

*N.S.W. Government Department of Planning and Infrastructure - Submission-
Cultural Events Site - State significant Development Application (SSD 8169)
North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site - Tweed Valley Way and Jones Road, Yelgun*

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To: N.S.W. Government Department of Planning and Infrastructure

**Re: Submission-
Cultural Events Site - State significant Development Application (SSD 8169)**
North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site - Tweed Valley Way and Jones Road, Yelgun

My key submission is in support of allowing North Byron Parklands to become a permanent Cultural Events Site and further to express that the proposed limit of 5x days of Community Events (up to 5000 patrons) and 2x Minor Community Events, should be greatly extended to provide a venue for many more Community and Minor Community Events each year.

As an independent contractor, I have managed a small arts and music stage at Splendour In The Grass since 2005 and have employed hundreds of local artists and crew in that time. To many of these local artists, Splendour has become a paramount opportunity to feature their art on a national platform, amongst some of their most recognizable peers, that is the international arts and music community and to massively increase their audience. These local artists, produce music, art and performances that reflect the visionary society that all of us here are attempting to create. There is no greater joy than seeing these young people realise their creative potential amongst a receptive audience.

Many of the young people I have worked with at Splendour and other local events, have gone on to further careers in the entertainment industry and I believe it's vitally important that we continue to create opportunities for local youth to lead creative and financially viable lives. Granting permanency to North Byron Parklands to host events like this will contribute greatly to these aims.

Regarding the number of Community and Minor Community Events in the current proposal, please consider increasing the number of days these can occur.

Several years ago, our local primary school at Ocean Shores, proposed holding its annual Cross Country running event at the Parklands, rather than having to run on concrete and across several roads to complete the event within Ocean Shores itself. Surely in the north of the Shire, low impact activities of this kind should be carried out in a safe and suitable environment and I believe the Parklands site, meets this criterion. With a range of healthy and sporting pursuits and its culturally rich and creative community, Byron Shire deserves to have a suitable venue for Minor Community Events and it is my belief that a limit of 2x Days of such events, is clearly not enough.

Currently there is no suitable venue for Community Events of up to 5000 people, without the need for Development Approvals and costly infrastructure. This point highlights the importance of the North Byron Parklands for future community use. For any community group, or any small event, the cost of obtaining Development Approval, meeting all compliance requirements and the massive cost of suitable infrastructure are majorly prohibitive factors in producing an event. Outdoor events, require infrastructure in the way of fences, toilets, water supply, parking, traffic management, waste management, fire fighting facilities, site lighting and so on. The cost of compliant infrastructure, accompanied by costs that may include: speakers, displays, artists, production, staging, marquees, transport, management, crews, catering, insurance and marketing actually make it very difficult for a Community or independent - small event to survive beyond or even through one show. This is easily illustrated in the number of start-up events that have come and gone from the region in the last couple of decades. A limit on 5x Days of Community Events at NBP, is clearly not enough, given the potential and already existing events of this size and nature, calling out for a venue.

With an approved, Community Event Management Plan in place, the North Byron Parklands will certainly make a suitable home for many existing and new Community events. For Minor Community Events of up to 1500 or Community Events of up to 5000 people; onsite amenities, including toilets and showers, water supply, internal parking and traffic arrangements and existing event equipment will massively support the chances of such events succeeding. An increase in the number of allowable Community Events at NBP, would hopefully enable NBP to further reduce any costs associated with these events, therefore increasing the potential success of such events.

Byron Shire Council has done a great deal to ensure that local events are safe and attend to the changing parameters of social and community amenity. While it is promising that there are increasing opportunities for sporting facilities in the Shire, surely it is now time to embrace the diverse creative possibility within our unique environmental and social heritage. Any support for Community celebrations and activities is a much needed and valid sustainable practice that will support youth employment and a viable service and tourist industry, all the while increasing our cultural value.

It is my sincere hope that North Byron Parklands will be granted permanency and be able to continue to host its larger events and an increased number of small events and therefore make a further contribution to our broad cultural life.

Sincerely,

David Bleach