

North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site - Tweed Valley Way and
Jones Road, Yelgun
Cultural Events Site - State sign
Cultural Events Site - State significant Development Application (SSD
8169)ificant Development Application (SSD 8169)

I wish to express my concern with the application and my
opposition to it.

My objection is two fold

**a. It goes against the intentions of the original
application and makes fundamental changes
to what we were first offered as residents of
the area. Hence;**

- a. Having the state of NSW control the festival site is not consistent with the existing PAC-approved Concept Plan. After the trial period is over, Byron Council is supposed to grant any further approvals for holding festivals at the site. Rather than prepare for this, Parklands got the state to extend their trial period and applied to become a State Significant Development. These moves have allowed them to avoid Council control.
- b. The festivals have been operating profitably under a conditional trial approval for five years and operated for many years before that with year-to-year approvals from Council. If Parklands receives any further approval from the state, it should be conditional on *annual* reviews, and it should have to meet specific, rigorous conditions that Byron and Tweed Councils have set in consultation with local residents.
- c. Much unpredictability remains.

Recurring issues include noise, traffic, impacts on the environment, impacts on local infrastructure (roads, water, sewer systems) and impacts on residential amenity and health. Fire risks continue to be great, especially since the festivals have numerous bonfires and are located in a

fire-prone area. Problems have arisen repeatedly throughout the trial, many unpredictable, e.g., the on-site traffic nightmares at Splendour 2016, recurring outbreaks of “festival flu”, unpredictable noise disturbance throughout the area, and repeated illegal use of fireworks on the site. Parklands may claim that all the problems have been identified and will easily be mitigated, but that’s pie-in-the-sky thinking. Much unpredictability remains. We can’t be sure what mess or disaster might develop because of the festivals.

2. This entire event needs to stay under the jurisdiction of locals and not be given to a State authority with little perceived care for local needs or concerns. Hence;

- a. If this proposal is approved, the local community and its elected officials will again have been pushed aside, as they were by the Part 3A approval in 2012. The state will be in charge but will not be accountable to local residents. Byron and Tweed Councils will have no say. The DOP will continue “overseeing” the development from Sydney but will simply trust Parklands to manage everything. This is not right and not fair. Byron Council, in consultation with local residents and business owners, should be determining the shire’s destiny—not the state government.
- b. Parklands claims their compliance with consent conditions has been close to 100%, but locals have documented close to 100 breaches and other irregularities since trial approval was granted. The DOP has issued only a few Penalty Infringement Notices (fines) and Official Cautions (no fines) and does not even appear to have an accurate record of breaches and irregularities. (The DOP has not yet

provided clear and complete information about breaches.) If the state remains in charge, oversight and enforcement will continue to be lax and inadequate.

There is a feeling among many of us that the above proposal will become an event way beyond our control and one that will end up impacting many parts of our lives, to the detriment. Sending this to a State bureaucracy will certainly streamline operations for the organizers but will be a severe act of disempowering our community in the form of our Shire Councils, interested bodies and us the residents.

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