindful of patron experience as well as neighbourhood amenity.
14	• Identified potential positive economic benefits generated by events on the site. • Highlight the need to improve road maintenance • Raised the issue of illegal camping • Rubbish at local swimming hole • Increased traffic on local roads • Impact of festivals on water supplies in times of drought. • Development of more eco-friendly accommodation and cultural activities • Bus route extension during festival weeks • Use of NBP by community groups, NFP's, school groups etc • Ecological rehabilitation of NBP • Increased trade during festivals • Investment in local youth development and employment • Fundraising opportunities for NFPs at festivals • Employment opportunities at events for local youth • Promotion of local villages • Free tickets to NFP orgs to raise funds at events
15	• Lack of compliance in regards to noise levels and permitted levels are too high • Unresolved traffic issues that are only likely to be exacerbated with increased patrons

	• Events unsustainable with patrons, food, beverages, stages etc all being trucked in. • Rubbish generation • No additional income generated elsewhere but rather, events take income away from other venues • NBP haven't earned the right
16	<i>Owner of adjoining property</i> • Acknowledge that NBP owners respect and value their land • NBP is an asset to the community. • Had initial concerns regarding traffic but believe that processes have been refined to deal with this adequately • Protected from noise by the natural amphitheatre. • Based on previous experiences, believe that operators are well equipped to handle an increase in patron numbers. • Environmental efforts 'a delight to witness'
17	• Increased development on the site • Claim that permanency will result in double the number of events and event days as well as double attendees • Site is not appropriate • Potential run-off from composting toilets to water systems in flood events • Strain put on police, fire and hospital services during events • Patron movements and potential issues during an emergency (e.g. bushfire) • Illegal camping and parking • Telecommunications issues during festivals and impacts on businesses and potential inability to get help in an emergency • Inadequate traffic arrangements • Inadequate bus services • Festivals taking money out of local centres and patrons spend money onsite rather than in towns.

18	• Opposed: already enough events at the site
19	• Concerned about potential alternative development on the site if permanency is not granted.
20	<i>Resident of Ocean Shores</i> • Acknowledged there is very little impact • Noted positive impacts in terms of youth traineeships • Suggested provision of free tickets to neighbours
21	• Support application for permanency • Noted the contributions to the local community • Site improvements • Would welcome the opportunity for more community groups such as theirs to utilise the site for events
22	• Object to modification to extend the trial • There have been numerous breaches to consent in regards to traffic problems, noise issues, resident amenity including anti-social behaviour and traffic • Traffic situation unsuitable • Parklands are incapable of running a safe festival at current numbers
23	• Conditions of consent not met regarding noise, traffic, camping, sanitation, telecommunication impacts • Lack of access to emergency services for community during events due to poor phones • Flooding and the ability to evacuate large numbers of patrons. Lives are at risk • Pollution of local rivers due to runoff
24	• Noise from passing buses causing disturbance into the early morning • Stress and risk to wildlife and Co2 emissions • Anti-social behaviour of patrons: illegal camping on

	beaches, rubbish, fires and excrement in parks and on private lawns • Police noting increased drug arrests • Increase in cars, vans and trucks and the impacts these have on roads and resultant increase in taxes • Site should be under Council control
25	• Lack of faith in processes implemented by Parklands e.g. tokenistic and only implemented due to 'trial' • No concern for what happens outside site boundary • Parklands selling festival events to overseas coalition while on trial • Object to trial extension • Increase in people, rubbish, disturbance, illegal camping • Drug and alcohol use
26	• Flooding and ability to evacuate the site • Impact of influx of site evacuees on local towns • Increased demand on services • Patron safety when events are muddy • Impact on Brunswick Heads food outlets and amenities • Residents not wanting to leave their houses • Illegal street camping increased during festival • Site is unsuitable for events • Impacts on amenities in surrounding towns • Fires on beaches • Drunken behaviour on streets/parks during SITG • Rubbish • Traffic and parking • Public toilets can't cope • Noise issues • Houses being rented to holidaymakers instead of permanent renters and the impact on community cohesion • Telecommunication and internet issues

27	• Crowds at streets, beaches, parks and public spaces are overwhelming • Lack of respect shown to locals by festival goers • Illegal camping: using the footpath and grassy areas as toilets, using beach showers • Overflowing public bins • Lack of access to local shops due to crowds • FFB patrons on top of regular summer visitors • Rate increase for roads • Impact on enjoyment of the Shire
28	• Concern regarding increase in numbers • Concern that Byron Council will not be the authority for the site • Existing festivals create extra load and stress on infrastructure due to cars and campervans • Traffic jams • Anti-social behaviour • Increased rubbish • Inadequate compensation from festivals to counter impacts • Object to more than 10 festival days per year • Object to more than 35,000 patrons • Recommend per ticket levy to go directly to Council
29	• Impact on mobile and internet • Traffic and road congestion and inadequate traffic control throughout the trial • Teenagers being stranded and walking long distances in inappropriate clothing in the early hours of the morning • Impact on local towns • Impact of illegal campers on beaches and bushland • Land owners being opportunistic and letting people camp on their properties with no regard to the environment due to burning trees and shrubs

	• Tree clearing on NBP site • Impact on Koalas and habitats • No compensation (free tix) to affected residents at Wooyung • Lack of belief in claim that the nature reserve is not impacted.
30	• Tariff increases in small villages • Lack of concern of non-local drivers • Buses cause disturbance at night and early in the mornings and it impacts on sleep. • Road deterioration • Illegal camping in dunes • Insufficient rangers to control or monitor illegal camping • Accommodation at capacity • Anti-social behaviour – patrons preloading prior to festivals • Festival security ineffective • Police unavailable • Telecommunication issues • Noise – why so loud? Noise limit inappropriate in the area • All impacts are exacerbated with increased numbers. • Byron Council should be the authority for the site.
31	• Traffic • Parklands incapable of accommodating all patrons who are not local – how/where would additional patrons be accommodated? • Impact of increased buses to move patrons • Illegal parking and associated behaviour • Council and Police not capable of regulating or monitoring illegal campers • Weather/flooding and evacuation • Telecommunication and emergency access during festivals • Accountability and trustworthiness of Parklands • Lack of compliance to trial conditions

	• Council should be authority on the site • Lack of an independent audit of Parklands operations • Financial accountability – does Parklands pay their way? Residents are paying for the environmental impacts, not Parklands • Why permanency? Lack of faith in future of the site – will festival days and numbers increase further? • Lack of faith in festival day break down and future change • Impact of 'Live Nation' investment
32	• Noise – bass in particular • No satisfaction after reporting to hotline • Traffic congestion • Increase in people in Brunswick Heads during festivals • Impact of number of people – greater than number of residents – inappropriate for site • Impact of buses running day and night past residences • Illegal camping • Impact on Council services and rates • Lack of faith in response or action from Parklands • Falls exacerbates an already busy time
33	• Noise and disturbance • Impact on sleep • Noise from buses once passengers are set off • No faith in complaints line – Parklands only concerned about compliance not disturbance to neighbouring properties • Venue inappropriate - too close to residential areas • Increased impacts with permanency • Property owners evicting residents in lieu of holiday rental and resulting in impacts on neighbourhood and noise and fear that this will increase if permanency is granted • Illegal camping and littering

34	• Live Nation investment • Impact on wildlife corridor • Noise • Influx of people and impact on town amenities • Impact on roads
35	• Unacceptable impacts on Brunswick Heads • Influx of people bussed in during festivals (FFB) putting off families visiting • Increase in litter • Street camping and illegal parking • Telecommunications issues • Changing nature of rental accommodation from permanent to holiday (party houses)
36	• One event a year OK: lack of concern from big corporations • Noise issues and lack of faith in Parklands • Law and order • Fire and flood risks • Waste and sewerage • Lack of adequate transport • Rubbish • Unsuitable site
37	• Residents who left the area due to SITG • Noise • Traffic • Impacts on nature reserve
38	• 50,000 unsuitable: greater than the number of residents in the LGA • Impact on roads and infrastructure • Police report indicated issues • Traffic and patron/car movements • Lack of ability of neighbouring towns to cope if there is an evacuation

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	• Telecommunication issues • Anti-social behaviour • Illegal camping • Environmental impacts • Believe numbers should be decreased by 50%
39	• Community no longer quiet and peaceful. • Investors looking for festival rental properties, not long term tenants • Noise impacts and breaches of conditions of trial • Impact on sleep and health • Illegal camping • Rubbish • Impact on internet and telecommunications • Traffic and parking • Impact on local shops
40	• Conditions of consent not met regarding sound proofing • Noise and impacts on health due to sleep disturbance • Non-compliance with festival hours • Parklands do not genuinely want to work with neighbours.

Written feedback (verbatim)

Feedback method: Email

Date: 19 February 2017

Whilst I'm objecting to the intended application for 12 x 50,000 and 8 x 25,000 festival events I am NOT addressing that herein. Whatever the size the following I would hope is taken on board.

1. The trial period was a golden run with only one flood event in January 2013. Since then, the only weather pattern has been random rainfall. This can be cross referenced to BOM data. This means emergency strategies have not been tested.
2. En site composting toilets must be the only form of collection of human waste. The auditing of this needs to be ongoing, stringent and the report posted on Council's website.
3. The impact of the festivals on Brunswick Heads has been well aired and the following may be the way forward. These are independent of any size and frequency of events at Yelgun
 - a. patrons need to be bused to alternative venues other than Brunswick Heads alone. The resident population of Brunswick Heads is just over 1600 persons. During the Falls Festival, 1700, 2000 and 1700 of festival goers were bused into Brunswick causing chaos when combined with the traditional Xmas/New Years holiday makers. That chaos was the tsumani's cumulative impact on food outlets, public toilets and the amenity of the foreshore parklands where many used the parklands to bunk down and sleep.

Social Impact Assessment

- b. Temporary RANGERS, (note the plural) need to be employed and paid for by festival organisers as part of 'human infrastructure' to complement Byron Shire Rangers with full legislative power that comes with that position. Employment on a 24/7 basis would help address both illegal parking and camping. Given that festival goes may arrive in Brunswick prior to the event starting and stay afterwards, it would be reasonable to have rangers employed say 1 day before and 1 day after a festival event.

- c. Temporary RANGERS (note again the plural) need to be similarly funded and added to National Parks and Wildlife Service rangers on a 24/7 basis to address the illegal camping and lighting of fires in nature reserves and on the beach over which Council's rangers are reluctant to act. (During the Falls Festival I spent time in an early morning walk along from the southern breakwall at Brunswick Heads to the end of the dog walking area putting out fires that had been left to smolder). Given that festival goes may arrive in Brunswick prior to the event starting and stay afterwards, it would be reasonable to have rangers employed say 1 day before and 1 day after a festival event.

This type of behaviour (b) and (c) is becoming far more prevalent during festival events. Because of this positive correlation it is more than reasonable to conclude that this is a generic problem.

- d. Cleaning public toilets in Torakina, Banner Park Brunswick Head and the Terrace. You will need to liaise with NSW Crown Holiday Parks Trust on this issue re the employment of additional cleaners. Toilets, including removal of graffiti, need to be done perhaps twice/day during festival events.

- e. Rubbish collection: I am unaware of the details of how this is being addressed. However, I am aware of its dependency on volunteers who are contra paid. Can the organisers continue to rely on the

excellent work done by Ollie Hazelwood in keeping this together? The answer is emphatically NO. At some stage Ollie is, like all people replaceable. Whatever works now cannot be relied upon to work in the future and thus some organisation needs to be put in place that is activated for all festival events to address this issue. This needs to include the bin collection which I understand has been dependent to date on Ollie contacting festival organisers which makes it ad hoc.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 19 February 2017

Re: Feedback regarding Preliminary Environmental Assessment

Personally, I am against any more music events at North Byron Parklands. I think Splendour and Falls is plenty.

Why do we need 2 seperate music festival sites in Byron? I thought the Blues festival site was enough on its own.

We live on Moffatts Rd, Billinudgel, which is quite a distance from the site but still if the wind is blowing our way the noise is quite loud. Loud enough to have to shut all the doors and windows and still the bass keeps us awake. If there were more festivals we'd seriously have to consider moving from the area!

I also pity the wildlife in the area with that much noise, I'm sure the impact is considerably more than your studies show.

