

Technical Paper

J

Consultation



Community consultation report

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Contents

1.0 Executive summary	1
2.0 Background	3
2.1 Summary of previous consultation	3
3.0 Consultation objectives	5
4.0 Consultation methodology	6
4.1 Personal contact	6
4.2 Letterbox drop	6
4.3 Mail out of personal letters	6
4.4 Private and public site tours	6
4.5 Advertisements in local media	7
4.6 North Byron Parklands website	7
4.7 Media liaison	8
4.8 Letters to the Editor	8
5.0 Consultation methodology rationale	9
6.0 Stakeholders	10
7.0 Feedback	12
7.1 Summary of feedback	12
7.2 Immediate neighbours	13
7.3 Residents in surrounding areas	14
7.4 Businesses	15
7.5 Resident, Ratepayer and Progress Associations	16
7.6 Community groups and associations	16
7.7 Action groups	16
7.8 Environment groups	17
7.9 Tourism representatives	17
7.10 Young people and their representatives	17
7.11 Government representatives	18
7.12 Regional peak bodies	18
8.0 Recommendations	19
Appendices	
Appendix A	Byron Shire Echo 19 June 2007, page 4
Appendix B	Byron Shire Community Attitudes Telephone Survey August 2007 Cover page and key findings

Appendix C	Letterbox drop flyer
Appendix D	Letter sent to stakeholders
Appendix E	Advertisements in Tweed Echo, the Byron Shire Echo and the Byron Shire News regarding the March 2010 North Byron Parklands information afternoon
Appendix F	Advertisements in Byron Shire Echo and Byron Shire News after temporary move announcement
Appendix G	“Splendour 10 th Anniversary at Woodford” media release 25 th November 2009
Appendix H	“NSW Government to decide North Byron Parklands” media release 24 th July 2009
Appendix I	Letters to the Editor from North Byron Parklands in 2010

1.0 Executive summary

As considerable consultation regarding North Byron Parklands has been undertaken over the past four years, this consultation phase sought to provide to the community greater detail in addition to updated information regarding the proposal. Site tours were encouraged and individual feedback was sought.

Primary consultation methods included a mail out of personal letters regarding the proposal to key stakeholders, an information afternoon, additional guided site tours, the North Byron Parklands website, advertisements, personal contact with stakeholders via telephone and email, dissemination of flyers to the community in areas surrounding Yelgun via local general stores and a letterbox drop via Australia Post to all households and businesses in the region including Yelgun, Ocean Shores, New Brighton, South Golden Beach, Crabbes Creek, Billinudgill, Mooball, Sleepy Hollow, The Pocket, Wooyung, Middle Pocket and Burringbar.

Stakeholders were considered in the context of their ability to be impacted, either positively or negatively, by the proposal. A key determining factor was their proximity to the site. Individuals and groups consulted include immediate neighbours, residents in surrounding areas, businesses, resident, ratepayer and progress associations, young people and their representatives, environment groups, community groups and associations, action groups, tourism representatives, government representatives and regional peak bodies.

From feedback received, it appears that from most stakeholder groups there is either passive or active support for the proposal*. Support is predominantly based on reasons of environmental credibility, support for young people in the region, perceived economic benefits of the proposal and the previous track record of Splendour in the Grass management. Residents and stakeholder groups expressed that they were supportive of the proposal or “had no issue with it”. Many expressed fear of speaking out in support of the proposal.

There is a further considerable section of stakeholders that is not opposed to the proposal yet had questions and / or concerns. Once these were answered they were satisfied to see the project go ahead, given that commitments were kept and communication was ongoing.

A further group of stakeholders is passionately opposed to the proposal.

The primary concern regarding the proposal can be seen as community amenity. This includes the threat of noise, illegal camping and holiday letting in neighbourhoods in the nearby vicinity, event patrons on private properties, additional traffic on Tweed Valley Way and concern regarding how many events will be held each year.

Some people have outlined that they believe that their way of life is under threat. Of these, some have outlined that the suggestion itself that they should be exposed to potential changes in their way of living such as additional traffic on Tweed Valley Way is unacceptable. Relevant here is the fact that these people are at or nearly at retirement age and have chosen to live where they do at the stage of life where they are able to slow down and enjoy the quiet rural amenity.

Members of the two local action groups, Conservation of North Ocean Shores, the Byron Ratepayers Association and the South Golden Beach Progress Association voiced environmental concerns. Some further local residents voiced environmental concerns however only one of these was interested in seeing the site and going through their concerns with the North Byron Parklands ecologist.

Stakeholders were usually more comfortable with the proposal after having walked on the site and gained a greater awareness of what was being proposed and where.

Whilst most individuals and groups consulted who chose to give feedback were supportive of the proposal, very few chose to independently come forward to voice their support – they waited until they were specifically asked for feedback. This indicated a bias toward inaction for supporters of the proposal. This bias was confirmed numerous times when speaking to individuals and groups, who said or indicated that they had “kept quiet” about their opinions.

There is widespread interest in the business and employment opportunities presented by the proposal. This was the most common feedback received. There was the feeling that people had been hearing about the proposal for years and yes they knew that on the whole it was somewhere between highly beneficial and okay, so they were now interested in talking business. Interest and specific proposals came from businesses, Chambers of Commerce, tourism groups and individuals. There was also widespread support for the Community Grants Initiative from Chambers of Commerce, community and resident groups.

2

It is recommended that the next consultation phase inform local residents about strategies to protect their community amenity. Specifically, strategies to manage issues of noise, illegal camping, local traffic and event patrons in residential areas. Following this information dissemination feedback received could assist fine tuning of proposed management strategies.

It is further recommended that residents with environmental concerns who are willing and non-aggressive be invited to be involved in regeneration initiatives or at the very least be kept abreast of them.

*It is more than likely that some people objecting to the proposal have not come forward to respond to this consultation. It is also more than likely that some people who support this proposal have not come forward to respond to this consultation. The planning process provides further opportunities for public consultation, such as the formal exhibition period where public submissions are invited.

2.0 Background

The North Byron Parklands land was purchased in 2006. Prior to purchase, consultation occurred with some immediate neighbours, the local environmental group, Byron Shire Council and key government agencies. Since that time, prior to initial consultation with the NSW Department of Planning regarding a part 3A application, extensive community consultation was undertaken by numerous external consultants in addition to North Byron Parklands owners and staff. Consultation undertaken between 2006 and end 2009 is outlined below in 2.1.

Previous community consultation has informed and shaped the consultation undertaken during the period which relates to this report. This most recent consultation cannot be considered in isolation.

2.1 Summary of previous consultation to end 2009

- Consultation occurred with Byron Shire Council senior staff and Councillors prior to purchase of the site as an events site.
- Meeting with adjoining and nearby neighbours (including meetings prior to the purchase of the site).
- Meetings with relevant government agencies such as National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Discussions with the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Committee including attendance at their meeting in August 2007.
- Contacting over twenty-five regional environmental and community groups to discuss the proposed plans including inviting members to attend a guided site tour.
- Attending the meetings of local community groups including Ocean Shores Community Association, Conservation of North Ocean Shores (CONOS), Brunswick Valley Sports Association, Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce, Brunswick Heads Chamber Executive & Business Tourism Group and Brunswick Heads Progress Association to discuss specific questions, concerns and opportunities.
- Attending a meeting of 25 local residents at the Ocean Shores Country Club (26 September 2007).
- The provision of site tours (over 350 stakeholders including interested residents, environment and community group representatives have toured the site prior to 2010, hundreds more were invited).
- Facilitating an on site Environmental Forum on 22 September 2007. Over 20 local and regional environmental groups and relevant government agencies were invited.
- Attending a public meeting hosted at Byron Council Chambers as an information exchange forum. North Byron Parklands outlined its proposal to develop a cultural arts and music events site. Over 120 community members attended this forum.
- Provision of a North Byron Parklands website to provide information to the community including an email enquiries link to allow the community to contact directly with their queries and concerns. Over the period April 2007 to April 2010 the website has received over 15,896 unique “hits”.
- Providing advertisements and notices in the local newspapers inviting interested parties to various information sessions and workshops.
- Undertaking on site Community Open Days and tree planting days, including those in June and November 2007. The June 2007 event included site tours, a barbecue, face painting, kids performances and live local music. Refer Appendix A Byron Shire Echo 19 June 2007, page 4.



North Byron Parklands Community Open Day June 2007

- Providing information to print, TV and radio media. Responding to interview requests from: NBN News, ABC North Coast, Bay FM, The Byron Shire Echo, The Gold Coast Bulletin, The Byron Shire News, The Tweed Sun, The Tweed Daily News and The Northern Star.
- Researching the indigenous significance of the property and engaging in discussions with local aboriginal people with regards to the ongoing protection of sacred sites and the possibility of a cultural centre. This process has included discussions with the local CDEP Indigenous re-generation team about collaborating on regeneration and bush tucker planting projects.
- Commissioning of a telephone survey of residents to gauge community attitudes to cultural and arts events in Byron Shire (for cover page and key findings refer Appendix B).
- In accordance with Council's recently adopted Social Impact policy, consultation has occurred regarding this Social Impact Assessment.
- From 2006 Parklands has met on numerous occasions with various councillors, Council staff such as planners, ecologists, engineers and environmental health officers. In addition, a number of site visits have been attended by councillors and Council officers.

3.0 Consultation objectives

This most recent consultation phase sought to:

- Update stakeholders regarding the proposal for Parklands;
- Consult with individuals and groups that had not been previously personally contacted;
- Broaden the geographic scope of consultation;
- Ensure that detailed information regarding the proposal reached individuals and groups so that it could be assumed that they understood the proposal;
- Encourage personal and small group (up to five people) tours of the site with key North Byron Parklands personnel;
- Recontact those who had been previously contacted but who may not have given feedback or may have had unanswered questions; and
- In relation to all the above points, secure feedback from individuals and groups consulted.

4.0 Consultation methodology

The following consultation methods were employed:

4.1 Personal contact

Refer table below. Hundreds of stakeholders have been contacted by telephone and email. A log of all consultation has been maintained.

