

The Department of Planning and Environment

North Byron Parklands – SSD 8169

As homeowners and residents of South Golden Beach since 1992 we **object** to the proposed DA for permanent cultural festival site activities submitted by North Byron Parklands for the following main reasons:

- The proposed music festival site is not a complimentary land use to the surrounding rural and environmental character of the area.
- The cumulative off-site impacts and costs generated by festival patrons over time has not been fully addressed, considered or responded to by the applicant.
- The DA should be determined by the local government authority, not the state government.

The local rural land uses and Nature Reserve surrounds of the proposed festival site have been the setting of this area for many decades. This is the principal reason why many of the local residents have moved here, including us. Holding regular music festivals that more than **triple** the local residential population of the Brunswick, Ocean Shores and Yelgun areas might provide an economic benefit to local businesses but in no way reflects, or is consistent with, the character of the local area.

Surely this view would be obvious to anyone considering or assessing the application. So the real question is why this application should be supported.

Having observed the past and most recent festival events we have not been disturbed by festival noise but we have been aware of various ‘partying’ activities and noises by festival goers who have rented accommodation in South Golden Beach.

We have observed illegal camping along The Esplanade, at the Community Hall and sometimes along the Crown land beach reserve, which increases with each festival event. We have also observed large amounts of rubbish usually overflowing the rubbish bins provided at beach access points by Council during festival events.

Added to this is the substantial increase in rubbish generated by the festival goers and the associated costs which are paid by the ratepayers, not the festival goers.

Having reviewed the applicant’s Social Impact Statement, these matters are briefly addressed but not in a meaningful manner. Given that bus services are provided to the festival site it is interesting that people numbers were not collected and brings into question the validity of the reported off-site visitor numbers.

The cost to ratepayers for additional rubbish disposal, cleanup and ranger services to monitor/police illegal camping during festival events has not been adequately addressed or

considered by the applicant. As stated in the SIS *“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 our opinion the applicant acknowledges that off-site impacts are generated by festival goers but does nothing to address these issues leaving Council to attend to these matters at ratepayer expense. This begs the question what benefits do the local ratepayers get from festival activities?

As the State Government does not allow local authorities to levy a bed tax, which would go a long way to cover council costs for the above items and infrastructure (roads and services) maintenance, the ratepayers should not be encumbered with these problems or associated expenses.

The applicant is seeking long term approval for the festival site with significant increases in patronage. Should the application be approved, and festival goers become more aware of their options, one would expect that over time more and more festival goers will come to this area, which in itself is a significant impact on the residential and environmental character of the local area.

The DA should be determined by council not the State government as they are the organisation that will have to attend to all off-site issues generated by festival events. Expecting that the State government will determine the DA the State government should **allow council to levy a bed tax** as it determines appropriate to generate funds for associated off-site impact costs.

Should the DA be considered for approval the following conditions should be stipulated:

1. The approval is subject to the applicant’s compliance with DA conditions. Failure to comply will result in termination of the approval.
2. The applicant will be required to apply a levy to every ticket sold to fund associated off-site impact costs incurred by council. Alternatively the State government should allow council to levy a bed tax.
3. Should item 2 not be included, the applicant will be required to provide funding to council for all off-site impact costs (provision of rangers during events, rubbish removal, cleaning of public facilities, etc.) associated with each event.

In summary we OBJECT to the State government’s determination or approval of the DA as the proposal is not a complimentary land use within the local area, it provides no benefit to the ratepayers or council, and the associated off-site impacts have not been adequately addressed, considered or projected for future festival events.

Yours sincerely,

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