

PROPOSED SUBJECT HEADING:

Need your help to object to North Byron Parklands!

PROPOSED MESSAGE:

The Independent Planning Commission will rule on the proposal by North Byron Parklands to turn their festival site into a permanent venue for music festivals and other events. Written submissions are due at the IPC no later than **Monday, 17 December by 4PM**. The address is:

IPCN@IPCN.NSW.GOV.AU. Use the subject heading: **SSD 8169, North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site**. Here are key points to choose from, put in your own order and in your own words if possible. Thank you for your support!

- Any increase in numbers of attendees should not be allowed. The current maximum of 35,000 is already putting significant pressures on the environment and creating major problems for nearby residents. According to the NSW Police, the safety and security of attendees is also at risk with every festival. A maximum of 50,000 should NOT be approved.
- Koalas have been sighted in and near Parklands for many years, but Parklands has always claimed none have been sighted on their property. However, in 2016, a number of koala sightings occurred within the boundaries of Parklands, including in the area where the owners plan to construct a large conference centre, public bar, and accommodations for 120 people
- The site is not serviced by a reticulated water or sewer system although it adjoins Coastal Wetlands, the Billinudgel Nature Reserve, and other areas of high value vegetation,. The plans to dispose of human waste on the site by burying and spraying are highly questionable, according to the independent experts who reviewed Parklands' plans for the Department of Planning.
- Experienced ecologists have noted that the ecological monitoring to date has been too poorly designed and executed to yield meaningful conclusions. Parklands' claims that no ecological impacts have occurred are not supported by reliable and valid evidence. If this proposal is approved, consent conditions should require properly designed and executed independent monitoring to determine the ecological impacts of the development.
- A new gate to the property is proposed on Wooyung Road so that festival promoters can route traffic along the coast road through Pottsville, taking the pressure off the Pacific Highway. This will almost surely result in significantly increased traffic in the south of Tweed Shire during festivals.
- Independent compliance monitoring is needed with regard to noise, on-site camping, wastewater treatment, and other critical aspects of the development. This should be done collaboratively by Byron Council, Tweed Council, and the Planning Department's compliance division. Parklands' self-monitoring and self-reporting must be augmented by neutral, independent observers.

- The Regulatory Working Group needs to be chaired by an individual who is not connected to Parklands but rather who is accountable to the Department of Planning. Also, Tweed Council should be represented on the RWG (as Byron Council is), and Community Representatives are needed from Tweed Shire as well as Byron Shire.
- Live Nation, a US company, owns 51% of the two main festivals that are operated at Parklands (Splendour in the Grass and Falls). So Parklands is already supporting an overseas conglomerate with a market cap of US\$8.9 billion (as of June 2018). If this approval is given, we can expect many more Live Nation events at Parklands and more profits sent overseas.

NOTE: The current approval allows 10 event days for large, medium, and small music events and 10 days for non-music “minor community events” of up to 1,500 people. The proposed usage is:

- 5 days for Splendour (35,000-50,000) instead of the usual 3 days
- 5 days for Falls (35,000) instead of the usual three days
- 3 days for other events up to 25,000 (could be three one-day events)
- 2 days for other events up to 5,000 (could be two one-day events)
- 2 days for non-music focused minor community events

This is a massive increase in use and flies in the face of the 2016 approved modification that allowed only more “minor community events”. The DOP is recommending that those 10 “minor community event” be turned into 8 additional big-festival days and only 2 “minor community event” days. This is a completely unwarranted intensification of the development.