4.2 Letterbox drop

An A5 double sided information sheet was distributed to all homes and businesses in Yelgun and the surrounding localities including Ocean Shores, Wooyung, South Golden Beach, New Brighton, Billinudgel, The Pocket, Middle Pocket, Mooball, Burringbar, Crabbes Creek and Sleepy Hollow in May 2010.

Australia Post was contracted to deliver 2,300 information sheets covering all of the above areas. Further, over 1000 flyers were left at key businesses in the region including general stores at New Brighton, South Golden Beach, Crabbes Creek and Billinudgel, for dissemination to the general public. Due to a mistake made by the postal service, a section of South Golden Beach did not receive the letterbox drop flyer. After numerous phone calls this was rectified in July 2010.

Refer Appendix C information sheet.

4.3 Mail out of personal letters

An extensive mail out of personal letters was undertaken via post and email. Letters and in many cases also maps were disseminated to individuals and groups in the Byron and Tweed Shires in March, April, May and June 2010.

The information provided a summary of the Parklands proposal, asked for questions and feedback and in 90% of cases offered site tours. Contact details and the Parklands web address were provided.

Refer Appendix D sample letter.

4.4 Private and public site tours

4.4.1 Public site tours

Further to three information days undertaken prior to 2010, an information afternoon was held on site on March 14 2010. Site tours of one hours' duration were conducted at 2:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm. These were advertised in local media (the Byron Shire News, the Byron Shire Echo and the Tweed Shire Echo). Refer Appendix E advertisements in local papers.

All direct neighbours on Jones Road and Wooyung Road were advised of and invited to the site tours by personal telephone call, as were numerous other stakeholders in the Byron and Tweed Shires.

The public site tours were attended by key personnel including Mat Morris (General Manager of Parklands), Rob Doolan (Town Planner for and part owner of Parklands), Mark Fitzgerald (Ecologist for Parklands), Steve Connelly (Town Planner for Parklands), Jessica Ducrou (part owner of Parklands and Organiser of Splendour in the Grass), Darcy Condon (General Manager of Splendour in the Grass) and Caroline Desmond (community and public relations consultant).

Five further staff were on hand to assist, as strong attendance was anticipated. However the attendance at the afternoon did not necessitate the excessive staff numbers. 25 people (including five children) attended the three tours. Of the 25, 12 represented Splendour in the Grass staff, their families and friends and interested Splendour in the Grass subcontractors.

In attendance also were six direct neighbours from Jones Road (three adults and three children representing three properties). The remaining seven attendees had all viewed the advertisements and come to see the site and hear the proposal. There were five from Ocean Shores, one from Tintenbar and one from Wooyung.

4.4.2 Private site tours

Hundreds of individuals and organizations were personally invited to attend private site tours of North Byron Parklands by telephone call, email and posted letter during March, April, May and June 2010. In addition, the letterbox drop to 2,300 homes and businesses in May 2010 also invited residents to tours of the site.

Since March 2010 79 people have attended site tours which were conducted over nine separate days. This is seen to be representative of the demand for and interest in site tours. Hundreds more have been invited to attend. Had the demand been stronger more tours would have been facilitated.

Tours of the site will continue to be conducted regularly.

4.5 Advertisements in local media

To provide clarification on a range of issues in local media following the announcement of Splendour in the Grass's temporary move to Woodford, a paid advertisement was taken in the two Byron Shire newspapers (the Byron Shire Echo December 8 2009 and The Byron Shire News December 10 2009). Refer Appendix F.

Further advertisements were placed in March 2010 (Tweed Shire Echo March 4, Byron Shire News March 3 and Byron Shire Echo March 9) inviting the public to site tours of North Byron Parklands. Refer Appendix E.

4.6 North Byron Parklands website

The North Byron Parklands website (www.northbyronshireparklands.com.au) has been intermittently updated so that content is current and accurate. The website is promoted in letters to the Editor, the information flyer, advertisements, personal letters and media releases to encourage people to research the proposal, the Parklands site and provide feedback via email or by telephone. Over the period April 2007 to April 2010 the website has received over 11,500 unique "hits".

4.7 Media liaison

Apart from informing the local community about Parklands' broad movements through media releases, ie "Splendour temporarily moves to Woodford" 25th November 2009 (refer Appendix G) and "NSW Government to decide North Byron Parklands" 24th July 2009 (refer Appendix H) media management has been focused on reactively or passively assisting media with their enquiries regarding North Byron Parklands.

At least one representative from all of the primary local media outlets except one have undertaken tours of the site.

4.8 Letters to the Editor

It has been necessary for Mat Morris, General Manager of North Byron Parklands, to respond to letters to the Editor on some occasions when they contain incorrect or misleading information regarding the Parklands site and/or proposal or when clarification has been required.

A selection of these letters are attached as Appendix I.

5.0 Consultation methodology rationale

Previous market research undertaken for North Byron Parklands has utilised quantitative methods.

Parklands owners and staff have facilitated and attended numerous group meetings with key groups in the Byron and Tweed Shires prior to 2010 (refer 2.1 above).

Given that there has been considerable content in local media regarding both North Byron Parklands and Splendour in the Grass, yet it was perceived at the outset of this consultation phase (and this has since been confirmed through feedback) that both stakeholders and the general public were lacking in detail and accurate information regarding the Parklands proposal, it was considered that an intensive information dissemination program was required.

“Reading the Echo over the past few years gave me no idea of what is being proposed. They didn’t ever cover the environmental work that is being done out there”.

Mullumbimby business owner

The information afternoon and site tour consultation formats provided the opportunity for individuals to seek out information they required and also express their views on the proposal.

Personal telephone and email contact was utilised with key stakeholders, letters were disseminated to other stakeholders and the letterbox drop was disseminated to the broader community. Documentation was considered so that it contained sufficient detail to be transparent and thorough yet not too much detail so as to be overwhelming. Documentation encouraged viewing of the North Byron Parklands website for those seeking further detail.

A further priority of this consultation phase was to fill in the gaps from previous consultation. Beyond obvious geographic boundaries it can be difficult to know who might consider themselves a stakeholder of the North Byron Parklands proposal, yet an effort was made to include those individuals and groups who may be impacted, or perceived to be impacted, both positively and negatively.

The personal contact allowed for feedback to be received and documented. The site tours further facilitated feedback from participants either on the site tour or following the site tour. Printed information encouraged people to telephone or email with questions and feedback.

6.0 Stakeholders

Stakeholders were considered in the following categories:

Stakeholder	Consultation methodology
Immediate neighbours (those properties adjacent to the North Byron Parklands site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal telephone and email contact. • Advising, scheduling and undertaking of personal site tours. • Provision of written information regarding the Parklands proposal via email and/or posted letter. • Seeking of concerns and other feedback via phone and email. • Letterbox drop. • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours and the North Byron Parklands website.
Residents in surrounding areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal telephone and email contact and personal letter or email detailing the Parklands proposal and offering site tours with some local residents. • Scheduling and undertaking of personal site tours. • Letterbox drop to homes and businesses plus flyers left in local shops (Crabbes Creek General Store, New Brighton General Store, South Golden Beach General Store and Billinudgel General Store). • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours and the North Byron Parklands website.
Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of the known Chambers of Commerce in the region (x 10) received a personal letter via post or email outlining the Parklands proposal. Most were followed up with a phone call or email again offering site tours and seeking feedback. • Australia Post was contracted to deliver the letterbox drop flyer to all businesses in Ocean Shores, New Brighton, South Golden Beach, Billinudgel, Wooyung, Crabbes Creek, Mooball, Sleepy Hollow and Burringbar. • Numerous individual businesses were contacted via phone, email and posted letter regarding the Parklands proposal. Many attended site tours. • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours and the North Byron Parklands website.
Resident, ratepayer and progress associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A personal letter outlining the Parklands proposal, seeking feedback and offering site tours was sent to resident, ratepayer and progress associations in the region (total 11 groups). In addition, telephone and email liaison was undertaken with many of these groups. • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours and the North Byron Parklands website.
Community groups and associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A personal letter outlining the Parklands proposal, seeking feedback and offering site tours was sent to Tidy Towns Ocean Shores, Brunswick Community Centre, the Womens Resource Centre, Ocean Shores Community Association and Pottsville Community Association. In addition, phone & email liaison was undertaken with some of these groups. • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours and the North Byron Parklands website.
Action groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A personal letter outlining the Parklands proposal was sent to Coalition for Festival Sanity and Wooyung Action Group. • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours, the letterbox drop and the North Byron Parklands website.

Environment groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A personal letter outlining the Parklands proposal, seeking feedback and offering site tours was sent to BEACON, the Byron Environment Centre, Conservation of North Ocean Shores (CONOS) and the Caldera Environment Centre. • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours and the North Byron Parklands website.
Tourism representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A personal letter outlining the Parklands proposal, seeking feedback and offering site tours was sent to Northern Rivers Tourism, Tweed Tourism, Byron Bay Tourism, the Byron Visitor Centre, the Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre and the Tourism Officer at Byron Shire Council. • Most of these groups have undertaken site tours. • Information regarding the Parklands proposal has also been disseminated to numerous tourism service providers in the Byron and Tweed Shires. • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours and the North Byron Parklands website.
Young people and those who represent them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone and email consultation including sending an outline of the Parklands proposal to Byron Shire Council Youth Development Officer. • Information regarding the proposal has been emailed to other youth organizations in the region including Byron Youth Service, MindRight Institute (Nicqui Yazdi), Mullum Youth Crew, the Youth Drug and Alcohol worker for The Buttery, Michelle Grant from Brunswick CDAT and Ballina Byron Youth and Family Support. • A personal letter outlining the Parklands proposal, seeking feedback and offering site tours was sent to all known P & C associations in the Yelgun region (x 12). • All the above representatives have been invited on a site tour. • The Principal of the Ocean Shores Public School has attended a site tour and information flyers regarding the proposal were left at the Ocean Shores Public school for students and staff. • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours and the North Byron Parklands website.
Government representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Byron Parklands invited all Byron Shire Councillors on personal site tours on two occasions in 2010. • Parklands invited Byron Shire Councillors and staff to a debriefing of the Parklands environmental assessment in July 2010. • Parklands have met with three local MP's to outline the proposal for the site. A summary of the proposal, the same as that provided to other stakeholders, was provided. Two local MP's have undertaken tours of the site. • Additional consultation has been undertaken since 2006 with a range of government representatives.
Regional peak bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Rivers Tourism, Tweed Tourism, Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers, Southern Cross University, Arts Northern Rivers, Northern Rivers Business Enterprise Centre and NORPA were sent letters regarding the North Byron Parklands proposal, which also sought feedback and offered site tours. Representatives from both tourism bodies as well as Arts Northern Rivers have attended site tours. • An entry in the Regional Development Australia "The Gift" competition was made by North Byron Parklands in June 2010 in an effort to share the vision with the region. The entry won first prize in the photographic section. • Generic consultation including media releases, letters to the editor, public site tours and the North Byron Parklands website.