In conclusion, no, I would not support any more festivals on the site at all.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 19 February 2017

Social Impact Assessment

I live in the northern part of Byron Shire, specifically Natan Court, Ocean Shores (North).

I have viewed the PEA – ESTIMATE pdf and was impressed with the thoroughness of your submission.

Having worked for a firm of consulting engineers (now retired) I appreciated seeing the detailed extent of the submission.

I have no doubt that North Byron Parklands will be given permanent approval for this site (with conditions relating to sound)

As I have stated my address, I have to say we hear the music, sometimes louder than at other times. This may be due to wind changes or sound from bands on a closer stage.

However our main concern (probably outside your responsibility) is the illegal camping in streets and at our local beach (SGB)

The daily rubbish left behind (not in bins) for others to clean up is becoming a real issue.

Perhaps there could be a “Warning” printed on each ticket issued, that if the recipient is not camping on the event site, or staying in tourist accommodation they may be fined for illegally parking overnight in residential streets or parks.

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Feedback method: Email
Date: 23 February 2017

As residents of North Ocean Shores we are happy to support the North Byron Parklands as we feel it is important to give young people somewhere to go to enjoy themselves.

To date we have had no concerns with traffic, noise or people in our local area. Everything seemed very well organised

With an increase in the number of concerts in our area, our main concerns are the strain on the infrastructure, illegal campers, dumping of rubbish and the Byron council allowing local people to rent their homes out to large groups to make a fast buck!!

The public toilets and rubbish bins around our area, can't cope at present so the council would have to improve these facilities when the concerts were on.

Best of luck with your proposal.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 28 February 2017

I am living @ Wooyung Rd and STRONGLY OBJECT a permanent approval of North Byron Parklands.

1) This is a very rural area and we don't have the infra structure to support 2, 3 or more huge gatherings of people.

2) We all live here because we chose to live rural and now you bring the hordes in...

3) If you would get permanent approval, the danger is that you could slowly expand to unknown dimensions.

Social Impact Assessment

- 4) Your contribution in rates is not worth the bother of the impact these festivals have.
- 5) Big festivals can NEVER be sustainable! Rubbish and carbon footprint is always huge.
- 6) There is very little permanent employment. Festivals work on volunteer efforts.
- 7) You brag about 248 composting toilets, if you have 50000 people that's 1 toilet for 2000 people. Obviously there must be many other porta loos.
- 8) The noise level (mainly bass and base drum) is very annoying.
- 9) Most of the money the company makes is leaving the country.

I wish you would be banned from any festivals here!

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 1 March 2017

Dear Parklands,

Having read your DA, I must oppose it.

Parklands has not conformed to the noise requirements. If you insist you have complied, the permitted levels are obviously too high and Parklands should undertake to reduce them.

There are enormous, unsolved traffic problems and your only response is to increase the problems with more punters.

Social Impact Assessment

The whole concept is totally unsustainable - all punters arrive in petrol-driven vehicles, often coming long distances. All food and drink has to be trucked in. Even kitchens and bars are trucked in. Vast amounts of garbage are generated.

The events do not generate any extra income, but merely poach punters from other venues.

Parklands should not be granted permanency because they have not earned it. The entire community is vigourously opposed to Parklands.

Further, the community consultation process is a complete sham. None of the community's concerns made their way into Parklands' DA, and these emails are not even being read. If they are, please respond to my concerns.

Yours faithfully

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 2 March 2017

I am the owner of an adjoining property to North Byron Parklands.

I appreciate being a neighbour to property holders that value their land, treating it with the respect it deserves.

I am advised that The Parklands site at Yelgun, NSW seeks to be a permanent cultural event site

While originally I was concerned about traffic control, I believed that they would learn by experience and this certainly was the case.

Social Impact Assessment

I believe North Byron Parklands is an asset to our community across the board and know the pride it brings to the young folk in our area to have world class festivals on our door step.

While we are immediate neighbours we are protected from any noise pollution by the natural amphitheatre.

I believe, that having witnessed the manner in which they handled festivals to date, that they will be well equipped to handle the size of events requested in their application.

I see this facility as an asset to our community and look forward to it being available for fund raising events and school activities in years to come.

Their efforts to do the best by our environment is a delight to witness – very few landowners could undertake the depth of work carried out with regards to both flora and fauna and it is ongoing.

I believe that this proposal simply allows North Byron Parklands to continue on as they have in the past, but in a more viable manner and I have no doubt that this is what this application is about.

If this property was completely rural, as mine is, it would probably have a more detrimental influence on fauna and flora.

We have witnessed very little anti-social behaviour and while there was a little littering it was promptly removed by North Byron Parkland's employees'

There was initially non-patrons attempting to access events through our property but steps have been put in place to control this.

An employee was placed at our gate for one festival and that worked very well (we're hoping this will become a permanent arrangement).

Social Impact Assessment

I congratulate NBPL on the success of SITG and FFB festivals which I believe are two of the most successful festivals in Australia - for this to be ongoing, this application should be granted.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 2 March 2017

I am writing to support the application for permanency for the North Byron Parklands.

I have lived at Crabbes Creek for over 11 years and live at the village end so am near the site. So I can discuss both the amenity and circumstances before and after the existence of the North Byron Parklands. I have town planning and environmental qualifications and can provide professional support for the permanent use of the site for events.

While I do not consider undertaking the events at the site causing any serious issues, I can make a few suggested improvements. The following are suggestions to improve the use of the site for events, including:

- Revegetate significant areas of the site to offset its use since the site has ecological values
- Split the entry and exist from and to the site such as using Pottsville exit from the freeway and Wooyung Rd and Tweed Coast Rd
- Provide a through lane along Tweed Valley Rd from Ocean Shores/freeway exist at Yelgen to allow people not to queue who are passing by

Social Impact Assessment

- Improve the queue lane for people entering the festival from Ocean Shores/freeway exist at Yelgen along Tweed Valley Rd to allow the passing lane to be constructed
- Improve the queue lane or signage saying queued traffic for people entering the festival from Murrwillumbah/Crabbes Creek along Tweed Valley Way
- Ensure access to festival tickets for people in Crabbes Creek and surrounds who are actually in Tweed Council area
- Discuss any requirements with Tweed Council since the site is on the boundary
- Provide several festival events per year to assist with funding the above improvements

I have heard that the sound level is not very high at the event and this can affect the experience. While I have heard music from the site, I have also heard traffic noise just as loud from the freeway. The noise level depends on many factors including weather and set up. The noise level allowed needs to provide for both the people experiencing the event and the amenity of the surrounding area. I think the festival site provides access to international and national music and entertainment and should be supported.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 2 March 2017

PARKLANDS

There are many reasons that Parklands site is not suitable for a permanent site for large numbers of people to camp or participate in events - with noise or other events also

Social Impact Assessment

BACKGROUND

The Parklands was created on a five year trial with the Byron Council

The site now has Part 3A approval for a five-year trial as a music festival. That's over at the end of this year 2017, and control is supposed to revert to Byron Council. But if the Planning Minister approves this as a State Significant Development, we will have a massively increased development imposed on us. Permanently. Very near our homes and right next to an important Nature Reserve that the state has spent millions to establish and support

Parklands began with one festival and now there are two and they are now asking for 12 days with up to 50,000 per day and 8 days with up to 25,000. What will happen in the future ? The 5 year trial was originally set up and now an application is going in for it to become a permanent arrangement with nearly doubling as extensions to numbers of days and attendees.

Parklands is now appealing that the site terms and conditions are granted permanently and conditions are extended - by the NSW State Planning department. This is instead of the Byron Shire council, giving the community very little say in what happens as "development"

The Parklands is a company that has created the site where the festival Splendour in the grass and the Falls Festival are produced. Any event there is not appropriate let alone the extension to allowing 50,000 people to be there per day

REASONS TO OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OF THE LEASE FOR PARKLANDS -

It is an unsuitable as a commercial site for the following reasons

It is zoned farming land that is been given to a commercial operation for a five year trial who is now proposing arrangements with the American events company with \$7 billion turnover and who has the controlling interest in 60 festivals put on more than 2 events per year for more than 50,000 people.

Social Impact Assessment

There have been 260 composting toilets. its a recognised flood plain.

With heavy rains ?

Ultimately any run off or leakage from the compost comes into our canal system - the canals of South Golden Beach and the Brunswick river of New Brighton and Ocean Shores. That product will flow past every residential area from Yelgun to Brunswick Heads. Its not ok.

There are two community representatives nominated for all discussions with Parklands and the council. They stay informed.

So far, it seems they do not get their communications acknowledged or returned by the State Planning Department so we have been told there is no resident/community input into the proposal to the State Planning (DOP) for the how the lands are developed by Parklands in the future.

The DOP has allowed numerous breaches of consent conditions for the first four years of the trial. The lax oversight we have witnessed so far will only get worse if the site is declared a State Significant Development and given permanent approval.

It is a wild life corridor zoned farming land that was never suitable for a festival site anyway. There are definitely koala bears in the area as residents hear them at night and it part of one of their only corridors along the coast.

Water is trucked in for all festival goers and the sewerage effluent that does get handled by the compost toilets is trucked to Byron treatment plant.

Parklands pays for rates on the land but it seems nothing else is given to the Council in return for the use of all other infrastructure and resident services. There is even a rumour that there is a 30% reduction in their rates?

Police, Fire and Hospital services are not able to manage the numbers and the threats from having so many people in a site that has one or two roads in and out.

Social Impact Assessment

This is with 25-30,000 attendees per day for two times a year. Locals miss out on the services that belong to us.

It takes 5 hours or more to move people in or out of the site and the fire hazard threat is highly dangerous. The Parklands plan for a fire threat is to put everyone in the middle of the land and circle them with fire trucks hosing outwards ?

Police are already not able to deal with the illegal camping and sleeping in cars that occurs during events in our suburbs. Faeces are left in the front gardens or in the local rubbish bins and residents wake up to people showering under the hose in their front yard.

The NSW Police have stated that right now, our local area command, "at current levels of capacity cannot provide sufficient police to provide first response to the community at large and a satisfactory policing response to the festival." And that's with "only" 32,500 people on site at the last festival.

Byron hospital is already stretched to manage the admissions for half the current numbers that are proposed in the future. Locals miss out in favour of the visitors.

Telecommunications breakdowns during festivals have been happening for 5 years now - extremely bad for local business and paralysing the epost payment system - let alone cancelling any means for getting ambulance service to a family in case of emergency. I have lost all internet and telephone for 3 or 4 days in the past with a big loss to my business, let alone if i had an emergency.

Traffic arrangements are inadequate for the coming and going of 2 or 3 day event goers - let alone the start and finish. Locals have real problems getting to work.

There have been inadequate buses provided to take home the festival goers after the evening events one of which is in the middle of winter with freezing temperatures. The 2016 festival goers started to walk along the highway and hundreds of them were out and exposed for hours at night. The facebook page

Social Impact Assessment

was full of messages of distress and some were reporting their friends getting sick even as they walked.

These people had accommodation in places as far away as Mullumbimby - 20 minutes by car.

Now the Splendour business (not Parklands) is controlled (51%) by one of the biggest event companies in the world - Live Nation ... check them out. They have a turnover of 7 billion dollars. Festivals at peak season times like Christmas actually take business from Byron and local sites as the attendees spend all their money at the festival site - and take up a lot of accommodation that would otherwise go to tourists who spend their money in the shire.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 3 March 2017

As an Ocean Shores resident, I object to any plans to extend activities at North Byron Parklands.

- (1) there are already enough festivals at BNP and
- (2) more generally, enough in the Byron shire. Impacts on residents of north Byron shire are considerable, ranging from noise to overcrowding of local facilities cause by festival goers - witness Brunswick Heads at New Year.

And while I personally haven't seen any , local residents have raised concerns with behavioural issues of some festival attendees. You will be aware, after feedback given at the recent community meeting in South Golden Beach, that many residents are opposed to any extension of your activities.

Social Impact Assessment

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 3 March 2017

No doubt there will be possitive feedback on N B Parklands application for permanancy. However, what worries me is the alternative.

I remember being at an 'Information Meeting", addressed by Jessica, held at OS Country Club and the arrival of two persons representing Gold Coast developers.

One of these persons asked the question "What is your plan B if you are unsuccessful in your application to have on site Festivals?"

The possibility of the area being turned into a building site is of great concern.

