



NSW Police Force

Attention: Pamela MORALES
Senior Planning Officer
Industry Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment

New South Wales Police Force response to application by North Byron Parklands for modification of condition A7 to increase summer capacity at The Falls Festival to 30,000 patrons (Stage 2 Capacity) commencing 2019/2020.

Dear Pamela

The Tweed Byron Police District, North Byron Parklands and the organisers of Splendour in the Grass (SITG) and The Falls Festival have worked collaboratively over many years to ensure the safe and cohesive operation of both Festivals. Tweed Byron Police District has previously provided input regarding the Environmental Assessment for North Byron Parklands, Yelgun.

The 2018 SITG event saw capacity crowds of 37,500 each day whilst the 2018/19 Falls Festival event saw crowds below 20,000. The reduced Falls Festival crowd was due in part to the time of the year the event is held and less popular performers.

The Falls Festival and SITG clearly create a drain on local Policing resources and in agreement the number of 'Userpay' Policing numbers has increased to meet these demands without significantly affecting the local Policing response. Any increase to 30,000 for the summer festival would naturally require an increase in the Policing response including 'Userpay' Police.

In consultation with event organisers, agreement has previously been reached to fund increased 'Userpay' numbers, including accommodation costs for Police Officers forced to travel to their duties when engaged in 'Userpay' duties. There is an expectation that with any increase in patron size there will be an increase in 'Userpay' Police (including accommodation costs).

As the Falls Festival is scheduled over the already demanding New Years Eve period it can be problematic to bring specialist resources including The Mounted Unit, Traffic and Highway Patrol (THP) and the Public Order and Riot Squad (PORS) to the Tweed Byron Police District. Event organisers should temper their expectations of gaining the assistance of these Specialist resources that may result in an increased reliance on local resources or event funded 'Userpay' Police.

**Byron Bay Police Station
Tweed Byron Police District**

2 Shirley Street, Byron Bay, NSW 2481

T 02 6685 9499 W www.police.nsw.gov.au

TTY 02 9211 3776 for the hearing and speech impaired ABN 43 408 613 180

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As the Tweed Byron Police District has fundamentally managed events previously at the site with larger capacities, the increase for the Falls Festival to 30,000 patrons (Stage 2 capacity) does not pose a significant risk. Camping numbers should remain commensurate to patron increase numbers and all other pre-existing conditions should continue as per the previous planning consent.

Tweed Byron Police District will continue to work with event organisers to provide a safe environment for persons to attend the festival whilst maintaining public confidence and safety in the surrounding townships.

The modification of Condition A7 is supported by the Tweed Byron Police District in line with sufficient increases in 'Userpay' Police numbers to ensure adequate Police resourcing of the event.

Regards

Matthew KEHOE
Detective Chief Inspector
Officer in Charge – Byron Bay Police Station
Tweed Byron Police District
28 May 2019

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