7.0 Feedback

All quotes are dated 2010. All quotes (with the exception of the young people category) are from people aged over 30 years and the majority are from people aged over 45 years. Nobody has been quoted more than once.

7.1 Summary of feedback

There exists support for the proposal from most stakeholders.

Moreover there was broad appreciation and an apparent “sigh of relief” that detail regarding the proposal was provided. There was the sense that “finally this will be sorted out and something may happen”.

There were many comments made that suggested that Splendour in the Grass would not want to come back to the Byron Shire.

Many people consulted had already attended site tours (some on more than one occasion) and did not feel it necessary to attend further tours.

There exists passion and demand for knowledge and information regarding the business opportunities presented by the proposal.

There was considerable feedback that people were happy with the environmental work done to date and also promised under conditions of approval of the proposal. It was seen by most that North Byron Parklands was acting responsibly in this regard.

Four people/groups responded that they would like the opportunity to be considered for hosting (paid, commercially viable) events at the site. There were others interested in the site for community events.

There was concern from residents living in nearby areas regarding issues of community amenity. Some residents rejected the proposal on these grounds, others asked questions and sought clarification. Specifically, further detail regarding mitigation measures for issues such as young people wandering the streets, traffic management, illegal camping, holiday letting, noise and the amount of events held each year.

There are some local residents who are strongly objecting to the proposal and do not wish to engage with North Byron Parklands in discussion. Most of these objectors have been consistent for the past four years.

There has been pressure on the community from some objectors to object to the proposal and this has engendered fear of discussing the proposal publicly. It has also caused some disdain amongst the community.

Some people nominated environmental concerns. The majority of these people were from organizations who are objecting to the proposal. Of the individuals who nominated concerns, only one person specifically articulated them and was prepared to enter into discussion and attend a site tour.

Of the individuals and groups contacted regarding the proposal, most outlined support or neutrality. Yet those who were supportive did not come forward to voice their support, they waited until they were asked for feedback.

This indicated a bias toward inaction for supporters of the proposal. This bias was confirmed numerous times when speaking to individuals and groups, who said or indicated that they had “kept quiet” about their opinions.

7.2 Immediate neighbours

Immediate neighbours expressed a wide range of views regarding the proposal, from entirely opposed to enthusiastically supportive.

There are eight properties who are immediate neighbours to the 660 acre North Byron Parklands site. Of these, two are occupied by known objectors to the proposal. There is one further property which has objected to Parklands’ presence in the past yet has not responded to this consultation process. The remaining five properties are occupied by neighbours who are either supportive of the proposal or who have or may have concerns yet are working with Parklands moving forward.

Representatives from all of the eight properties have undertaken tours of the site, many on more than one occasion. Since March 2010 representatives from six of these properties have undertaken tours of the site.

Concerns of immediate neighbours varied from event patrons on private property to noise to environmental impacts and traffic.

One of the objecting neighbours outlined that she had not been given a choice regarding the proposal.

“It’s my right to live here, it’s the audacity of it”.

The second objecting neighbour outlined:

“I do object. In relation to planning, history and environmental value. And threatened species. I am strongly opposed”.

Other direct neighbours provided comment:

“I would be out there screaming in support of what you are doing but I would get my head cut off”.

“I feel that if it gives something to the young people in this area that’s fantastic. The cultural centre is good. Using this proposal for the betterment of the community is good. If it’s used as a money making venture only it’s not good. In relation to people going onto my property – I’m not particularly worried. If it happens I will call so you deal with it and I don’t have to. I just don’t want to be in the position where I have to deal with it myself. I find it challenging that people are questioning the proposal on environmental grounds. I would appreciate being kept up to date of everything that is going on. I don’t want to hear second hand”.

“It’s all positive. Now I have listened and heard more about it it’s all good”.

7.3 Residents in surrounding areas

Again, residents in surrounding areas expressed a wide range of views, from entirely opposed to enthusiastically supportive.

Whilst there were some people who voiced environmental concerns, the major concerns outlined were issues of community amenity. Some residents living close to the site were concerned about noise. There were residents in the surrounding area concerned about holiday letting taking over their neighbourhoods, additional traffic on Tweed Valley Way and illegal camping. The loss of community amenity and “way of life” was seen as a threat to some residents.

A number of residents responded to an email sent out by the Coalition For Festival Sanity requesting emails objecting to the proposal, however the majority of responses received from this process were generic so unfortunately it was difficult to gauge specific concerns.

The following quotes represent feedback received:

“I think Splendour is a great event and it's obvious the owners do care about the environment and the local community. I've been to a couple myself and have found them to be very well organised. So I'm for it! However there are a lot of local people up this end of the shire who are a bit older. I think this is also a major issue for some of the residents as they may also be worried about young folk disrespecting the environment, sleeping on the beach, leaving rubbish around etc., It's not necessarily just the wildlife and the flora that they are concerned with. Maybe you could also address that in your letter to the community”.

Resident, North Ocean Shores

“I have a strong objection to noise and social impacts. It's an inappropriate site that borders the nature reserve”.

Resident, Yelgun

“I'd like to see a cultural and tourism industry supported here. Rather than just a real estate industry. You see a lot of smaller events here they don't work. They mayor gets involved and everybody says “yeah”. But people don't get paid”.

Resident, Ocean Shores

“We leave so little for the animals. I don't think anything will change my mind about that, but I do appreciate being able to keep informed”.

Resident, Ocean Shores

“It's a very small amount of people objecting, putting out the information. People believe the propaganda. I talk to people directly. Elderly people included would have liked to see us get the chance for a trial event. But the objectors didn't want that because they knew the trial would go well”.

Resident, Ocean Shores

“We are not in favour of it. You can't show me around I have lived here all my life. We don't want those drug festivals. I don't want to know any more”.

Resident, Yelgun

7.4 Businesses

The Chambers of Commerce that have provided feedback indicated a supportive nature. Many were proactive in wanting to discuss possible ways to maximise business to their region from North Byron Parklands patrons.

The majority of Byron Bay businesses, from feedback received, have been severely negatively impacted with the loss of Splendour this year. There is passionate support for the North Byron Parklands from most Byron Bay businesses. A small group of businesses say it makes no difference to their business and an even smaller group are glad that Splendour has gone as they said that it keeps locals away from the town for the weekend.

There was discussion with the Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce regarding bringing event patrons to Brunswick Heads at times that they are wanted and deterring patrons from visiting Brunswick Heads at times they are not wanted. This can, to some extent, be achieved through information given to patrons and shuttle bus times and routes. I.e, Brunswick Heads may want event patrons for breakfast and/or lunch but not in evenings.

Discussion with the Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce showed that Parklands needs to work with the Chamber going forward to protect and respect their “simple pleasures” branding that they have worked hard to foster.

15

Quotes below represent feedback received from businesses:

“Splendour in the Grass has had a huge positive effect on our business and all the accommodation businesses of Byron Shire. Splendour gives accommodation businesses a big boost in a very low period, as most guests stay 3 to 7 days, even though the festival is only 2 days long. The festival is very professionally run and is hugely popular, bringing a very important tourist market to Byron. It is vital for a tourism destination to have ways to introduce young people responsibly to the local environment which we love”.

Grant Hawkins, Partner, Byron Bay Accom

“I went around the businesses. Everybody was supportive of Splendour. After Bluesfest they are excited that Splendour may come here”.

Business owner, Brunswick Heads

“We’ve got over 100 drivers and that’s 100 families that are struggling with the loss of Splendour. We’ve got the same overheads all year round and there’s nobody here in winter to bring the money through. Just as we think things can’t get any lower Splendour comes along and gives a huge cash injection. Every time they’ve had open days at Parklands I’ve been out there. We just want it to be back here”.

Sandy Andrell, Xcede Airport Transfers, Byron Bay Taxis and Limousines

“As a business in Byron Bay that employs more than fifty local people I would like to offer my support for the return of Splendour ASAP. During the past ten years we have depended on it to make the difference between profit and loss. I fully support the establishment of the North Byron Parklands site as the permanent venue for this and hopefully other equally as successful events. As a long term resident of this district I firmly believe in Byron Bay being an important centre for performing arts and cultural events that fit with our young and vibrant community”.

Paul Waters, General Manager The Balcony Bar and Restaurant

7.5 Resident, ratepayer and progress associations

In response to consultation two letters were received.

South Golden Beach Progress Association, 19 May. Their concerns were outlined as:

*"You have refused to scale down Splendour in the Grass to a size that is more suitable to the Shire";
"You have refused to plan it so that it could be held at Council's new cultural and sporting event site on Ewingsdale Road"; and
"You have criticized Byron Shire Council's attempt to put in place a sensible Events Policy".*

Byron Bay Ratepayers Association, 2 June.

*Dear Mr Morris,
I refer to your letter of 14th May 2010 seeking community views on your proposed event venue at Yelgun. On behalf of Byron Ratepayers Association Inc I would make the following comment. We totally oppose your proposal on environmental, social and cultural grounds and will be sending our specific objections to the NSW Department of Planning. I note your comment re Woodford and respectfully suggest that you relocate there on a permanent basis and spare the wildlife and patrons of this shire the disruption and loss of amenity that your proposal affords.
Yours Faithfully
John Bailey. Chairman*

16

7.6 Community groups and associations

Two of the five groups consulted have provided feedback:

"We didn't hear a thing with Bluesfest and it's the same distance to Parklands and with Parklands there's a hill in between. I've been on two site tours and I've thoroughly enjoyed them. I really hope you are here next year. Tell people you are going to look after the community."