I, at one time lived in a 'Rural Zone" at West Pennant Hills which was just outside the 'Green Belt' ,a beautiful wooded area, which was declared to be NEVER TO BE BUILT ON.

Both these Green Belt and Rural Zones areas are today the Sydney suburb of Cherrybrook,NSW 2126.

What a disaster it would be if North Byron Parklands too became the property of developers

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 3 March 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North Byron Parklands Permanency Development Application.

Social Impact Assessment

Established in 1977, Tweed Trail Horse Riders have members in both the Tweed and Byron Shires. Most members are also members of other sporting horse groups such as Pony Club, Endurance and Camp Drafting. Our aims include advocacy for safe and environmentally responsible horse riding, and protection and preservation of historic nature trails for the benefit of future generations.

The Club actively encourage the Tweed and Byron Shire Councils to do more in servicing the needs of local residents and visiting tourists. Specifically, we refer to access and information about horse trails and areas where horses can be ridden throughout the two Shires, priority road maintenance and the promotion and ongoing commitment to low impact nature based eco- tourism in the region.

Tweed Trail Horse riders support Parklands application for permanency. We feel privileged to have the Parklands in our area, and recognise the positive contribution that the Parklands management and festival organisers have made to the surrounding community over the past several years. The site -formerly degraded farm land- has been impressively transformed into a nature parkland through habitat regeneration and the implementation of eco friendly and sustainable resource recovery and waste management. We congratulate these efforts.

We would like to see the Parklands more open to use by the community outside of festival weeks. This may take the shape of organised sporting events such as multi-day horse riding, cycling or marathon events where competitors and spectators could have the option to camp over night at Parklands or opt to be accommodated in nearby villages and towns- supporting local business.

These events would attract competitors in the hundreds with perhaps no more than 500 attendees- including competitors and spectators/support crews. For this reason these events would be low impact on both the grounds and residents in the nearby area. The Parklands site would be ideal for these type of low impact

Social Impact Assessment

events as they could be conducted solely within the grounds and not require local road closures or special event traffic management plans.

We hope that this idea will be considered in the final submission and we wish you all the best in obtaining permanency.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 3 March 2017

I live in Ocean Shores, for me your festival has very little impact. Noise levels are relatively low and my neighbours don't rent there homes out to festival goers. Also I have 16 year old daughter whom enjoys festival and has even had opportunity to be involved through mentorship offered at mullum High.

Previously, I lived at Tandy's lane and over looked the Blues festival. Different Story! It's Easter your at home with family trying to relax and it's fucking loud. They send out noise monitors which clearly indicates noise levels are above x decimals, they then issue tickets to all the noise effected residences. You then have the choice to attend if you wish. But the fact residents are forced to raise the issue each year is just poor PR. The whole dear neighbour approach is plain offensive and condescending.

Friends of mine including an employee live at South Golden, again different story! They are pissed off for all the obvious reasons. Everyone knows whats going on, accept the level of impact NB Parklands imparts. Then extend yourselves in a neighbourly way by offering necessary compensation. If you can't ameliorate the impact, at least provide tickets or an alternative accommodation alternative.

Good luck with getting your neighbours onside.

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Social Impact Assessment

Feedback method: Email

Date: 7 March 2017

So, feedback from the community (those who I have spoken with as well as those who have attended meetings organised at SGB) is that there is strong opposition to any increase in patron numbers and the number of festival days per year as there are serious concerns about the festivals' impacts on the community with the patron numbers so far (mindful that this will increase in 2017 from 2016 levels), and number of festival days so far. There is also concern about what Live Nation may have in mind in the longer term. The main issues are:

- noise issues still exist and there are concerns that noise will increase with greater numbers of patrons.
- problems with illegal camping persist and council not well-enough resourced to deal with complaints.
- lack of money flowing back into the community in terms of payments to council to cover costs associated with dealing with illegal campers, rubbish, toilets and other impacts from massive increase in visitor numbers during festival time.
- potential for higher frequency of these impacts with one-off concerts scattered through the year, not just at festival times.
- concern that local services (police, ambulance, fire) are drained during festival time because of increased needs to patrol festival, potentially leaving local community with lowered levels of services. Community understands the user-pays model, but are alarmed at concerns raised by the police suggesting this not working optimally.
- feeling that Parklands can be patronising in attitude when dealing with complaints – community members don't feel like they are heard, or respected.
- feeling that Parklands tends to think of the 'community' as its immediate neighbours rather than thinking in broader terms of the wider community in which we live – whole shire and even beyond those borders.

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- feeling that Parklands have not yet proven they can run festivals with up to 32,500 patrons without problems with noise, traffic, illegal camping, so why should there be approvals for increased patron numbers.
- major concerns about patron safety issues in terms of evacuating patrons in case of emergency. Most likely scenario is flood, but also fire an issue, and awareness that police have terrorist attack listed as 'probable'.
- concerns that we don't know the exact number of people on site at capacity – how many additional to the maximum number of ticket sales (artists, stall holders, volunteers, paid crew, press??).

Personally, as an RWG community rep there are a few things I would add to the list:

- I'm concerned that the mismatch of traffic monitoring data with what is claimed to have happened at SITG 2016 (Parklands agreed with the inconsistency) would indicate that the monitoring data is unreliable, yet this is what is being relied upon to tick off having met required KPIs. It doesn't fill me with confidence about the other monitoring data.
- I'm concerned that it doesn't look like we are going to see the Falls 16/17 Performance report before the next RWG meeting. Will we see it before the Parklands put in their draft submission?
- Parklands will not be able to prove they have met the KPIs and various requirements of the WHOLE trial period if they submit before SITG 2017.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 21 April 2017

It is inconceivable that Splendour in the Grass and Falls are trying for an extension. From the Nth, Sth and West communities are being impacted on in so many ways. Neither Splendour or Falls have met there conditions of consent in noise, traffic, camping, sanitation, not to mention placing residents at risk from

Social Impact Assessment

telecommunications failure. It is a duty of care of the state government, council, and festival organisers, to make sure that communities, are not putting, lives at risk when they cannot ring for an ambulance and get through to the correct emergency agent. This area has just been impacted by the worst floods. The site used to be our water catchment and again it filled up with water becoming an inland lake. There is no way possible that this site could have been evacuated, as stated by the manager of the site I believe...placing lives at risk, and definitely no way they could have gotten cars off the site, or camping ground emptied in time to stop polluting the whole area. Rivers that feed into the sea would be polluted with high concentrates of petrol, grease and all other contaminants.

The case that was fought before the courts only some months past was to get a ruling in their favor and this did not come to pass. There is so much more its terrifying. Increases in numbers would and could be horrific for communities and on site punters e.g. Lorne ...So armed with all this information the two Promotion Groups should not be given an extension nor an increase in numbers.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 23 April 2017

**SOCIAL IMPACT OF NORTH BYRON PARKLANDS (NBP) FESTIVALS ON
BRUNSWICK HEADS - EXISTING AS AN INDICATOR OF THE
CONSEQUENCES OF CONTINUING USE OF THE GROUNDS AT YELGUN
AND FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER FESTIVALS AND PATRONAGE.**

The impact of the current festivals on Brunswick Heads as observed, experienced and based in local information include:

GOLDEN RUN DISGUISES WET WEATHER PROBLEMS

The current trial period, commencing 2013 has been a golden run with only one flood event in January 2013 and again with the fringe effect of Cyclone Debbie in

Social Impact Assessment

March 2017. The low-lying site of NBP morphs into an inland lake. Prior to the March event 2017 the only weather pattern has been random rainfall, albeit some of which has to be described as 'heavy'. This can be cross referenced to BOM data. This means emergency strategies have not been tested nor has their social impact.

It is reasonable to predict that thousands of festival patrons would be endeavouring to 'escape' the site's wetness and moving into Brunswick in search of accommodation, services and car parking. The village cannot cope with the onslaught of the consequent demand on services, including demands on emergency services. I would strongly argue that impost of wet conditions would be greater than that which has been experienced during hot, dry conditions such as January 2017 simply because the site at Yelgun would be uninhabitable.

I am aware that Splendour 2014 and Splendour 2015 were extremely and dangerously muddy events because of heavy rains before and during the events. The site wasn't underwater, but great areas of thick mud made getting about difficult and dangerous. The site also went under water in June 2016. That event was not a recognised 'flood event' but testament to the unsuitability of the site for festivals.

The flood risk, which characterises the site is great be it in storm or flood events. The safety of people becomes questionable. The consequences of people moving off site to Brunswick impacts negatively on the village and cannot be dismissed as something that is an irregular or highly unlikely occurrence. The site lies within the transition climatic zone of sub-tropical and east coast warm temperate. These zones cop summer rains and winter wet.

IMPOST OF INCREASING NUMBERS BUSED FROM NBP TO BRUNSWICK HEADS

The resident population of Brunswick Heads is just over 1600 persons. During the Falls Festival 2017, 1700, 2000 and 1700 of festival goers were bussed into Brunswick causing chaos when combined with the traditional Xmas/New Year's

Social Impact Assessment

holiday makers. That chaos was a cumulative tsunami on food outlets, public toilets and the amenity of the foreshore parklands where many used the park to bunk down and sleep. The visual impact of the latter is undesirable let alone turning Brunswick pedestrian traffic into something akin to an active termite mound or ant's nest. I am fully aware that residents, in response to the crowds refused to venture out of their houses and continue with their normal routines during the festival periods.

FESTIVAL INDUCED BEHAVIOUR

- a. Illegal Street Camping: I am tired of NBP's arguing that they are not responsible for the increase in illegal street camping in Brunswick Heads at the time of the Festivals. Their argument doesn't address the positive correlation of this behaviour and the timing of festivals. NBP has suggested their employment of temporary rangers. Rangers, unless employed by Byron Shire Council have no legislative power to enforce 'No Parking' to mitigate this illegal conduct.

The scale of this behaviour cannot be ignored. South Beach Rd is known as 'South Beach Hotel' during these periods. Similarly, I am disgusted at the illegal camping/parking that occurs on the foreshore land south of the Community Centre, opposite the Brunswick Beach Surf Club. It also occurs in the bushes adjoining Memorial Park. Along with illegal street camping is the urination and defecation that goes with it. South Beach Road stinks of a morning and I am fed up seeing human waste adjoining Memorial Park. Given the numbers illegally camping on the foreshore it is reasonable to assume the same is occurring there as well.

- b. Fires on Brunswick Beach - during the Falls Festival, January 2017 I spent time, early morning of each day, walking along Brunswick Heads beach from the rock walls to the end of the dog walking area. There were numerous campers but worse, smouldering fires. I spent time at sites that had been vacated, putting small fires out. These were both behind the frontal dune and

Social Impact Assessment

on the beach. This was during a high fire risk period. Offenders behave as blissfully unaware the risk of embers taking out our invaluable Nature Reserve. Again, the positive correlation with this undesirable behaviour and the timing of the festivals cannot be dismissed on the grounds that NBP is not responsible on the simplistic grounds that it is occurring 'off-site.'

- c. Drunken and disorderly behaviour in the streets/parklands. It is socially unacceptable to have to walk past groups of young men and women swigging bottles/cans of beer or displaying the characteristics of intoxication at any time. However, the incidence of this during NBP festival time is blatant not only in the streets but also in the foreshore parklands. I am appalled at the groupings of young men and women drinking in the foreshore parklands. It becomes quite uncomfortable and indeed engenders a sense of personal insecurity when walking about in Brunswick Heads at this time. This behaviour is most apparent during Splendour in the Grass. My reaction is not just mine alone but is shared with other residents in Brunswick Heads. Most often, the negative comments about this behaviour has been initiated by others in conversation with me. This behaviour is not characteristic of other festive times of the year, including New Year's Eve where we have to acknowledge the work done by Hotel Brunswick to mitigate that occurring

IMPOST ON INFRASTRUCTURE

- a. Rubbish collection: I am unaware of the details of how this is being addressed. However, I am aware of its dependency on volunteers who are contra paid. I am very much aware that the rubbish issue is horrendous in Brunswick Heads during festival times requiring 'emergency' calls for additional pick-ups.
- b. Traffic and Car Parking: I don't believe I have to labour on about numbers and speed of vehicles and the impost on parking spaces. This is an all too obvious point that it is horrific. The consequences are that local residents cannot access the services they would normally use in Brunswick Heads at the time of NBP's festivals.

