

Dear Guardians:

We have more time to make submissions to the Independent Planning Commission regarding the North Byron Parklands festival site proposal. **The deadline is now Friday, 11 January.**

If you have not made a submission, please try to get one in, even a short one.

Send to: IPCN@IPCN.NSW.GOV.AU

Subject Heading: **SSD 8169, North Byron Parklands Cultural Events Site**

The proposal calls for 20 event days for events ranging from 5,000 to 50,000 in daily attendance and anywhere from 1 to 5 days duration per festival. **Suggested points:**

- > Parklands should not be given permanent approval to hold festivals on the site. Of the 20 days they are proposing for festivals, they have not even specified just what festivals will be held on half of the days. That's saying: Give us permanent approval to operate. We'll let you know later what we plan to do.
- > The threats to the ecology of the site are significant. 50+ threatened and endangered species use Marshalls Ridge Wildlife Corridor, which bisects the site, and Billinudgel Nature Reserve right next door. Parklands claims that no ecological impacts have occurred, but the evidence does not support that optimistic conclusion. Ecological Monitoring has been so abysmal as to seem purposely inadequate. We simply don't know what effects this development has had on sensitive flora and fauna. The developers and the Department of Planning are choosing to ignore this inconvenient truth.
- > Wastewater from toilets and food preparation is to be disposed of on site by burying and spraying. The risks to groundwater quality are great, as are the risks of polluting the water that flows from the site through sensitive ecological areas into Wooyung. Other aspects of the festival are also threats to the environment: the extreme noise from amplified music, constant noise from many large generators, people and vehicle movements, extensive parking lots, and the discarding of countless bits of debris on the site that is the result of tens of thousands of people milling about for days. Allowing all this to continue is unacceptable.
- > The developers want to put in a new gate on Wooyung Road in Tweed Shire. This will greatly increase the traffic along the coast road through Pottsville and Wooyung and will almost surely result in significantly increased traffic in the south of Tweed Shire during festivals.
- > The Parklands property includes two sites that are sacred to the traditional owners of the land. The main stage is positioned on one of those sacred sites. A community member said holding a festival at Parklands is like holding a dance party on top of Uluru. The traditional owners have not been consulted about this proposal, have not given their consent, and are extremely disturbed that it has got this far.

> Any approvals for ongoing activity on the site should be given by the local councils whose residents are most affected (Byron and Tweed). That was the intention of the original Planning Assessment Commission, which approved a five-year trial. The restoration of local control is what needs to happen now.

> Festival operations should be managed by licences issued by local authorities, in line with the music-festival licence that was recently proposed by the state government in the report “Keeping People Safe At Music Festivals” (October 2018). Such a licence would be renewable, subject to meeting specific conditions. This would allow local governments control over what would be allowed on the site.

It would be very helpful if you can choose one or two of these points and put them in your own words in a submission. Thanks for your support!

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.