"I hope the minister has the courage to support your proposal. It will be very good for the local area".

7.7 Action groups

Members of Coalition for Festival Sanity who attended a site tour made it known that they were attending as residents only. Their comments are included above under "immediate neighbours" and "residents in surrounding areas".

Wooyung Action Group outlined their concerns in a letter dated May 31 2010. They can be summarized as:

- Surrounding community having no limits placed on events with less than 300 people.
 - No upper limits placed on number of patrons at major events.
 - Inappropriate site in terms of flooding, transport and available local infrastructure for a permanent events site.
 - Damage to the viability and integrity of threatened species contained within the site and in the adjacent Billinudgel Nature Reserve.
 - Intermittent but high intensity disturbance to wildlife.
-

7.8 Environment groups

No specific feedback has been received from these groups. Again, members who attended site tours made comment as residents only and their comments are included above under “immediate neighbours” and “residents in surrounding areas”.

7.9 Tourism representatives

All tourism representatives contacted expressed support for the proposal.

Preliminary discussions have been held with the Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre regarding managing event patron movements so as to benefit Brunswick Heads businesses in an appropriate manner and scale yet at the same time preserve the Simple Pleasure branding of Brunswick Heads. Upon approval of the proposal these discussions would become more detailed. For example (as discussed in “businesses”) Parklands can to some extent influence patron movement through information distributed to them via hard copy, event websites (such as Splendour in the Grass) and the North Byron Parklands website. Further, event buses can direct event patrons to particular places through their timetables and routes. Brunswick Heads may wish to receive event patrons for breakfast and/or lunch but not at night time, for example.

“It was great to meet you all and to see the fantastic site. Anything we can assist with in the future please let us know as we feel this project would be a gem of a drawcard for our region”.

Cameron Arnold, Chair of Northern Rivers Tourism and Chair of Tweed Tourism

“Ditto to Cameron’s comments and happy to support project going forward, good luck”.

Phil Villiers, General Manager Tweed Tourism

“Large events support our arts and creative industries. These are strong in our region. It is a real shame that Splendour has moved to Queensland and we will support them to move back to Parklands. Parklands have addressed the environmental, social and cultural concerns. They go far and above what any other event organizers have done”.

Russell Mills, Chief Executive Officer Northern Rivers Tourism

7.10 Young people and their representatives

Feedback received to date has been positive.

“It’s such a shame that Splendour is going to Woodford this year and I guess it has a lot of people worried that it won’t come back here”.

Byron Shire resident and youth worker

“Parklands provides opportunities for young people to progress. It’s about building communities and doing it on a good scale”.

Anthony Farrow, young person Ocean Shores

7.11 Government representatives

Four of the nine Byron Shire Councillors responded to emails sent. Two have outlined support for the proposal. The remaining Councillors have not indicated a position regarding the proposal yet one has identified concerns (refer below).

"I had a very good tour back in 2008. My support has not waned. I think the venue is ideal. I also know how significant and important Splendour is for so many in the community."

"Thanks for the invite, I'll think about it. I do think that festivals that want to have unlimited patrons attending do consider sites with less constraints elsewhere in our beautiful Northern Rivers Region. This will allow spreading economic development around and not concentrating it on the coastal strip".

"I have had a good look over the site prior to the council resolution for approval. I am pleased to see you are still pushing forward. I am fully supportive of your proposal".

The three local Members of Parliament consulted indicated that they were grateful to be briefed more fully on the proposal. Two have attended site tours.

7.12 Regional peak bodies

18

Feedback from Northern Rivers Tourism and Tweed Tourism is outlined above in 7.9.

Kerry Brown, Mulpha Chair in Tourism Asset Management, Director, Centre for Tourism, Leisure and Work, Professor, School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Business and Law Southern Cross University said:

"Your focus on environmental sustainability is an important approach. Cultural heritage also is a key aspect. While you highlight some of the specific benefits to the community of the Splendour in the Grass Festival such as tickets for raising funds and \$ contribution to the community, you may need to identify the larger value proposition for the community in relation to the expanded suite of Festivals and events.

"You have probably covered this already, but a risk management strategy that works through how these events can minimise disruption etc, could alleviate some community concerns. The site looks beautiful. All the best with your project".

8.0 Recommendations

Consultation must be ongoing with the community surrounding the site.

Including:

- The opportunity for regular site tours open to all members of the public.
- Regularly updating the North Byron Parklands website.
- Personally (by telephone or personal email) updating immediate neighbours regarding site or proposal changes prior to alerting the general public.

It is recommended that a further letterbox drop to the local area detailing how potential negative impacts (such as noise, stray patrons in adjoining neighbourhoods, illegal camping, traffic issues) would be mitigated and that proposed measures be fine tuned, if required, following feedback from the community. This material should be personally provided (via letter or email) to immediate neighbours and should also be available in local general stores.

It is recommended that residents who have outlined concerns regarding environmental impacts of the proposal (excluding aggressive objectors) be kept informed of any environmental initiative updates and be invited to be a part of the ongoing environmental management of the site.

Appendix A

Byron Shire Echo 19 June 2007, page 4

Local News

Mindfulness
Meditations & Reflections on Gratefulness
with **JOHN BARTER**
Buddhist Psychologist & Meditation Teacher
BA (Psych), Grad Dip Ed (Psych), Grad Dip Coun, M Coun, MAPS

Date & Time: Saturday June 23rd 9:30 for a 10am start - 4pm
Location/Cost: Daringdale 1st St \$65 cash/req
Please Bring: A plate of food to share at lunch time, notebook & pen, cushion to sit on.

Followed by the emotive and soulful voice of Jodi Martin -
- 5pm Candle Lit Concert -
'music which quiets the mind and opens the heart'
Free entry for workshop participants or \$10 at the door

To express your interest please give us a call...
0414 361 634 - www.wellbeingmatters.com.au

byronandbeyond.com
Byron
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Byron Bay and Northern Rivers NSW
Accommodation Guide 2007/2008
Your Official Byron Bay Visitor Centre Guide!

For advertising enquiries in our 2008 edition, please call us on 0428 655 806

Parklands plants out at Yelgun

Story & photo Lou Beaumont
In the presence of family, supporters and keen tree planters, the Billinudgel Property Group, purchasers of the proposed festival site at Yelgun (North Byron Shire Parklands), felt only the heat of the sun on the open day and first tree planting at the site on Saturday.

It was with obvious relief that Jessica Ducrou (of Splendour and part of the BPG) welcomed the predominantly friendly crowd.

Ms Ducrou said, "I have to say I am genuinely surprised and saddened by the small but very vocal public response to our proposal for an events and cultural facility. I understand the Byron region is a passionate place and of course everyone has a right to an opinion but naively I really didn't imagine such controversy or the amount of misinformation circulating over our project."

"I am particularly astounded by the opposition to a proposal that could offer so much to our Shire. When did it become a crime to help facilitate the rehabilitation of the wildlife corridor, to regenerate and reforest the currently degraded land we are on, to contribute financially to the community and offer improved infrastruc-



Bill Hauritz, founder of Woodford Folk Festival, plants a tree.

ture, to provide an entertainment and public space for community use, to attract visitors to our region, to give back approx 20 hectares of land to the NPWS or to create a fully sustainable project?"

Bill Hauritz, founder of

Woodford Folk Festival, offered his support to the group and shared his story of turning 240 acres of dairy farm into the current Woodford Folk Festival site.

Mass tree plantings and programs such as nest box installations transformed the

'clapped out cattle country' with acid soil, bad drainage, wrong vegetative types and little wildlife into regenerating forest.

Mr Hauritz also said that his community had not unanimously shared his vision, but that he was now happy to say that much of those people originally opposed are now good friends and supporters of the festival.

Bill Hauritz added, "I always made decisions with my 500 year plan in mind. Woodford became a mind blowing project in biodiversity. I actually got more pleasure from the environmental aspects of the project than the cultural ones which is really saying something!"

"When I saw this group's [BPG] vision for this site it blew me away."

Other presentations included the NBSF sustainability strategy and site tours were conducted where an inevitable mix of positive and opposing questions were raised.

Most positively, the objective to plant 1,000 trees was met. Visiting tree planters were rewarded with a BBQ, face painting and performances by Spaghetti Circus and local band Sara Tinsley & The Kingfishers.



2007 Kerbside Clean Up Program

During June and July 2007, Byron Shire Council will be conducting a Kerbside Clean Up Service. This service is only available to households that receive a weekly Council domestic waste service.

Please note that this service is not available to rural properties, or households that receive the fortnightly Council rural waste service.
(Council is currently investigating options for dealing with bulky waste from rural properties)

Collection Area	Collection start date
1. Byron Bay, Watego's, Suffolk Park	Monday 18th June 2007
2. Ocean Shores (Nth & Sth), South Golden Beach, New Brighton, Brunswick Heads	Monday 25th June 2007
3. Bangalow, Mullumbimby, Ellingsdale, Sunrise Beach, Broken Head	Monday 2nd July 2007

Council will be collecting two categories of waste: general bulky items and whitegoods / metal items. The two categories are to be kept in separate piles so the metals can be recycled. Strict limits will apply on the volume and type of material that can be placed out for collection.