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- c. The public toilets can't cope with the numbers of festival goers using them on top of locals and other tourists. The overuse results in unsightly and unhygienic conditions. I am aware of festival patrons urinating and defecating in the bushes adjoining Memorial Park and Venture Park. Unsightly urinating also occurred in Banner Park onto the external walls of the public toilets, a demand of nature that was in conflict with the line of people waiting. Male youth peeing up against a public facility isn't the pretty sight to behold at any age!

NOISE

Noise Issues: Since the original festival at NBP, when I could hear the NOISE in my house, the impost on my private living space appears to be addressed. However, I have absolutely no faith that that is a constant into the future be it for an extension or permanent site.

ACCOMMODATION

Social Impact of Festivals on Accommodation: I am well aware that more and more houses are being holiday let and economically purging permanent renters. I am not supportive of the breakdown in the social fabric/networks of Brunswick Heads as a consequence of this economic driver on the supply of permanent rental. The face to face contact with friends who can no longer afford the escalating rents is blatant. To dismiss this complaint on the grounds that it is occurring anyway, is to dismiss the impost of festival goers presenting an en masse demand for short term accommodation. It sets up a vicious self-perpetuating social and economic cycle.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS – INTERNET

I do not have a mobile phone and thus the land line gives me immunity from reception problems. However, I am Wi-Fi dependent for the internet. I am fed up with the impost of the inability to access the internet as normally. This is just intolerable when society is demanding increasing internet dependency for the everyday business of living.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 24 April 2017

Saw the invitation for local residents to have their say on how the festivals have impacted on them and wish to contribute.

I am a born and bred local, and currently live at New Brighton.

The crowds in our streets, beaches, parks and public spaces has been overwhelming. Have never ever seen so many people, and with so little respect for the locals who actually live here.

We have had people illegally camping near our home, using footpath and grassy areas as their toilet, using beach showers as theirs, shampoo and soap suds pouring down the drain and all over the carpark. They actually line up to do this so you can't even wash your own feet of sand after a walk on beach because of their take over of our local amenities. Our public bins are overflowing, and if we aren't quick enough to bring our own garbage bins in after pick up day, will kindly fill our bins up with their rubbish.

The swarms of festival go-ers getting off the buses in Brunswick heads was incredible. I had taken my elderly father over to Brunswick heads for lunch, and couldn't walk against the foot traffic, or even get a coffee because of the immense crowd of people. To even walk in our local park was impossible, with festival go-ers occupying every square inch of grass, so navigating through this was incredibly difficult. The Christmas holidays have always been a time when locals and their families enjoy their local beachside towns, with many campers coming here traditionally for fifty years or more. In what has always been a vibrant and busy time of year with holidaymakers, has been absolutely overwhelmed with the Falls Festival occurring at the same time of year. The enjoyment of our area has

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been severely impacted with thousands of young people taking us over. I have young adult children myself, who love to go to the festivals also, but the last couple of years has seen a crazy side develop into what is a small community.

We pay big rates for a lack of services as it is, with our local council wanting a special rate variation of 33%increase to improve the roads etc which have been impacted by the extra visitors to our community. We have so many potholes, lack of drainage, and get totally ignored by our council as we are the most northern area of the shire .

I live on a local road to a secluded beach area near the river, and it was obvious that information had been shared about this section of beach. The traffic on our dirt road caused so much choking dust, cars travelling too fast, people walking in the middle of the road, alcohol being consumed in a no go area, rubbish left behind, road rage, bus traffic, loud commotions with drunken/stoned people walking home from bus drop offs. The list goes on.

To add more numbers to the festivals will double or triple the impact on our community. We don't all benefit financially from the festivals. For the majority of us, we seem to be having to stay at home away from crowds, when we should be enjoying our beautiful shire like we have done for decades with our own families and friends.

Thanks for the opportunity to have our say.

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Feedback method: Email
Date: 25 April 2017

I have serious concerns regarding the proposed increase to the number of festival days per year (from 10 to 12 (or more)) and the maximum daily

attendance (from 35,000 to 50,000 (or more)). I also have serious concerns that the authority for this site will not be local – i.e. not with Byron Shire Council.

I live in this part of the world for its peace and quiet, its cleanliness, its pristine beaches, its community, its value by UNESCO and for peace of mind.

I also live in this part of the world knowing that the occasional multi-day festival currently occurs at North Byron Parklands.

The current festivals already create extra load and stress on our infrastructure from the increased number of cars, trucks, camper vans ... etc. ... traffic jams! ... here!! ... during both the previous Splendour and Falls festivals at Shara Boulevard and Brunswick Valley Way. Anti social behaviour increases during festivals. The amount of rubbish on our footpaths, beaches and waterways increases. Our shire already does not earn enough from the festivals to compensate for this. For us, when the wind is from the north, the noise from the festival can be objectionable.

Having said that, a few festival days per year is a part of this region.

I do object to the proposed increase to more than 10 festival days per year and I respectfully insist you do also.

I do object to the proposed increase to the maximum daily attendance to more than 35,000 and I respectfully insist that you do also.

I strongly object to the proposal that authority over the site be given to other than our community representatives - i.e. Byron Shire Council. This site should not be a State Significant Development. This site should not be controlled by the NSW Department of Planning. Oversight for all things associated the North Byron Parklands must reside locally with the Byron Shire Council. **North Byron Parklands should be controlled by Byron Shire Council and I respectfully insist you do all you can to ensure this.**

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We residents should not have to pay the for the privilege of the festivals being conducted by increases to our rates. I strongly recommend that all festival attendees pay a minimum of \$5.00 per day levy to be provided directly to Byron Shire Council to address the extra stress put on our community, infrastructure ...etc. The levy is a very small percentage of a festival ticket, but collectively could significantly address the expenses currently being borne by the community. I respectfully insist you do all you can to ensure this.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 25 April 2017

I believe you are collecting submissions from locals about the social impacts of NBP with regards to their application to become a permanent festival site.

I have a shack at Wooyung Holiday Park, which is bottom of the rung social status as you can imagine, so I know my voice is tiny, however here are my comments for what they are worth. A number of things are of concern to me, in no particular order:

For some time before festivals (at least a couple of weeks) mobile reception that is already patchy becomes worse. During festivals its not uncommon to have NO MOBILE OR INTERNET reception at all due to the patrons sucking it all up taking selfies. Its happened that local businesses including Wooyung Holiday Park can't even make transactions with their own patrons for site fees. Sometimes Telstra and/or Optus have put up temporary towers which helps but doesn't fix the issue.

If, as is often the case during festivals the road is congested outside the site, locals must travel a huge detour via Pottsville to go south, so a trip to Brunswick Heads which should take 15 minutes from Wooyung can take 30-40 mins. It seems in the 5 years they've been running the site they still haven't got the traffic

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control sorted including some really stupid things, like forcing local northbound traffic out of the site, south out of the site up to Yelgun roundabout, then back north through their own gate control exacerbating congestion at the site entrance and causing huge unnecessary delays exiting the site northbound.

Then there's the stranded teenager's miles from anywhere walking walking walking at very small hours of the morning in very small clothes in the dark, alone etc. I have personally spent whole nights during festivals from midnight to 4am rescuing young people including drug affected and or drunk young girls, some with no other alternative than to walk to Brunswick Heads, Pottsville and Mullumbimby. Tired, underdressed, cold, vulnerable.

The increased exposure of the area to thousands of people is having huge impacts on the towns eg Brunswick Heads, but in bushland areas up around Wooyung there is more illegal camping, rubbish dumping and burning fires than ever before. It seems people find out about the place from the festival then come back later to take advantage of it. An example: about 500m from the holiday park up a track is a banksia glade on private land in reality a stone's throw from the ocean. The owner lets people camp there, though there are no facilities, they leave massive amounts of rubbish that are entirely cleaned up time and time again by local,s and chop and burn anything they can get their hands on. 5 years ago the glade was small, a grassy area bounded by 3 massive banksias. Now its 5 times the size, every new mob clears another pandanus and chops another limb off a tree. The owner doesn't seem to care, in fact facilitates it. I've seen huge limbs chainsawed up into small pieces and left in a pile for people to burn.

People in station wagons and vans pushing their way into scrub for free camping are increasing, not realising how long it takes anything to grow on the coast. I've been doing some bush-regen in the park and astounded at how long it takes a tree to grow on sand.

Speaking of natural degradations, I've also seen on the NBP site the chainsawing of at least 20 huge trees, most of them massive calitris, a threatened species

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along their east boundary, presumably because they were close to the fence??? Tweed Council didn't seem to know anything about it and the timber from the trees was not used for anything. For weeks dozers were pushing stuff into piles which were systematically burnt over months.

They say they are planting for koalas but all the plantings are around the perimeter which is in their interest to screen but is maximum vulnerability for any koalas next to the roads etc. I can't believe the intrusion of this site into the only decent coastal bush reserve for miles is allowed already let alone permanently.

I haven't seen it for myself yet but someone told me they've also managed to block the track through from upper Jones road to lower, blocking public use of the track around the perimeter of the reserve, by building some kind of road or something?

Seems they want to keep anyone away from their precious site. This paranoid thinking is also apparent along wooyung road where they insist on continually burning roadside weeds at the expense of causing erosion on to the road, showing contempt and disregard for the safety of locals.

When they held the first festival I heard they were giving free tickets out all over the place to keep the locals on side. Noticeably they drew a line just before Wooyung Holiday Park excluding the most vulnerable and most affected people from benefiting or being compensated in any way. They had a community hotline encouraging locals to air their thoughts, so I rang to explain I lived locally just outside their free ticket area and was very affected by the traffic etc and to ask if I could have free entry for one person for one night to experience inclusion to the festival experience for myself. It was refused. If that doesn't demonstrate their actual position and motivations I don't know what does.

Eventually I bought myself a ticket and got to see what its like at the festival. I was sorry to see how those amazing huge gums had thousands of people

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stomping on their roots. It won't surprise me one bit when they want to chop them down because they get sick.

I think its disgusting and ludicrous they can claim to be having no impact on the nature reserve. With it's upmost importance as part of a chain of connecting bushland for survival of lots of species including koalas it makes me sick to think of the damage being done and denied for a few bucks for some greedy slickers. Likely some serious impacts on water ways too.

Likely not much you can actually use in here and I'd probably prefer to remain anonymous but there's my experiences and thoughts. Thank you for collecting and collating info and hopefully it all goes towards curbing their seemingly insatiable appetite.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 25 April 2017

I am a resident of South Golden Beach and am greatly impacted by the festivals held at North Byron Parklands. It's not just the noise causing problems but a raft of social issues making life uncomfortable during the festivals and, we the residents, are left to deal with the aftermath long after the patrons have gone home.

Below are some of the most disturbing issues we have to deal with:

Traffic

There is a vast increase in the number of vehicles in our small village. The residents are aware and considerate of the volume of pedestrian traffic, pushbikes, dog walkers, children etc making their way to the beach. The visitors

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are not. 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.

Then there are the buses. 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 stressed, 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.

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Adding to the problem is the timing of the festivals, especially Falls Fest being held over the new year period when all available holiday accommodation is heavily booked and Brunswick Heads and South Golden Beach are already operating at full capacity.

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. They often leave a trail of vomit and urine along residential fence lines. 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, which 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

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concerning when many residents no longer have land lines. Should an emergency arise there are no communication services available.

Noise

Then there is the noise issue. 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 simply cannot cope with the influx.

The proposal for a State Significant Site is disturbing. 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,

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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 accesses the few services available to us. However, we happily accepted these impositions in order to enjoy a quite, peaceful, respectful and happy life in the north of Byron Shire.

Should North Byron Parkland's 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.

The original Part 3A five year trial for a festival site ceases at the end of this current year when control of the site should revert to Byron Shire Council. However, 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.

I hope the "powers that be" can understand the distressing impact these festivals have on such a small, quiet community and how heavily their activities impact the residents. We didn't ask for these festivals to invade our lives and yet we feel we are under seige.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 25 April 2017

SOCIAL IMPACT ON MY COMMUNITY

1. TRAFFIC

- a. While access to Parklands is limited to one point of entry along the Tweed Valley Way, with only a small section of turn-off lane into the festival site, traffic issues will continue to be a problem even with the present number cap of 35,000. The Tweed Valley Way is inadequate for the traffic flow and will cause both congestion and, inevitably, accidents.

