

I write this submission on behalf of The Middle Pocket and Yelgun Progress Association to address the application by North Byron Parklands to extend their 5 year Trial of the cultural events site at Yelgun.

We thank The Minister and The Department for the opportunity to make our submission.

Our Association objects to any extension of the 5 year trial period and ask that the development pass to Part 4 of The Planning Act and move to control and oversight by Byron Shire Council.

To grant a further 20 month extension to the trial period for the proponent to apply for State Significant Development status would be seen to be aiding the developer unnecessarily, as Byron Shire Council is well equipped to handle such developments as evidenced by the very successful, annual Blues Festival held at Tyagarah, also in Byron Shire.

Our association has reviewed the reports from NSW Police, Byron Shire Council and Tweed Council and have monitored noise emanating from the event site and also observed activities on site .

Our concerns focus heavily on poor patron safety on site, ongoing traffic control failings, patron transportation off site and particularly the impossibility of evacuating patrons in the event of flood, bushfire or mass medical emergencies. Particularly in relation to the availability of hospitals for rapid response.

Yelgun Valley is heavily affected by ongoing noise during festival periods, festivals have breached there allowable levels regularly. We are now having to deal with potentially higher levels of noise following on from the third modification sought during the trial leaving affected residents with little or no recourse but to complain to the festival operator hotline.

The surrounding road system will not handle the numbers of patrons, emergency vehicles and local traffic in any emergency situation and therefore festivals should not be allowed to operate on the site past the end of trial in December this year.

Should the development be granted ongoing approval, we ask that there are no large scale festivals held at North Byron Parklands without a full independent safety report and risk analysis carried out. We care about the young people at risk, specifically when on this site during festival times or evacuating during an emergency.

We therefore oppose any extension to the 5 year trial period past December 2017.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Arrowsmith, President,  
Middle Pocket and Yelgun Progress Association Inc.