THESE TYPES OF ITEMS WILL BE COLLECTED

BULKY ITEMS - (Max 1 cubic metre)

- ✓ Appliances, furniture & bedding
- ✓ Carpet, toys, surfboards
- ✓ Tools, garden equipment
- ✓ Computers

METAL ITEMS - (Maximum 1 cubic metre)

- ✓ Fridges (doors removed or taped up)
- ✓ Stoves, ovens
- ✓ Filing cabinets, hot water systems
- ✓ Dishwashers / washing machines
- ✓ Mowers, bikes, metal bed bases

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS WILL NOT BE COLLECTED

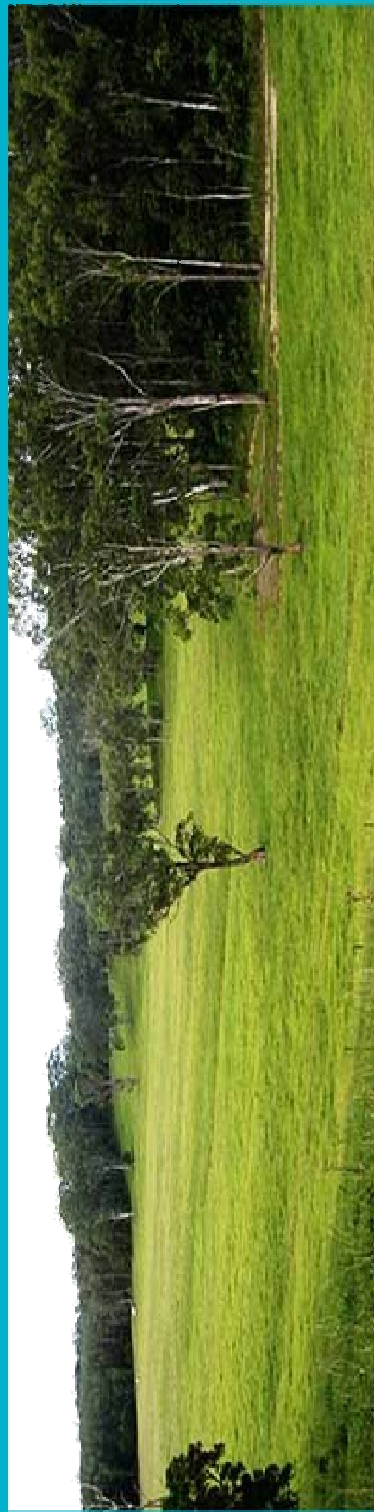
- ✗ Tree prunings / garden waste
- ✗ Chemical / hazardous waste
- ✗ Soil & stones
- ✗ Concrete, bricks or blocks
- ✗ Fuels or oils
- ✗ Tyres or car parts
- ✗ Small items not bagged or boxed
- ✗ Building / renovation materials
- ✗ Liquids or paints
- ✗ Glass
- ✗ Batteries or gas bottles
- ✗ Commercial / industrial waste
- ✗ Food scraps

Look out for an information sheet that will be delivered to your property. For enquiries contact Solo Resource Recovery on 6687 0455



Appendix B

Byron Shire Community Attitudes Telephone Survey August 2007
Cover page and key findings



Byron Shire Community Attitudes Telephone Survey

Findings of quantitative research conducted with Byron Shire residents
August 2007



Key findings

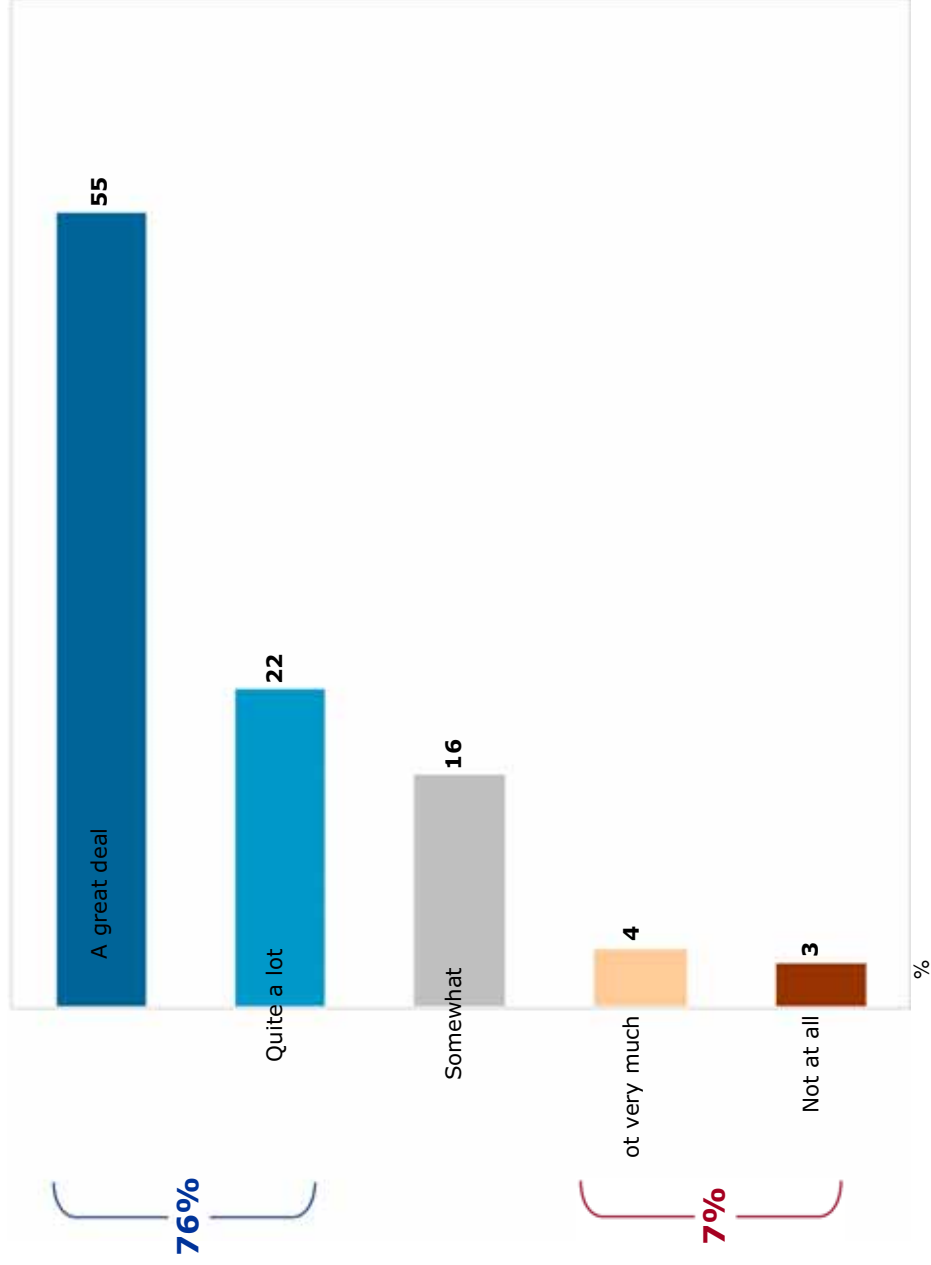
FRESH
PROJECTS

Community attitudes: arts and cultural festivals and events

FRESH
PROJECTS

Benefits to Byron Shire

Q. In your opinion, to what extent do arts and cultural festivals and events benefit Byron Shire?

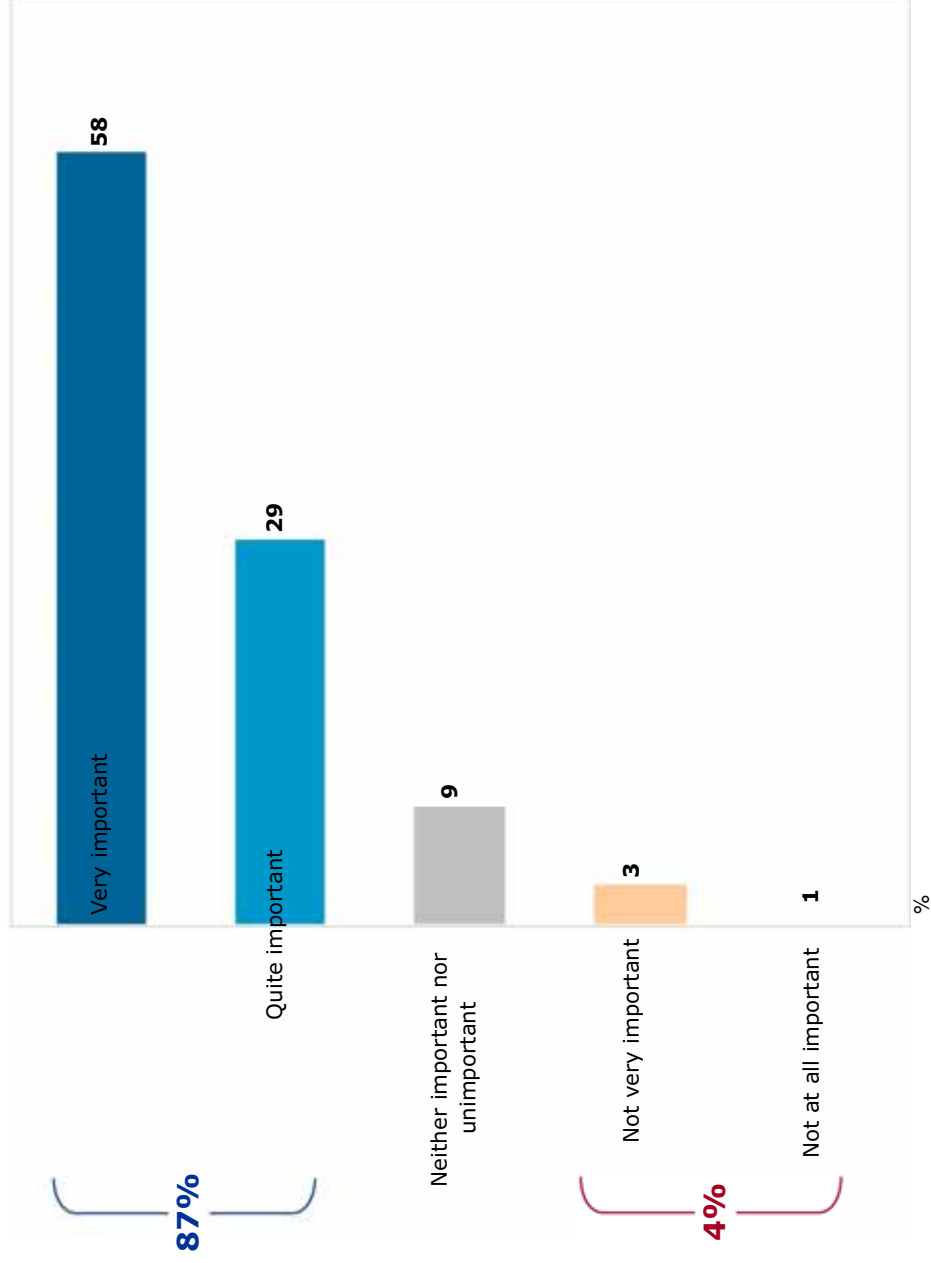


- > A majority of Byron Shire residents (76%) believe arts and cultural festivals and events benefit Byron Shire either a great deal or quite a lot
- > A minority in the community (7%) believe arts and cultural festivals and events do not benefit Byron Shire