Were Parklands to be given the right to host 50,000 (and more!) this issue would transform from difficult to impossible. Just the buses added to the equation would make the task impossible (see accommodation below)

Were an emergency to arise the results would be a catastrophe! The NSW Police has said, "There is no possibility of evacuating North Byron Parklands within 8 hours at current capacity levels." (They wrote this with reference to Splendour 2016; the current capacity of that event was 32,500/day.)

- b. From my reading the present parking capacity of Parklands is 9,000 cars. While I do not know the ratio of cars to patrons I suspect that the actual car numbers with an attendance of 35,000 brings about 17,000 cars, leaving a gap of 8,000 car spaces between what is available and what there are.

An attendance of 50,000 equals about 25,000 cars!!! 16,000 are going to park where?? If only 500 park in our neighbourhood, we will be overwhelmed.

2. ACCOMMODATION

Parklands indicate in its literature to us that it has the capacity to accommodate up to 20,000 patrons as campers. At the present cap of 35,000 that leaves 15,000 with the need for accommodation. About 3,500 of these are local leaving 11,500.

Were they be granted their sought after 42,500 or 50,000 the issue of outside accommodation would increase with every extra patron. Moving 30,000 patrons twice a day assuming 50 patrons per bus would add 60 buses to the existing traffic flow. Just the prospect of at least 60 buses, along with regular traffic and cars associated with the transportation, all moving in and out twice a day to/from a wide variety of destinations with the existing infrastructure defies the imagination, even without bringing rain or other weather conditions into it.

Further to the above are the following concerns regarding those not accommodated on site;

- a. Falls Festival runs over the New Year when accommodation is already packed with Christmas holiday visitors. We will have to expect many of these people will decide to camp illegally in our neighbourhood, and we are not happy about that.
- b. The cost of camping at the Festival or finding rental is expensive and for that reason, too, residents are aware of an increase in illegal camping and street parking. With a shortage of regulatory officers we are concerned that this will escalate, especially if the attendance numbers are increased even further.
- c. Illegal street parking is a source of anxiety to residents. Having a strange car parked on your nature strip is an invasion of our privacy. When the illegal parker then uses your garden hose for washing and

adjoining areas for ablution the issue becomes invasive and disgusting.

- d. A spin off from the illegal camping in natural bush areas or the beach includes;
 - i. Fires and the danger of bush fires.
 - ii. Damage to the bush from vehicles, clearing space and finding firewood.
 - iii. The remaining rubbish, including human faeces, left behind to be cleaned up?
 - iv. The angst created within residents by groups of young, often intoxicated, strangers behaving erratically.

The fundamental issue at stake with illegal accommodation is that there is not the means for enforcement. The Council staff available is inadequate to the task, and NSW Police have said they cannot police our residential areas AND the festival, too. (They are responsible for both.) That leaves a loose form of neighbourhood watch to try and control a difficult situation.

3. WEATHER

It should be noted that the two festivals that have been held at Parklands have not, up to this stage, run into severe weather. Parklands is a totally outdoor event and on flat land that will allow the pooling of water on flat areas and, in extremes, flood. It is, in fact, a flood-prone area and great areas of it have been completely underwater in the recent past.

To exacerbate this potential is the large numbers that are being dealt with. Even at 35,000 there have been cases in the past where the clearing of the site of patrons has taken 5 hours or more, and that was done under normal weather conditions! The police report re the 2016 Splendour festival has already been cited above indicating their deep concerns about emergency evacuations. In the event of heavy flooding (or fire), 30,000+ temporary residents will be in dire need

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of emergency service at the same time that we permanent residents will be in need of the same emergency services. This is an alarming thought.

4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND EMERGENCIES

As a resident I am concerned with the loss of signal that has accompanied phone reception during festivals. The numbers being touted by Parklands are going to put an even greater strain of phone services.

As the phone is our primary means of communication in respect to emergencies arising in our area, (eg fire, tsunami) this raises serious issues with us as residents. Our ordinary use of phone and internet connections is also undermined during every festival.

5. ACCOUNTABILITY

A deep-seated concern with residents is around how truthful and honest a “neighbour” we have in Parklands.

Over time the vision of Parklands has gradually but inexorably grown from the explicitly pronounced “just one festival a year!” to “just two festivals” and with the present proposals of 20 festival days (12 days earmarked for 50,000/day capacity and 8 days earmarked for 25,000 capacity. See point 7 below for the full interpretation and consequences of their 20 day proposal).

Over time those of us who have expressed concern have been placated with the assurance that Parklands is NEVER going to become the festival site of the State! (Although Brendan Saul {one of the owners} did reveal this ultimate vision to a group of Yelgun concerned citizens several years ago!)

As the numbers and issues have increased during the 5-year trial, the Department of Planning, **which is supposed to provide rigorous oversight**, has been lax. They have shrugged off numerous breaches of consent conditions

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and have levied minimal fines on only two occasions. They seem to be more a partner in the development than an overseer.

With this in mind we, as concerned residents would like to see the auditing of Parklands left to independent authorities, that is, NOT the Department of Planning. **It would be best to have our own Council as the consent authority** with one or more auditors that are not answerable to Parklands.

At present, community complaints, environmental issues, noise pollution, traffic monitoring, on-site medical issues, security of surrounding dwellings, auditing of actual numbers of attendees (including paying and other), are among the areas which are monitored by Parklands. NO!!! independent audit has ever been done. It seems we simply have to trust that they are being good citizens. An issue that is hard to accept when there are many anecdotal instances of resident input having been whitewashed and swept under the carpet.

Also, it's only when the NSW Police made public their report on Splendour 2016 that we have learned the full extent of their concerns. Their review of the operation of that festival was exceedingly alarming.

Finally, in order to become a site of State Significant Development, Parklands have to commit at least \$30,000,000 (\$30 million!) to the site!! Their proposal certainly shows the accounting exercise to back this. The big question remains is whether Parklands will honour their commitments and what will happen if they don't!

It does not require genius to recognize that the magic figure to qualify for Significant Development is thirty million so it is an easy arithmetic exercise to create such a figure (their exercise has created a figure of \$32,653,826.00). Again, who will audit their commitment, to guarantee that the figures on a piece of paper are actually materialized and within a reasonable time frame?

6. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

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PAYING THEIR WAY.

There is a growing concern with residents that Parklands is not being asked to pay with the responsibilities that come with the project they are running. That they are not picking up a lot of bills that arise directly out of the consequences of their commercial activity.

Parklands rightly defend this by saying that they pay all their rates PLUS they make substantial donations to the community.

However; The rates Parklands are paying are for a RURAL property as opposed to a commercial festival site. The attendant expenses to them are astronomical compared to an adjoining farmer.

As residents the issue of monitoring the illegal parking, camping and partying are increasingly becoming a big issue, along with enforcing Council regulations. Why should residents carry the direct burdens of Parklands by having to confront these people in order to protect our environment?? Why should our council be responsible for hiring extra rangers to be on duty in our neighbourhoods during events? That cost would ultimately be borne by us, ratepayers instead of by the people who cause the problems: Parklands.

6. DOES IT HAVE TO BE “PERMANENCY”

Parklands claims that it cannot function without approval for a permanent festival site. They say it's not worth their while to invest money in the site without approval in perpetuity, overseen by the State (with Byron council having no say at all).

The consequence, if they succeed, is a blind approval or carte blanche, as far as our community is concerned. The reason for this is because no one knows quite what they intend to do in the future and what the State government will allow them to do.

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Do they aim eventually to have 60 festival days a year? 75? Or a 100? Are they intending to have 75,000 people on site? 100,000? 150,000? The commercial reality is that if the market or festival goers are there than Parklands will fill the vacuum with the blessing of the State government! The approval they seek allows modifications in the numbers of people and numbers of days, and we have no idea at this point just what they are planning for the future. Yet they still want permanent approval, which will give us ZERO certainty.

In contrast, Peter Noble is running his Bluesfest site in Tyagarah with Council as the consent authority and without permanent approval from the state that Parklands claims is essential to their business plan. If Peter Noble is able to put on profitable, successful events under Council authority, Parklands can surely do the same? With Council in charge, at least then we would have a chance of keeping a lid on the scale of the development and demanding that Parklands compensate the shire for imposing its massive events on us.

7. HOW MANY FESTIVALS?

Parklands are seeking as part of their submission;

- a. 12 festival days of up to 50,000 patrons (the big events)
- b. 8 festival days of up to 25,000 (the less big events)
- c. A total of 20 major festival days if you add up (a) and (b)

They say..... That presently Falls and Splendour take up 8 of the big event days leaving only 4 more days..... they speculate maybe one more 4 day festival. Leaving 8 days of less big festivalsmaybe 2 more 4 day events.

In their newsletter to those who attended the Feb 12, 2017 meeting at Parklands they state that "Three large festivals is the maximum number the venue can reasonably schedule". Their reasons are that the "bump in, bump out" times with major festivals and preparation time make "additional large events ... not viable."

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Hope Estates in the Hunter Valley, another festival site, manages to run music events well beyond three a year. Many venues like the Opera House and other big entertainment centres do so as part and parcel of every day life. With 365 days in the year and festivals taking up Parklands projected 20 days a year, their claim to be unable to run more festivals beyond this, seems a bizarre reflection of ineptitude or deception. Deception in so far that the full picture is being obscured.

One such obscurity is, to thicken the plot a little further, the configuration of 20 FESTIVAL DAYS. This can be broken up into any number of permutations. Quite plausibly, and economically viable, TWENTY INDIVIDUAL FESTIVALS. That is one almost every second week of the year.

Live Nation, the 51% owner partner, is big on getting a big name band/performer and touring them around the country. They are doing it now.

TWENTY INDIVIDUAL FESTIVAL DAYS is not proscribed (banned) other than by the fact that only 8 are capped at 25,000 and the rest at 50,000.

It is their choice as to how they optimize this allowance!!

What is their intention?

ADDENDUM

‘LIVE NATION’

Just Google them either as ‘live nation’ or ‘live nation Australia’.

Check out the figures they boast like, 530,000,000 fans, 37 Countries.

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They are touring at least 20 artists now or soon around Australia including James Taylor (4 venues), Kid Ink (4 venues), Adele (11 concerts), animals as leaders (5 concerts)

They seem to specialise on one-off performances rather than festivals. Which begs the question as to why they have bought 51% into the Falls and Splendour festivals other than to get access to Parklands.

LIVE NATION;

- Are the world's largest live performance company
- Own the biggest ticketing company, Ticketmaster
- Are the world's leading artist's management company
- Are rapidly becoming a major force in Australian live performance.
- Have what is called 'vertical integration', ie they control all aspects of the industry, from venues to tickets to artists. An optimal model for reducing competition and optimising profit.

See the following articles; <http://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/live-nation-buys-splendour-and-falls-festivals/8094394>

[The rise of Live Nation and the fear of an emerging music ...](#)
www.abc.net.au

Live Nation, the world's largest events promoter, and the owner of the world's largest ticketing company, has bought a controlling stake in two of Australia's largest ...

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/music/splendour-in-the-grass-and-falls-festivals-now-americanowned-20161205-gt40xl.html>

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 26 April 2017

Social Impact Assessment

Sarah, I am writing to give you my opinions about the social impacts of the Parklands site that I have experienced since the first event in 2013.

First, NOISE! Incessant pounding bass, act after act, for days on end. When I call the complaint hotline, I don't get any satisfaction. They say that the noise is within the limits, implying that I have no reason to complain. I don't care what the limits are. I don't want to hear it! I was especially disgusted with the way they complained about the so-called strict noise limits originally set by the Planning Assessment Commission. When they first got their approval, they said they would have no problem managing the noise. But they couldn't do it, and then claimed the limits were "unworkable"! So what did they do? Rather than turn the volume down to comply with the limits that were imposed to protect residents, they wangled higher noise limits out of the government. Whatever respect I had for them at that point went to zero. Can't stay within the limits? Well, then, raise the limits ... and the locals be damned.

