

22 June 2015

NSW Minister for Planning,  
Hon Rob Stokes MP

**Re: Submission on MP 09\_0028 Mod 3 – Cultural Events Site – Yelgun NSW.**

I am making a submission **opposing** the above Modification proposed for the Cultural Events Site at Yelgun NSW.

I have previously submitted objections (written and verbal) to the project when the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) held public hearings in our locality.

I am a local resident and have lived in the locality some [REDACTED] years. [REDACTED]

I [REDACTED] submission I have applied my professional skills related to my tertiary qualifications being a [REDACTED]

I find the Modification and the Department's advertisement misleading in that the Modification involves increased sound levels and other significant changes to the Consent Conditions (the Proposed refinements). These two facts were not clearly identified in the Department's advertisement. Similarly the Modification avoids describing the proposed noise level changes as increases in noise levels (both the bass and higher frequencies). I feel aggrieved that the Modification is far more wide ranging in scope than I had expected based upon the notification in the newspaper and from a reading of the Modification. While my professional experience assists me in understanding the Modification, I believe many lay-persons in the community who may wish to make a submission on increases to the noise levels, are likely to be alienated by the issues above. This is compounded by a exhibition/ submission period that is short given the complexity and volume of the Modification.

I am opposed to the proposed Modification on a number of grounds as follows:

- The existing noise levels are too loud in terms of both the bass and higher frequencies.
- Our household finds the noise levels, and repetitive bass noise, annoying and disturbing.
- The event operators appear unable to control the sound levels in the face of numerous complaints by community members.
- The PAC provided for sound level limits for sensitive locations such as ours and other residents at South Golden Beach. Our background noise levels are usually nature oriented and peaceful. Hence we were pleased that the PAC applied noise limits based upon the ambient background levels. However the noise during festivals has greatly exceeded background levels for us and is an annoying disturbance. I believe that the festivals exceed the background limits imposed by the PAC and that the organisers do not reduce the noise levels after complaints are made.
- The Modification proposes to increase high frequency noise levels despite the current excessive imposition upon the local residents. *I oppose any increase in noise levels.*
- *I request that the existing sound levels for higher frequencies be reduced.*
- *I support the provision of noise limits on the bass frequencies as these frequencies have not been adequately dealt with by the PAC's Conditions. My proviso is that the bass levels are set at a level that is significantly less than those that have been demonstrated at the festivals so far.*

- I oppose the proposal that we can legitimately be subjected to higher sound levels in adverse weather conditions (the proposed 5dB tolerance). *I submit that in adverse weather conditions the event operators should be compelled to reduce their sound levels to compensate us (receivers) rather than the operator being compensated for the weather conditions.*
- On occasion, some of my children have attended a festival at the site and they have described the level of sound in front of the stages as 'too loud'. I am aware of the dangers of excessive noise upon hearing health and I am alarmed by potential health impacts upon them due to their exposure to these high levels at the stages. I believe the operators should demonstrate a level of care, for my children and the other attendees, beyond that which they presently do (or don't).
- I attended the 2014 Splendour in the Grass for one day and found the sound levels considerably louder (uncomfortably so) than the Blues Festival that I have attended previously. *These Yelgun festivals should try to emulate the Blues Festival sound levels which are much more comfortable and undoubtedly safer in terms of hearing health impacts.*
- *I am disturbed by the potential for adverse impacts upon the ecology of the locality.* I know that the locality is one of the most biologically rich in NSW (if not Australia), which contains numerous threatened species, and that the locality of the site is an important wildlife corridor. The Modification claims that impacts upon the ecology is negligible. However I have friends who live closer to the site than myself and their windows rattle. *While I am a scientist, I apply common sense also, and it defies belief that wildlife do not depart from the locality during festivals perhaps leaving their young defenceless and hungry.* In fact, other residents have told me of the unusual occurrence of various animals in their yards/ properties during festivals. *These species are likely to have been forced from their territory into the territory of other fauna.* I believe that monitoring this dispersal and its impacts is important and I am not aware of that aspect of monitoring being undertaken.
- In terms of the proposed refinements to the PAC Conditions, *I am opposed to any changes that delete details of the noise limits from the main body of the approval document.* These sound limits should not be hidden in another document such as a noise management plan. They should be up front for anyone to easily find.
- *I oppose to the use of the site for unspecified categories of small events.* Our household does not want to put up with other unlimited numbers of events that may well be quite noisy.
- I, like many others in this community, appreciate festivals, but *the Yelgun location is not appropriate for major festivals* due to the close vicinity of populated areas and the significance of the ecology.

Yours sincerely,