Base: All respondents n=302

Importance to the Byron Shire local economy

Q. In your opinion, how important are arts and cultural festivals and events to the Byron Shire local economy?

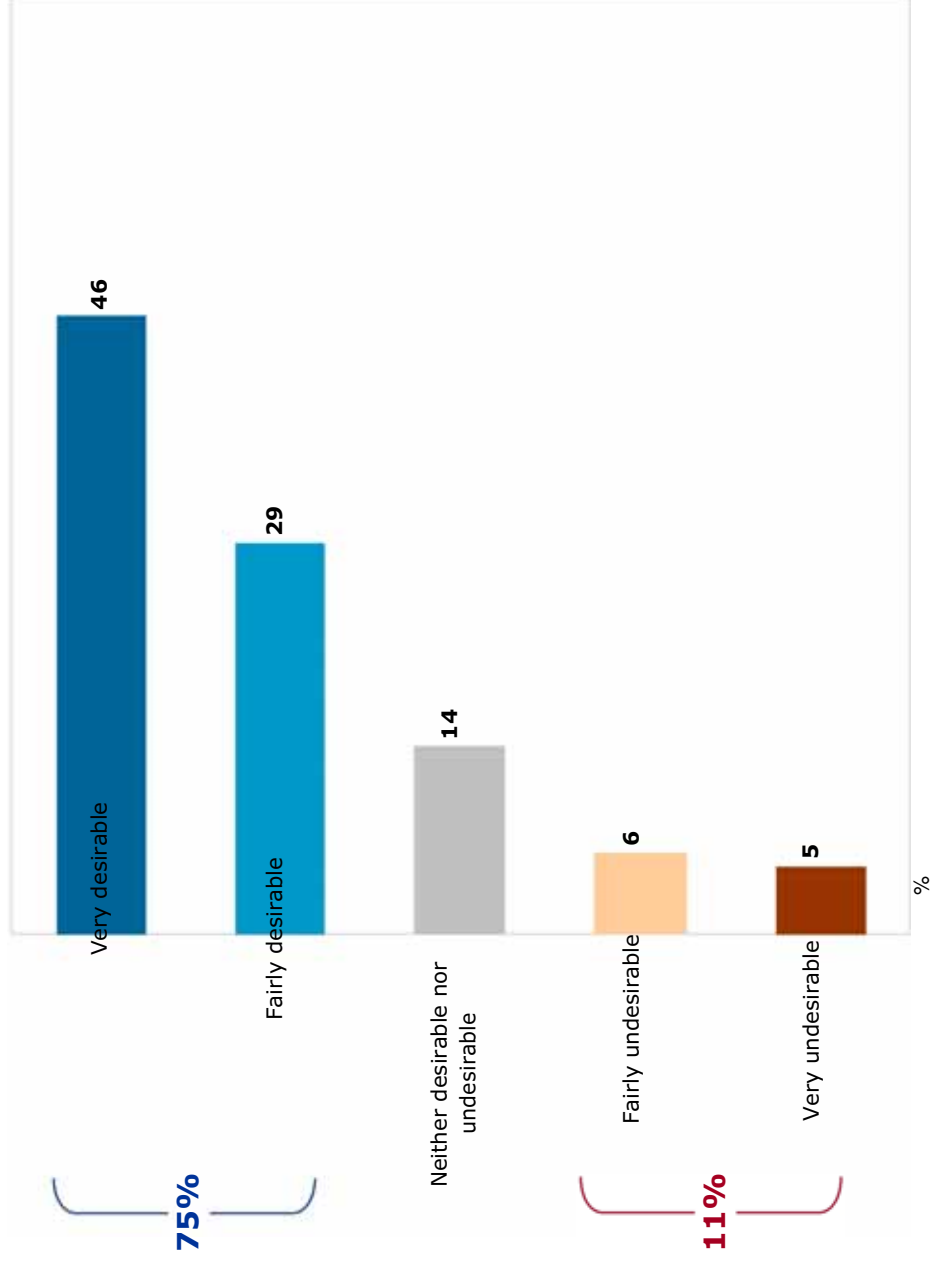


- > Almost 9 in 10 Byron Shire residents (87%) believe arts and cultural festivals and events are important to the Byron Shire local economy (58% said they were very important and 29% said they were quite important)
- > A small minority in the community (4%) said arts and cultural festivals and events are not important to the local economy

Base: All respondents n=302

Desirability of permanent arts and cultural festival and events sites located within Byron Shire

Q. In your opinion, how desirable is it to have permanent arts and cultural festival and events sites located within Byron Shire?



- > A majority (75%) of the local Byron Shire community endorse the desirability of having permanent festival and events sites located within the Shire
- > A minority in the community (11%) did not think it desirable having permanent sites located in Byron Shire

