

MP09_0028 MOD 4 - Request for extension of trial period (Concept Plan and Project Approval)

I strongly object to this proposed modification.

First, the Planning Department should not approve this extension, given that the original PAC decision was that at the end of the five-year trial period (31 Dec 2017) Parklands would come under the jurisdiction of our local council (Byron Shire Council). Parklands makes no mention of this in their proposal, suggesting that they do not understand this condition or will not accept it.

Next, Parklands was supposed to construct both water and sewage treatment plants on site, to be completed by the end of the trial period. In their proposal, Parklands has said that they do not intend to comply with the water/sewage condition (Condition C1 of the Concept Approval Plan) because of a 2014 approval from Council for a way of handling water and sewage. But this seems to misrepresent reality. In fact, Byron Council stated to the Department of Planning on 11 January 2017 that Parklands still needs to address the issues of effluent disposal and proper water supply. So, Council's own statement of the water/sewage situation is at odds with Parklands' claims. In particular, Parklands' installation of some composting toilets does not appear to be a viable long-term sewage treatment plan for the numbers of people they have, and want to have, on site. In my opinion, their decision to ignore the sewage/water treatment plant condition is outrageous.

Given Parklands' blatant disregard for this key condition that they fully understood when they got their PAC approval—an approval that they verbally praised as appropriately rigorous—there is no way this recalcitrant entity should be allowed to change the approval now or ever! They should be forced to comply with all the conditions, no exceptions.

The government of NSW needs to uphold and protect the interests of the citizens of NSW, and the laws of NSW, and it should start doing so with this development, rather than favouring a handful of developers over the interests of the more numerous people in the communities that surround the development. A great many in the community perceive that the Department of Planning is not providing the proper degree of guardianship with regard to this development and the conditions governing it. The Department provides only minimal oversight, and the developers have been rewarded at every turn by the state government, even though they have not met many of the approval conditions. In fact, when they were quite unable to keep within the noise limits, the Department of Planning recommended higher limits, and the PAC generously granted them, much to the disgust of the locals who were and are seriously affected by the noise!

Our new premier has proclaimed that she is all in for championing the rights of local communities, through their elected councils, to have control over what happens in their jurisdictions, as opposed to having the oversight and control in the hands of the bureaucrats in Sydney who are not paying close enough attention to what's going on here! The Department should start acting appropriately in this regard. They need to instruct Parklands to comply with

the existing conditions from now until the end of the trial period, and they should then relinquish their control and tell the developers to start talking to Byron Shire Council as all other festivals in our shire willingly do. Byron Council has a far better chance of keeping a close eye on this development and will have to be answerable to the local community, something the Department of Planning has not been.