Traffic congestion is also a major issue and is getting worse as the number of people attending the festivals increases. This affects me by creating heavy traffic on Tweed Valley Way and on the other streets near the festival site and in my immediate neighbourhood and in nearby towns. Brunswick Heads is clogged with cars and buses and people during festivals. It more than doubles its population, thanks to numerous buses depositing festival goers in town when they want a break from being at Parklands. If I try to go into Bruns during a festival, I can't find a place to park and am surrounded by partying festival people. It's very unpleasant, so I've stopped going. Parklands says that Brunswick Heads businesses love the festivals, but I know a number of business owners there who hate them because their business suffers during festivals. Their regular customers stay away, as I do, or go elsewhere. I'm sure Parklands wants to brag about how many more coffees and pizzas are sold in Bruns during festivals, but they should also ask businesses who don't cater to festivals how much money they typically lose when the town is clogged with festival people.

We have a total shire population of 30,000 people. The Splendour festival brings more than that into our immediate vicinity each day of the festival, and Falls brings in almost that many if you count staff, vendors, police, medical services, etc. on site. If the same thing were to happen in Sydney, with a population of 5 million, Sydneysiders would suddenly have to contend with 10 million people. The point is, the Parklands site is simply not the right location for mega festivals. We residents should not have to contend with these enormous numbers descending on us. Yet Parklands is insisting on still more festivals and still higher daily attendance. It's appalling.

One thing that I especially dislike is the Parklands buses running day and night. My house is on their route, so I can't help but hear them. It's unpleasant during the day, and at night I can't sleep with the roaring buses going past my house, well after 1AM. Then, when the partying festival goers get off the buses, they are loud and unruly, creating even more noise and disturbance in the neighbourhood. Many of them stay in party houses before, during, and after festivals, so the unpleasant disturbance goes on far longer than a festival, keeping us locals awake and on edge for days.

Illegal camping in our neighbourhood is also a big issue. Festival goers sleep in their cars and use our very small public toilet and beach shower as their personal amenities. They park in front of people's houses and leave their rubbish and excrement behind. This inexcusable, anti-social behavior creates a trashy environment and becomes a public health issue in areas that are ordinarily clean and tidy.

All of this is pushing our council's services to the brink. We do not have enough rangers to monitor the north of the shire, and our police services can't handle our needs during festivals because policing the festivals is the priority. So we're left to fend for ourselves. It is a growing problem, too, because more and more festival goers are using our streets and beaches as campgrounds. They have lit illegal fires on our beaches and left them unattended. Truly outrageous. When my neighbours and I have tried to inform Parklands of these issues, the stock

Social Impact Assessment

response is that the festival goers are not doing any of these things. It's "locals" or "someone else" who is creating these problems. That's rubbish, of course, given that we have seen people engaged in these activities who are clearly festival goers -- such as the ones who get on and off the buses coming from Parklands. So not only do we have to put up with a bunch of disorderly strangers, the ones who attracted the people to our area won't even admit there's a problem!

When Parklands was first applying for Part 3A approval, we in the community specifically asked that they not hold events over the Christmas-NY period, since that is the busiest time of year in our shire with the greatest numbers of tourists. And what did they do? Bring Falls in over NYE. That disgusted me and many of my neighbours. Having a festival during NYE exacerbates an already busy and trying time.

Now that I have lived through 8 festivals, I am even more against them than I was in 2013 before the first festival. I don't want them at Parklands. Whatever benefits they claim (and their claims of wondrous economic benefits are unsupportable), the cost to the peace and security of me and my neighbours is way too high.

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Feedback method: Email
Date: 26 April 2017

Sarah, I live close enough to the Parklands site to hear the festivals, and the noise is often disturbing because our neighbourhood is usually very quiet. The noise is irritating and bothers me, but the people next to me often can't sleep because it's even louder at their place. I have spoken regularly with other neighbours who are also disturbed. Besides the music noise, the buses that take ticket-holders to and from the site are also very loud, especially late at night when they drive right in front of my house and wake me up. And so are the passengers when they are let off on to our streets. They're in party mode; I'm trying to sleep.

Social Impact Assessment

We have given up calling in complaints to Parklands about festival noise and other disturbances because it doesn't do any good. Parklands' main concern is complying with the required limits regarding music noise. If they manage to do that, they don't need to be concerned if people are disturbed. The Department of Planning is also focused only on literal compliance rather than the effects of noise on residents, including the bus noise.

The core issue is that Parklands is not the right place to hold such events, as many residents have been saying for years. It's way too close to quiet, residential areas. Someone is always being disturbed, whether or not they voice complaints. Who gets disturbed by the music depends on the volume of the noise and the way the wind blows. Those who live along the bus routes will always be disturbed. This will only get worse if Parklands is granted permanent approval and allowed to hold more and larger festivals.

Another issue is that our residential area is changing, thanks to the festivals. A property owner quite near us recently evicted a young family and turned the house into a festival rental, so during festivals we now also have before, during, and after party-house noise. We do not at all like absentee owners who get ride of long-term renters who are part of the community and rent to short-term party people who don't know the neighbours and don't care who they are.

If Parklands gets permanent approval, we will see even more party houses in our area, rented out by people who don't live here and just want to make fast money. Life will be more and more unpleasant as the cohesiveness of the community is lost. Our area has a number of holiday rentals that are managed responsibly by local property managers, and these are accepted by the community because they are primarily family rentals, attracting people who respect the area and do not disturb their neighbours. That's changing, and I am not happy about it.

I am also concerned because of the increasing number of festival people who come into our neighbourhood to camp before, during, and after festivals. They trespass on private property, disturb residents, trample the dunes, light fires on the beaches, and generally trash the place. The anti-social behaviour correlates

Social Impact Assessment

positively with the amount of alcohol and drugs the people have consumed. Parklands says that they are not responsible for what festival goers do off site, but the fact that the festivals are here at all is what's bringing increasing amounts of anti-social behaviour into the area. The drunk-and-drugged campers show a serious lack of respect for the people who live here and the peaceful surroundings that we treasure. Council doesn't have the resources to police properly during festivals, so the unwanted and illegal campers get away with it, and their numbers increase each year. It's clear the word has got around that the villages near Parklands can be used as free campgrounds, with ticket holders taking the buses to and from the festival or finding other ways to get on site.

The owners of Parklands seem to think that everyone by now should have fallen in line and accepted the festivals, but I hear more and more people voicing strong negative sentiments about them, including people who for the first year or two were neutral. The feeling against festivals at Parklands is growing rather than subsiding, regardless of how much Parklands dismisses the negativity by saying that it comes from only a handful of people.

The impacts I describe here will just get worse if festival numbers and size increase. The festivals should move to another location, far enough from quiet, residential areas that they will not disturb and inconvenience others as they are disturbing and inconveniencing us.

Please include my comments in your social impact report. I will appreciate it if you will not include my name so that my privacy will be protected.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 26 April 2017

I am writing to you regarding the North Parklands Festival site at Yelgun NSW. I live at South Golden Beach & am extremely concerned about what the owners of the site want to do in the future.

I have put up with the Splendour & Falls Festivals for the last four years hoping that the trial period will put a stop to it. Apparently an American company has brought 51 % of the business, my question is why would anyone buy into a business that is on a trial, do they know something that the rest of the community don't know?

Why was this site approved when it is adjacent to the only wild life corridor in the area. Years ago the State Government spent millions on the wild life corridor that the community fought for & now the impact that these festivals has on the animals is mind boggling.

Following are a few points that our community has to put up with –

Noise – I hear the music when festivals are on, the only way to avoid this is to go inside & close all windows & doors

Influx of people – This has led to many festival patrons illegally camping on our beach & in their cars on our streets. Where do you think they go to the toilet, put their rubbish – in our gardens. They light fires on our beach (which is illegal) leave rubbish on our beach. We have evidence from Falls Festival as some residents are getting up early & taking photos to send to Local Council who is supposed to fine them. I sent a photo last time to the ranger, he rang me & said he would fine the people outside my house \$150.00. Do you imagine this fine being a deterrent.

It might be a good idea if the State Government gave Byron Shire a visit & checked out our roads & infrastructure, the council want to increase our rates by

Social Impact Assessment

12.5%, I don't mind paying more for our community but not for the influx of people coming to the festivals. Their latest submission is to hold festivals up to 50,000 people, I know that our infrastructure will not handle this amount & am sure there will be major problems if this is allowed, please read the Police Report that is attached to the submission from owners of festival site to make it A STATE SIGNIFICATE SITE!!

I have spoken to a lot of residents who are opposed to the festival site, unfortunately they don't know who to contact & often they say what is the use no one is listening. The government body who approved the site & trial have taken away the amenity of our community & surrounds.

If our government representatives are not going to listen to the communities & their concerns what do you think will happen in the future – THE TRUMP EFFECT or THE PAULINE HANSEN EFFECT will be the result, it is already happening.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 27 April 2017

Thanks for this opportunity to comment on the social impact of festivals on the beautiful, unique village of Brunswick Heads.

The impact of the Falls festival on BH is totally unacceptable. Our town is a family friendly, low key village with an emphasis on natural beauty and simple pleasures often for three generations of a family. Falls is busing the equivalent of the towns population into BH every day of the festival. Falls should not be able to do this. It is putting families off coming to our town at our busiest time. It is absurdly crowded and not safe for their children to walk around town by themselves and cafes and businesses packed with a sea of under 20s. There is a marked increase in litter and public toilets have a big line. This summer there was an increase in ear

Social Impact Assessment

infections and I believe it is related to all the Falls patrons swimming in the river. Street camping and festival parking is also an issue. Telecommunication are disrupted throughout the festivals putting sick and elderly at risk. Houses are being brought with festival goers in mind increasing the incidence of party houses and reducing the housing stock available for permanent rentals.

Brunswick Heads now has a major festival site 10 mins north and south of the town, we cannot stand by and see our town become collateral damage to these commercial ventures that deliver very little for local communities.

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Feedback method: Email

Date: 27 April 2017

I have a lot to say about the impact of more festival in the area.

My main response is that one a year is ok but now we are talking of many more - and in an association with an International Festival company that does not "care" about our local economy and values - it is surely just for profit ???

We have complained about noise here and are told that we are the only ones who complained.

I really feel others put up with it for one festival but the impact of regular ones is too much. That makes me distrust the Parklands company who are obviously here for profit too?

I have concerns law and order and fire dangers or flood risks can be. Waste water and Sewerage is a big question that I think no one is asking much about. We had a terrible smell here last December just before Christmas and I wonder if

Social Impact Assessment

the clean up of compost toilets ? or some other water storage problem?

The main impact on me has been the festival patrons leaving at night and not having adequate transport and walking through the streets talking at 1-2 am. Plus overloaded rubbish bins - especially in summer.

I have lots of concerns about the regular use of the site - its unsuitable - but you are asking for personal impact.

I can provide more about the concerns if you need? Why i consider the site unsuitable for more than one festival a year.



Mr Matt Morris
General Manager
North Byron Parklands
PO Box 517
Bangalow NSW 2479
E: community@northbyronparklands.com

Wednesday 1 March 2017

Dear Mr Morris

RE: Community Feedback on North Byron Parklands Preliminary Environmental Assessment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North Byron Parklands Permanency Development Application.

Burringbar is around 10 kilometres from the Parklands site, we anticipate more local businesses will emerge to service a growing demand for tourists, including cafes, restaurants and small scale accommodation.

We expect the Tweed and Byron Shire Councils will work to maintain a balance between servicing the needs of local residents and visitors. Specifically, we refer to priority road maintenance and the promotion and ongoing commitment to low impact eco- tourism in the region.

The Burringbar Community Association Inc., are very interested in learning about and understanding the ramifications of your application for permanency. Having the Parklands in such close proximity to our village, we do recognise the positive contribution the Parklands management and festival organisers have made to the surrounding community over the past several years.