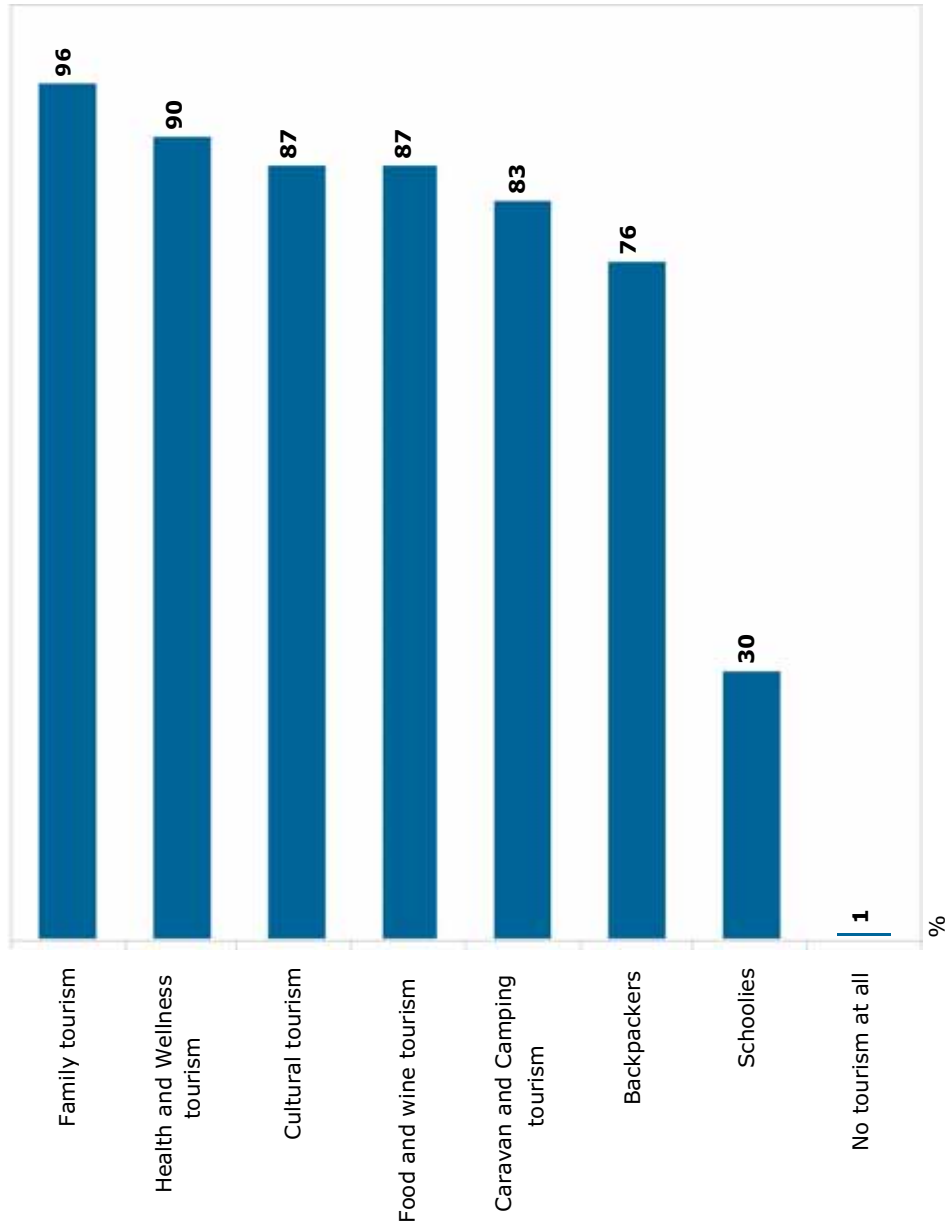
Base: All respondents n=302

Community attitudes: cultural tourism

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PROJECTS

Support for tourism

Q. Which, if any, of the following types of tourism do you support for the Byron Shire?

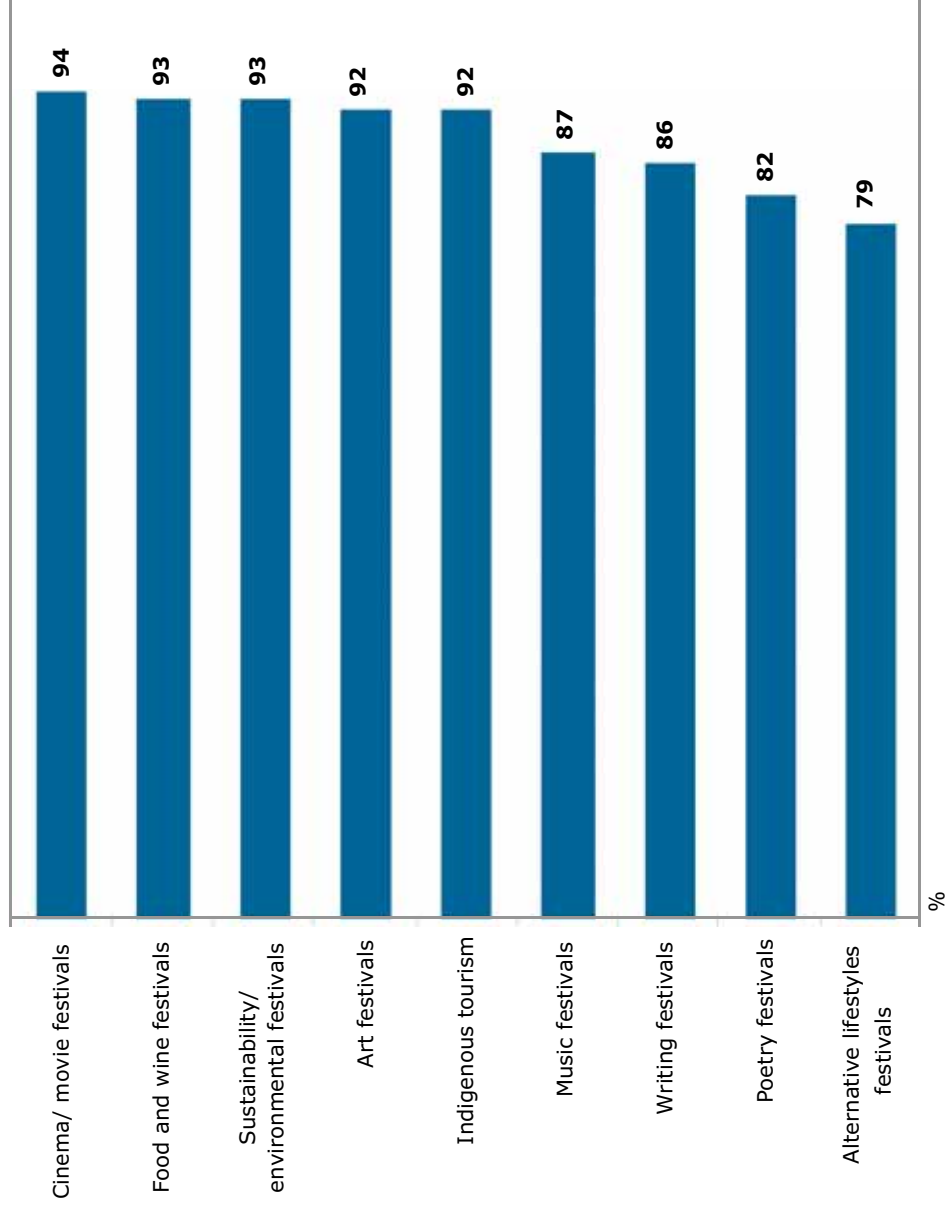


- > The top four types of tourism with the greatest support among the Byron Shire local community were:
- > Family Tourism - virtually the entire sample supported this (96%)
 - > Health and wellness with 9 in 10 supporting this type of tourism
 - > And cultural tourism and food and wine tourism equal at 87% support
 - > Schoolies had the least amount of support at 30%
 - > 1% of the Byron Shire local community supported no tourism at all

Base: All respondents n=302

Support for tourism – cultural tourism

Q. And which, if any, of the following types of cultural tourism activities would you support for the Byron Shire?



- > The 87% of respondents who said they supported cultural tourism for Byron Shire, were then asked their level of support for various types of cultural tourism activities
- > All listed cultural tourism activities received very high levels of support among the Byron Shire local community, with cinema/movie festivals the highest at 94% down to alternative lifestyle festivals at 79%
- > This result illustrates the diversity of what constitutes cultural tourism
- > And, it demonstrates that the Byron Shire local community is open to many different forms of cultural tourism activities

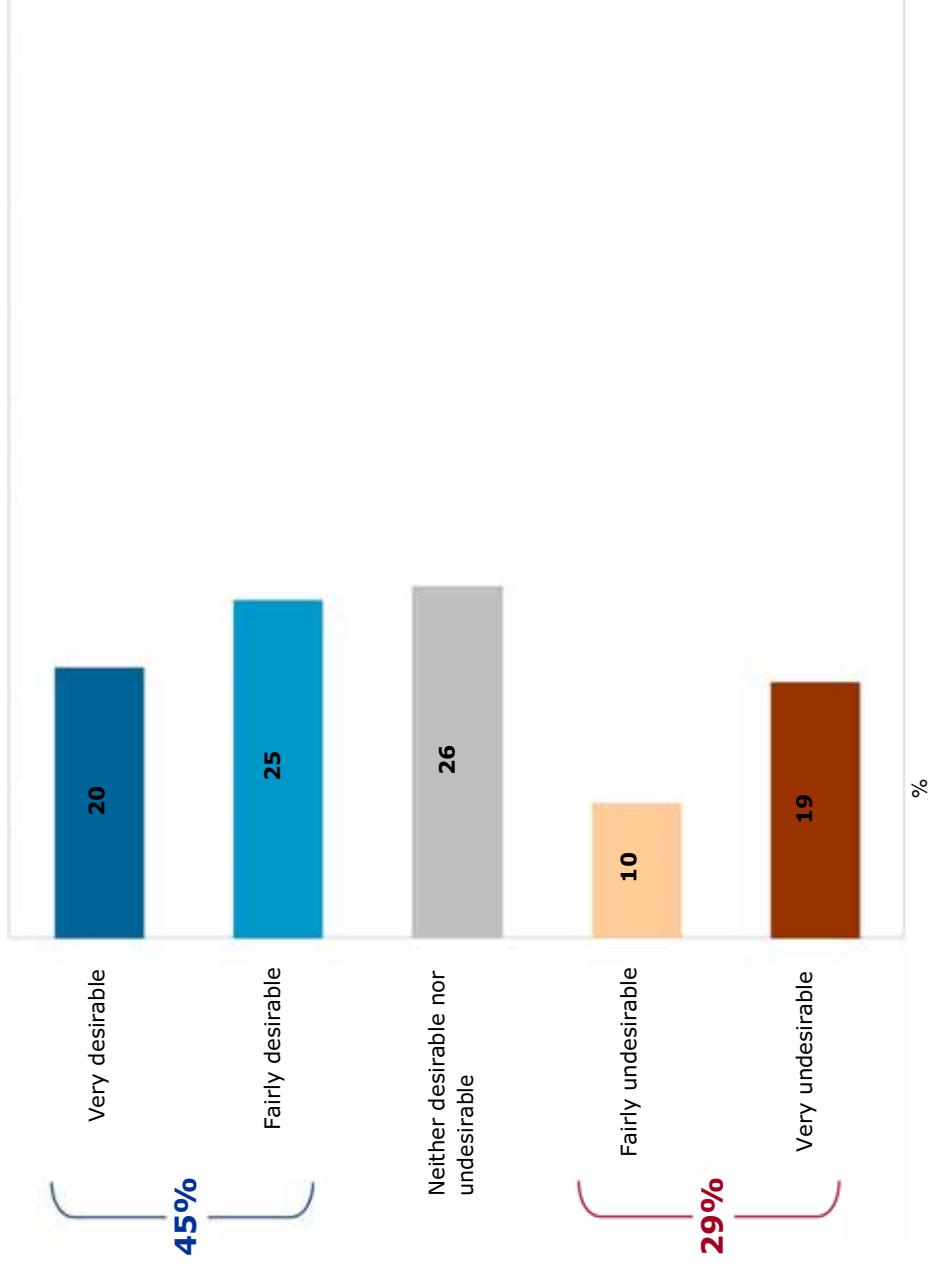
Base: Respondents who support 'Cultural tourism' n=263

Desirability of a permanent site at Yelgun

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Desirability of a permanent site at Yelgun

Q. In your opinion, how desirable is it to have a permanent, sustainable, arts and cultural festival and events site located in the North of Byron Shire at Yelgun?



- > When we ask the specific question about the desirability of a permanent site at Yelgun, 45% of the local community think it is very/fairly desirable while 29% think it is very/fairly undesirable
- > The community is divided when it comes to the strength of those convictions: 20% consider it very desirable and 19% consider it very undesirable
- > A quarter of the local community are ambivalent - 26% say it is neither desirable nor undesirable

Base: All respondents n=302

Segmenting community attitudes

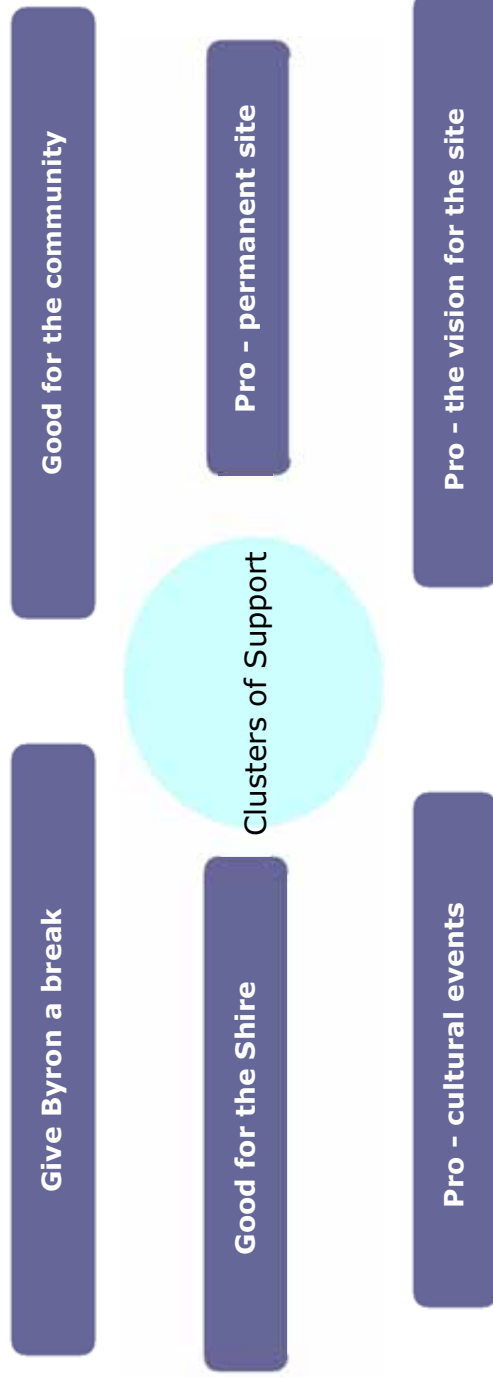
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North Byron Shire site at Yelgun – desirability