We invite a representative from the North Byron Parklands to address our members and residents of the district. Meetings are held at the Burringbar Sports Club at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

We provide the following summary of comments for consideration:

Impacts	Possible Beneficial Outcomes
Illegal campers in the vicinity of Burringbar	Development of more eco-friendly accommodation, cultural and nature based activities in the hinterland areas
Rubbish at local swimming hole, Burringbar Creek preventing livestock from accessing water supply	Bus route extension along Tweed Valley Way through Mooball-Burringbar-Stokers Siding-Murwillumbah during festival weeks
Increased traffic on local roads	Potential reason to extend MRT line to tweed hinterland villages
Concern about festival usage of local water supplies in times of drought	Use of Parklands by local community groups, not for profits and schools for community events outside of festival weeks
	Parklands site has had substantial ecological rehabilitation of habitat
	Increased trade during festival weeks
	Investment in local area youth development and employment
	The opportunity for community not for profits to participate at the festivals in a fundraising capacity
	Employment at the festivals of local youth
	The promotion of all our villages in appropriate marketing initiatives
	An agreed number of free tickets to all festivals for the purpose of fundraising for not for profit associations.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Harnett
Secretary, Burringbar Community Association Inc.
E: burringbar.ra@gmail.com

Feedback method: Post

Date: 10 February 2017

Feedback method: Email

Date: 21 April 2017

North Byron Parklands' Proposal to be a State Significant Site

Should this eventuate, there can be problems both for local residents and for Byron Shire in general that need to be considered.

During festivals, those who live along the route to Parklands are subjected to the noise of passing buses, sometimes every half hour, until the early hours of the morning.

With the proposed festival days spread throughout the year, the stress and risk to wildlife, creeks and wetlands etc. is constant and threatens their survival. And let's not forget CO2 emissions.

Anti-social behaviour by festival goers, illegal camping in the dunes, leaving rubbish and the remains of fires and excrement behind in local parks and on private lawns – all will increase. NSW Police at Splendour 2016 recorded high rates of drug use and extreme risk of violence with only 32,500 attendees. They have said they can't respond to community needs while policing the festival site.

But the expected tripling of the present annual numbers of attendees at events on the site will result in a million attendees a year and the undermining of infrastructure by equal numbers of cars, vans, buses and water and sewage trucks on our roads. Costs of repairs will be left to those of us who live here through the rises in taxes presently being forecast.

Currently authority to control the site is with Byron Council until end of 2017, but, should Parklands become a State Significant Site, mounting legal challenges about behaviour on the site and affects on the shire in general after that date can become much more difficult.

The idea of Parklands as a permanent home for arts and culture in Byron Shire sounds great. However proposed changes need examining. And there's always the question of just who will benefit most from these changes.

*Copies sent also to Byron Shire
Councilors*

Feedback method: Email

Date: 23 April 2017

14 April 2017

I, [REDACTED] NSW wish to lodge my strong objection to the proposed modification request.

The existing trial period still has 9 months to go and Parklands have had 5 YEARS to come to this point. Thus if this extension is approved they will have had 5 years plus the extension to get things right, assuming they don't request a further extension at the end of the requested 20 month extension.

Numerous breaches of the current consent conditions have occurred including traffic problems, noise issues, and off-site impacts on resident's amenity, including anti- social behaviour and traffic problems.

The traffic situation is intolerable and dangerous. To illustrate, on the last night of the 2017 Falls Festival in January 2017 I was called to the site by my son and his friends to pick them up, at the site. It had rained all day and the rain was torrential at night.

He could ring me but I could not contact him so I drove in to the site which I had already been to several times in the preceding days. Because of the rain and poor lighting I could barely see where I was going and was then directed by traffic marshalls to the wrong pick up zone. When I finally located them I could still not see because of poor lighting, and the road inside the venue was swarming with people trying to get out on foot.

Even worse was the extremely dangerous situation on Tweed Valley Way which has minimal lighting, as the roadside was full of people walking on the narrow verge. People were also hitching on the side of the Pacific Highway.

There have been so many breaches of conditions over the past 4 years that an extension would be rewarding poor behaviour on behalf of Parklands.

It is time that Parklands became accountable for their actions.

They are incapable of running a safe and amenable (to local residents) operation with crowds, presumably capped at 35000.

I would consider that an increase in crowd numbers to 50000 (and who knows in the future?) would be way beyond them.

Feedback method: Email

Date: 2 April 2017

I have been a rate paying resident and living in North Ocean Shores for 24 years and chose to live in this area because of the quiet, relaxed lifestyle it had to offer, surrounded by nature reserves, wildlife and the sounds of ocean waves and bird calls !

5 years ago, I sent submissions of disapproval, attended meetings to hear the many reasons for the disapproval, about the application that Parklands had put forward, to make a festival ground for many thousands of people, to invade the sensitive area in North of the Shire, with many campers and very loud noise that would be a major disturbance to residence and wildlife in surrounding areas ! A huge load on our sewerage and water supply ! The Local Council did not pass their application, so they went to the NSW Dept. of Planning and Environment !

I was very disappointed with the agreements that were made to Parklands, that they could hold a five year trial !

I feel because they were under a 'watchdog', being on trial, that a small effort was made to appear they had the community at heart, with a phone line for complaints of excess noise etc. and donations to local organizations ! How much importance would be placed on the disturbances to the community, when they aren't being 'watched' ! They have no concern of what goes on outside their boundary fences, with problems caused by such a big influx of people, to the surrounding areas, that are there to attend the festivals !

I am amazed that Parklands were able to sell off the two festival events at 51% to a Overseas Corporation, while they were still on trial ? I don't think that Corporation will have the community at heart either and I don't feel Parklands should be given an extension on the trial period for 20 months just because they will miss out on the further events planned should the whole thing not be accepted once the trial period is up !

Now Parklands are applying for more Festivals, more people to invade the area, more disturbance for local residence, more people to disrupt and abuse the areas outside the festival grounds i.e. illegal camping, rubbishing the area and the uncaring behaviour before and after the concerts end each night ! Will they also sell off the extra festivals, if they are approved, to overseas corporations as well ? Making money seems to be their main criteria to me !

A big concern to me is the Alcohol and Drug abuse that is prevalent in today's society, when big crowds gather, problems can escalate and become uncontrollable !

I do not agree with this modification !
Yours With Respect

Feedback method: Email

Date: 8 May 2017

Please include our concerns regarding the insidious impact the festivals events are having on us as immediate neighbours, and Parkland's non-compliance with the Project Approval consent conditions.

Our property is identified as sensitive receiver R12 and adjoins the festival site. We have lived in our family home at Yelgun for 38 years and have existing use.

Non-compliance with attenuation

Parklands are required to attenuate our home against festival noise in accordance with consent conditions. Despite a directive from the DoP instructing Parklands to attenuate our home before the first festival was held on site in July 2013. Parklands did not comply.

Because Parklands has not complied with the soundproofing of our home, my family and I have been exposed to prolonged periods of very loud music and noise during festival events.

Four years of the Trial have now passed, however, Parklands have still not complied with the soundproofing of our home.

Non-compliance with festival hours

As immediate neighbours we have to contend with loud festival music and associated noise for more than 15 hours daily and up to 5 consecutive days during festival events. All live music must shut down at midnight, whilst the DJ's can continue until 2 a.m. All up, this equates to 15 hours of constant music and noise per day.

However, as Parklands do not regularly comply with noise restrictions as required by the consent conditions we are often exposed to 18+ hours of festival noise per day and consequently suffer from extreme sleep deprivation.

As we are the closest sensitive receiver to Parklands campground, we are regularly disturbed by campground noise, including prohibited fireworks, continuing well after 12.00 am and 2.00 a.m. On one occasion, the noise logger recorded noise as late as 7.30 a.m. the morning.

Impacts on Health & Safety

Repetitive exposure to Parklands festival noise is having an impact on our health and wellbeing.

Social Impact Assessment

Basic insulation and double-glazing of sensitive receivers, should have been carried out before the first festival, in accordance with the consent approval.

My wife and I continue to suffer with health problems, such as headaches, stress and extreme sleep deprivation, due to our ongoing exposure to days of continual festival music and other associated noise without having had the benefit of attenuation or at the very least alternate accommodation.

MOD 3 - Change to Noise Criteria

Additional Impacts on SR R12

To make matters worse, in 2016 the Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC) approved Parklands modification to alter their noise criteria from background+ to a 60 & 55 dB(A) level across the board for Zones 1 & 2.

The modification meant that Parklands could increase the noise levels at our place significantly. 'Air, Noise & Environment' identify a 15-20 dB(A) increase at our home which is equivalent to 3-4 times louder than what was originally approved. (refer PAC 2012)

State Significant Development – Permanent Approval

Additional Impacts on SR R12

If Parklands SSD is approved, then the impacts on us will be even greater given the increase in festival patrons and a doubling in festival event days. This must also be considered in conjunction with the 'bump in' and 'bump out' times required for each event.

This scenario will increase noise dramatically at our home.

Both the Director of the Falls festival and the CEO of Parklands, during a recent social impact meeting, acknowledged that, yes we will be impacted even more by festival noise if they get permanent approval.

Another reason for this is, Parklands want to move their event area to the northeast corner of their site. (SSD PEA) This means that the festival event site will be moved much closer to our property and, if approved will **again** increase noise dramatically at our home.

Conclusion

Parklands are now in the 5th year of their Trial.

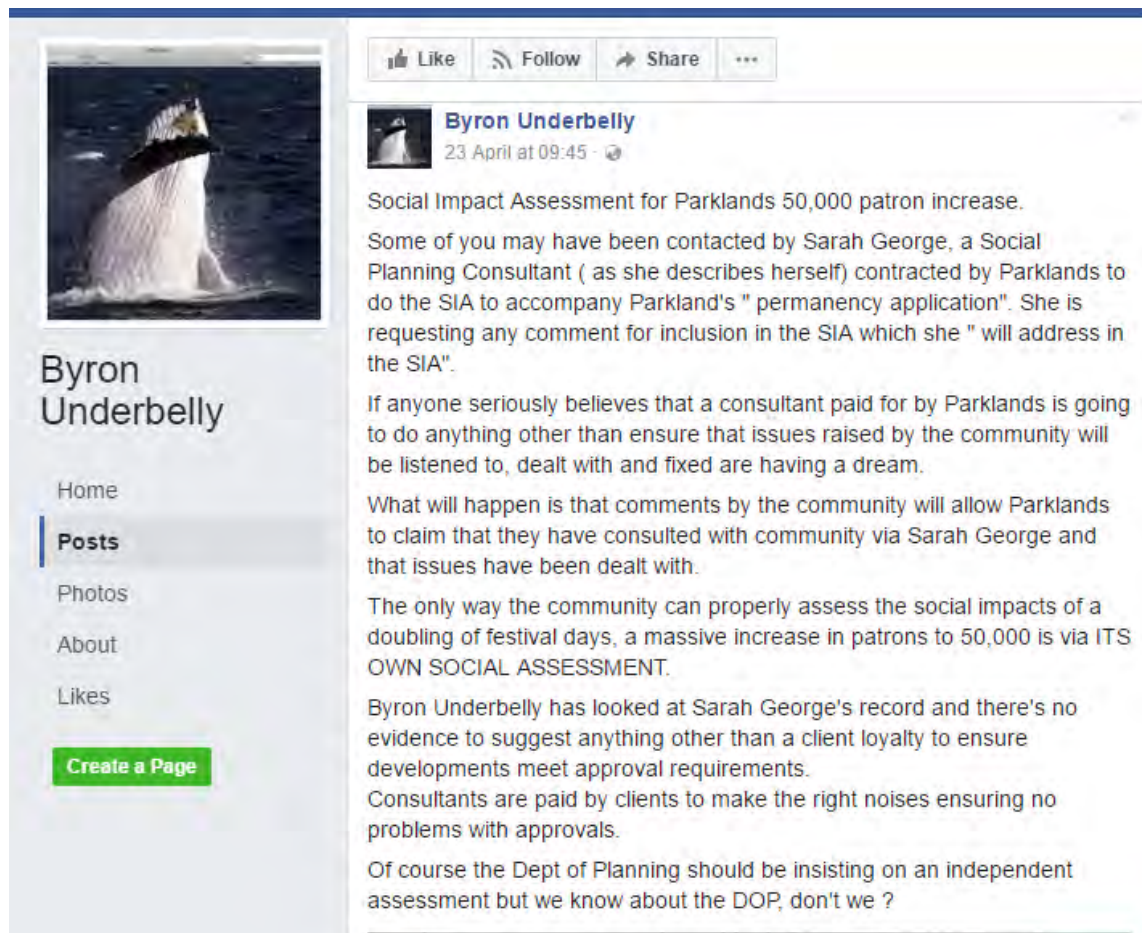
Despite the impacts from the festival events and the consequent health problems we suffer, Parklands have still not advanced a satisfactory

resolution to mitigate us against festival noise and their development.

Parklands have demonstrated that it does not have a genuine desire to resolve the festival impacts on one of their nearest neighbours.

Parklands have failed to uphold the very consent conditions that are designed to protect the people that are being immediately impacted by their festivals.

We trust the DoP will take Parklands non-compliance seriously when considering Parklands SSD application for a permanent approval.



The image is a screenshot of a Facebook post from a user named Byron Underbelly. On the left side, there is a profile picture of a white whale breaching the water, and the name 'Byron Underbelly' is displayed below it. A navigation menu on the left includes 'Home', 'Posts' (which is highlighted), 'Photos', 'About', and 'Likes'. Below the menu is a green button that says 'Create a Page'. At the top of the post area, there are icons for 'Like', 'Follow', 'Share', and a three-dot menu. The post itself is dated '23 April at 09:45' and features a small profile picture of the user. The text of the post discusses a Social Impact Assessment for Parklands, mentioning a 50,000 patron increase and a consultant named Sarah George. The user expresses skepticism about the assessment and the involvement of consultants, arguing that the community's concerns should be heard directly.

Like Follow Share ...

Byron Underbelly
23 April at 09:45 · 🌐

Social Impact Assessment for Parklands 50,000 patron increase.

Some of you may have been contacted by Sarah George, a Social Planning Consultant (as she describes herself) contracted by Parklands to do the SIA to accompany Parkland's "permanency application". She is requesting any comment for inclusion in the SIA which she "will address in the SIA".

If anyone seriously believes that a consultant paid for by Parklands is going to do anything other than ensure that issues raised by the community will be listened to, dealt with and fixed are having a dream.

What will happen is that comments by the community will allow Parklands to claim that they have consulted with community via Sarah George and that issues have been dealt with.

The only way the community can properly assess the social impacts of a doubling of festival days, a massive increase in patrons to 50,000 is via ITS OWN SOCIAL ASSESSMENT.

Byron Underbelly has looked at Sarah George's record and there's no evidence to suggest anything other than a client loyalty to ensure developments meet approval requirements.

Consultants are paid by clients to make the right noises ensuring no problems with approvals.

Of course the Dept of Planning should be insisting on an independent assessment but we know about the DOP, don't we ?

APPENDIX C

COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS

SPLENDOUR IN THE GRASS PTY LTD

DONATIONS 2001–2016

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	RECIPIENT
SITG 2016 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS		
Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre	\$8,000.00	
Pottsville and District Men's Shed	\$5,000.00	
Mullumbimby Showground Trust	\$4,750.00	
Brunswick Valley Meals on Wheels Service Inc.	\$3,500.00	
Crabbes Creek Primary School P&C Association	\$2,500.00	
Brunswick Nippers, Junior Surf Life Saving Club	\$2,000.00	
Byron Youth Theatre	\$1,000.00	
Ocean Shores Primary School	\$5,000.00	
	\$31,750.00	
Fundraiser & raffle ticket prizes		
SITG 2015 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS		
beyondblue (Donation to national	\$30,000.00	

charity)		
Community grant to Waterlily Community Playscape Group	\$15,000.00	
Community grant to Mullumbimby High School	\$6,250.00	
Community Grant to Byron Homeless and Community Breakfast	\$4,450.00	Byron Community Centre
Community Grant to Pets For Life Animal Shelter	\$2,500.00	
Community Grant to Ocean Shores Primary School - Music Program (\$25,000 over 5 years)	\$5,000.00	Year two of five year commitment (\$25,000)
Byron Youth Services	\$1,000.00	MK4 band competition
Byron Visitors Centre	\$3,500.00	Gold membership
Fundraiser & raffle ticket prizes xx 3 Day GA \$365, xx VIP \$499	\$23,144.00	Various local organisations
	\$90,844.00	
SITG 2014 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS		
Community Grant to Shara Community Gardens	\$10,000.00	
Community Grant to Ocean Shores Primary School—music program (\$25,000 over five years)	\$5,000.00	Year one of five year commitment (\$25,000)
Community grant to The Training Station partnership with Mullumbimby Music Festival	\$2,500.00	
Community grant to Brunswick Valley Landcare	\$5,000.00	

Social Impact Assessment

Community Grant to Brunswick Valley Rescue	\$5,000.00	
Contribution to Via Byron—Gold Sponsor	\$5,000.00	
The Amp —industry sponsorship	\$2,500.00	
Byron United Inc. —Temple of Light donation	\$330.00	
Fundraiser and raffle ticket prizes	\$29,330.00	Various local organisations
	\$64,660.00	
SITG 2013 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS		
Community grant to Shores United Soccer Club	\$10,000.00	
Community grant to Ocean Shores Tidy Town Committee	\$5,000.00	
Community grant to Brunswick Heads Public School	\$2,000.00	
Community grant to WIRES????/		
Community grant to The Pocket Public School	\$2,000.00	
Community grant to Crabbes Creek Public School	\$2,000.00	
Community grant to Ocean Shores Public School	\$2,000.00	
Fundraiser and raffle ticket prizes		Various local organisations
	\$23,000.00	

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SITG 2012 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS	\$15,000.00	
Robyn Kinnes	\$1,100.00	
Byron United	\$1,500.00	
Kites & Bikes	\$17,600.00	
SITG 2011 DONATIONS		
Kites and Bikes	\$1,500.00	Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce
Woodford School	\$5,500.00	Woodford School P&C
AMP	\$3,300.00	AMP
	\$10,300.00	
SITG 2010 DONATIONS		
Light Up Byron 2009—Christmas party at the Buddha Bar	\$2,200.00	Byron United
AMP	\$3,300.00	AMP
Variety Bush Bash	\$250.00	Variety Children's Charity
	\$5,750.00	

SITG 2009 DONATIONS		
Cure Cancer Australian Foundation	\$50.00	
C.A.S.E	\$500.00	Art For Earth sponsorship
Community grant to the Byron Shire Early Childhood Intervention Service	\$1,480.00	Byron Shire Early Childhood Intervention Service
Community grant to the Byron Community Centre	\$15,420.00	Byron Community Centre
Community grant to Rainforest Rescue	\$5,000.00	Rainforest Rescue
Community grant to The Uncle Project	\$5,600.00	The Uncle Project
Community grant to Byron Bay Rural Fire Brigade	\$7,500.00	Byron Bay Rural Fire Brigade
Light Up Byron 2009—Christmas party at the Buddha Bar	\$2,500.00	Byron United
Stephen Drummond (Jai Morcom)	\$2,000.00	Stephen Drummond
Car park takings—Byron Bay High School P&C	\$5,190.00	Byron Bay High School P & C
Car park takings —St Finbarrs's Forum Team	\$5,190.00	St Finbarrs's forum team
	\$50,430.00	
SITG 2008 DONATIONS		
Community Grants Program—UHA Byron Bay Branch	\$28,000.00	UHA Byron Bay Branch
Community Grants Program—NR Wires	\$7,000.00	NR Wires
North Coast COMS—Marine Studies	\$1,000.00	North Coast COMS

Byron Bay Film Festival	\$1,000.00	Byron Bay Community Association
Xmas lights sponsorship—Byron United	\$2,140.00	Byron United
NCEIA—Dolphin Awards	\$10,000.00	NCEIA
Byron Bay Rural Fire Service	\$1,000.00	Byron Bay Rural Fire Service
Kites & Bikes Festival—Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce	\$1,500.00	Bruns Heads Chamber of Commerce
Car park takings—St Finbarr's Primary School	\$6,437.50	St Finbarr's forum team
Car park takings—Byron Bay High School	\$6,437.50	Byron Bay High School
	\$64,515.00	
SITG 2007 DONATIONS		
Community Grants Program—Byron Youth Service	\$35,000.00	Byron Youth Service
Binyabutt production	\$1,210.00	Byron Environment Centre
Binyabutt production—replace stolen bins	\$450.00	Byron Environment Centre
Xmas lights sponsorship—Byron United	\$5,091.00	Byron United
Tweed Valley Banana Festival sponsorship	\$1,000.00	Tweed Valley Banana Festival
	\$42,751.00	
SITG 2006 DONATIONS		

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Community Grants Program—Belongil Wetlands Restoration program	\$35,000.00	Byron Shire Council
Binyabutt production	\$1,066.00	Byron Environment Centre
	\$36,066.00	
SITG 2005 DONATIONS		
Community Grants Program—Byron Youth Service 'Street Cruise' program	\$28,000.00	Byron Youth Service
Binyabutt production	\$1,020.00	Byron Environment Centre
	\$29,020.00	
SITG 2004 DONATIONS		
Community Grants Program—Youth Activities Centre	\$28,000.00	Youth Activities Centre
Binyabutt production	\$850.00	Byron Environment Centre
Sponsorship—Taste of Byron	\$500.00	Taste of Byron
	\$29,350.00	
SITG 2003 DONATIONS		
Raffle funds recipient—Youth Activities Centre	\$10,000.00	Raised by YAC via raffle ticket sales
Binyabutt production	\$1,730.30	Byron Environment Centre
Airfares—YAC winners	\$4,461.32	Prize winners
Sponsorship—Taste of Byron	\$550.00	Taste of Byron

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	\$16,741.62	
SITG 2002 DONATIONS		
Raffle funds recipient—Byron Environment Centre	\$7,500.00	Raised by BEC via raffle ticket sales
Binyabutt production	\$775.01	Byron Environment Centre
Airfares—BEC winners	\$4,972.85	Prize winners
	\$13,247.86	
SITG 2001 DONATIONS		
St Johns donation	\$800.00	St Johns
TOTAL DONATIONS	\$526 804.00	

FALLS FESTIVAL

BYRON | FINANCIAL OR ECONOMIC INPUTS

TOTAL TO DATE:	\$316,169
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2016/2017

Contributions to charity or other groups

Byron Community Centre	\$12,500
Brunswick Heads Visitors Centre	\$10,000
BayFM Byron Bay	\$2,500
Brunswick Public School	\$2,500
Brunswick Valley Landcare	\$2,500
Cabarita Youth Service	\$2,500
Fundraisers and raffle tickets	\$24,827
TOTAL	\$57,327

2015/2016**Contributions to charity or other groups**

Byron Community Centre	\$15,000
Brunswick Heads Visitors Centre	\$10,000
Local Community Groups Comp Tickets	\$61,026
Fundraisers and raffle tickets	\$35,744
TOTAL	\$121,770

2014/2015**Contributions to charity or other groups**

Byron Community Centre	\$17,500
Crabbes Creek Community Hall Inc.	\$2,500
Brunswick Junior SLSC	\$2,500
Ocean Shores Community Centre	\$2,500
Pottsville Beach Neighbour Centre	\$2,500
Rural Fire Service	\$7,500
Fundraisers and raffle tickets	\$21,795
TOTAL	\$56,795

2013/2014**Contributions to charity or other groups**

Byron Community Centre	\$25,000
Crabbes Creek Community Hall Inc.	\$2,500
TOTAL	\$80,277

APPENDIX D

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF AUTHOR

Sarah George:

- BA (Psych/Soc)
- Cert IV Youth Work
- Cert IV Training and Assessment

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology and Sociology from Macquarie University
- Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessment from TAFE NSW
- Certificate IV Youth Work from TAFE NSW
- Teaching via distance learning from TAFE NSW

EXPERIENCE:

In practicing as a consultant since 2006, I have completed assignments for clients in the private, public and government sectors, including:

- preparation of statements of evidence and serving as an expert witness in the Land and Environment Court of NSW;
- preparation of the City of Sydney Council's alcohol-free zone policy review and guide;
- preparation of a draft local approvals policy for the City of Sydney, being the Sex on Premises Venues policy;

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- preparation of SIA for development applications, including mixed use developments, residential flat buildings, master plan developments, licensed premises, child care centres, boarding houses, sex services premises and schools; and
- preparation of community impact statements for packaged liquor outlets, on-premises licences for submission to the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing.

Prior to commencing as a consultant, I worked in community organisations and in the non-government and private sectors in numerous roles including:

- Teacher, OTEN: mental health, alcohol and other drugs, youth work and community services
- Project officer, Hepatitis NSW: education and development and chronic disease self-management
- Case manager, YWCA NSW: Big Brother Big Sister mentoring program
- Drug and alcohol educator and counsellor
- Youth worker

I have also worked for several years in a town planning consultancy.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

Volunteer ethics teacher in primary ethics.