- > We included one open ended question in this survey where we asked respondents to tell us in their own words why they responded in that way to the question regarding the desirability of a permanent, sustainable arts and cultural festival and events site located in the North of Byron Shire at Yelgun
- > This was a really important question as it enabled the respondent to explain their response to this question, unprompted and in their own words
- > The following slides explore the different layers of meaning behind a vote for and a vote against a permanent site at Yelgun
- > The important point to keep in mind is that community attitudes explored in this study were very diverse
- > Our sample was both rigorous and comprehensive and as such, it gave a voice to a broad range of community views
- > And this is the important point to note - the local community in the Byron Shire is very diverse and this research captured this diversity of opinion
- > As these next slides illustrate, this research is not based on the opinions of a single or minority viewpoint but on a broad and diverse community point of view

Clusters of support

- > 20% of the Byron Shire community said they considered a permanent, sustainable, arts and cultural festival and events site located in the North of Byron Shire at Yelgun to be 'very desirable'
- > People held this point of view for a variety of different reasons
- > Essentially, we can segment this 'very desirable' response into the following attitudinal categories:



- > By analysing the open ended responses to this question, we can identify a sense of excitement and optimism in the local community for a permanent, sustainable, arts and cultural festival and events site located in the North of Byron Shire at Yelgun
- > There is a recognition of the importance of having a permanent site in Byron Shire and the benefits it would bring
- > The open ended quotes on the following slides are analysed by postcode and age to illustrate the many different points of view embraced by the Byron Shire local community

'Very desirable' - in their own words

Give Byron a break

"Because I don't think the site where Splendour is currently at is at all suitable; because Byron Bay gets trashed all the time; it would be good to move sites" (postcode 2481, aged 60-64)

"Well I think Byron is too busy, too hectic and it needs to get out of Byron a bit"
(postcode 2482, aged 45-49)

"I think it would get rid of congestion in town and festival goers would be free to have fun"
(postcode 2479, aged 50-54)

"I think it's good as it would deal with traffic and noise" (postcode 2481, aged 35-39)

"Takes the pressure off Byron" (postcode 2479, aged 40-44)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very desirable' - in their own words

Good for the community

"I live there and I think that it will be good. I can just walk down. Something exciting coming to our little piece of the country which is good. My daughter would like to get a job there" (postcode 2483, aged 30-34)

"Because there is nothing else in the north of the shire for anyone. The area they are looking at can do no harm or interfere with anyone. They are talking about the traffic build up and that could be all ironed out if they gave it a trial for the young people" (postcode 2483, aged 70-74)

"I think overall it does good for the community. I think it benefits young people in particular. As a whole all benefit in the community. It shows the diversity of people" (postcode 2482, aged 50-54)

"A well set up cultural site that can share the facilities would be good for the community" (postcode 2483, aged 40-44)

"Because I think we have lots of festivals and we need one fantastic place to put it, like Woodford or something like that. A similar model to Woodford would be ideal - environmentally friendly, still close enough to Byron to take advantage of the tourism, but far enough away not to cause traffic and noise problems" (postcode 2481, aged 35-39)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very desirable' - in their own words

Good for the Shire

"Because festivals create jobs. It's good because Yelgun is near where I live. Good to get it out of the city because of traffic congestion. People complain about loud music in residential areas and some of these problems may be overcome in Yelgun" (postcode 2483, aged 18-24)

"Because I have been to a number of festivals and the sites at the moment cannot accommodate numbers properly - we need to keep these events going in the Byron Shire - they are a part of the culture of the Shire" (postcode 2482, aged 18-24)

"Because of economic development and sustainability - Byron Bay has nothing to offer but beautiful scenery" (postcode 2481, aged 70-74)

"The area isn't approaching being over utilised and it will help some local businesses" (postcode 2482, aged 55-59)

"It would benefit both tourists and locals of the area" (postcode 2482, aged 50-54)

"It will improve access, everyone knows where it is" (postcode 2483, aged 50-54)

"Having a large festival site that is available for use is a benefit and very important for the Byron economy" (postcode 2482, aged 18-24)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very desirable' - in their own words

Pro - permanent site

"Great idea to have a permanent dedicated site."
(postcode 2483, aged 25-29)

"So many creative people in the area, a dedicated site
is necessary" (postcode 2483, aged 55-59)

"Because we need to have somewhere where all the festivals are held so everyone knows where to come."
(postcode 2483, aged 18-24)

"Because of the infrastructure in Byron Bay. Byron Bay is small and there are not enough facilities for people to come here
en masse. If there was a designated area for festivals with parking and toilet facilities it would be more desirable for the
Bay." (postcode 2481, aged 60-64)

"There has to be a permanent set up. You can't have something that is makeshift. You've got to have
proper trafficking control. Needs to be well designed and well planned. I would rather see the Blues
Festival wiped off the face of the earth than have it in Byron again, even though I'm for it. Woodford is a
model site." (postcode 2483, aged 50-54)

"I think a progressive Shire of many cultures should have a permanent dedicated site."
(postcode 2479, aged 50-54)

"Maybe all the festivals could be held at the site which would prevent bottlenecking in smaller villages."
(postcode 2479, aged 50-54)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very desirable' - in their own words

Pro - cultural events

"Because anything cultural anywhere is good" (postcode 2481, aged 50-54)

"It is part of Byron culture to have these festivals and it would be great to have a permanent site a bit further out of town" (postcode 2480, aged 18-24)

"We absolutely have to have one, we have to have iconic tourism that we share in the Shire; we need to attract people to spend money on alternative events" (postcode 2481, aged 45-49)

"Because I think as Byron has become a centre in this region for a lot of cultural events and it's become over-taxed with festivals, we need to decentralise the festival events by taking them a little further from town" (postcode 2479, aged 60-64)

"I think it's really good to improve the area. Keeps the culture of Byron alive" (postcode 2480, aged 18-24)

"We have lots of great events and they need to be hosted somewhere where no one will hassle them" (postcode 2481, aged 35-39)

"We need this because of our diverse culture. We need this as people enjoy this and it would be very popular" (postcode 2483, aged 55-59)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very desirable' - in their own words

Pro - the vision for the site

"I live close to the proposed site and I'd rather let them have it here while being environmentally conscious"
(postcode 2483, aged 50-54)

"There needs to be a place for it. The people who have bought the site are willing to talk to and work with local people. The site lends itself to music festivals beautifully. I personally feel that the site is well set up for festivals. The area will inevitably be developed anyway - so to use it for cultural events is preferable and to work with people who want to preserve its natural qualities" (postcode 2483, aged 25-29)

"Because people will look after the site and it will be safe" (postcode 2480, aged 45-49)

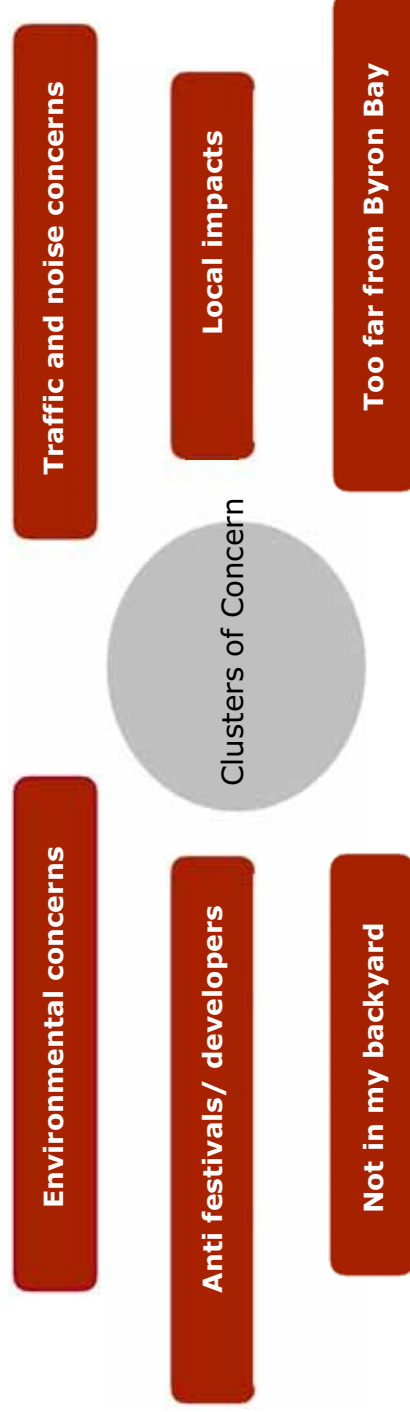
"Because the benefits for the site are huge if properly managed. I am aware of Woodford and that same ethic of a 500 yr plan. So let's make it great, environmentally, sociologically, politically balanced between the aboriginal people and the developers" (postcode 2479, aged 35-39)

"If they get the job right and organise it properly it will be a really good events site" (postcode 2483, aged 35-39)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

Clusters of concern

- > 19% of the Byron Shire community said they considered a permanent, sustainable, arts and cultural festival and events site located in the North of Byron Shire at Yelgun to be 'very undesirable'
- > Effectively therefore, the community was equally divided into strong supporters and strong detractors
- > People held this strong opposing point of view for a variety of different reasons
- > Essentially, we can segment 'clusters of concern' into the following attitudinal categories:



- > As mentioned in the introduction to this report, since the inception of the proposed festival site at Yelgun, rumours and misinformation have circulated regarding proposed plans for North Byron Shire Parklands. The key concerns have been about traffic, waste and water cycle management, ecology and the environment, noise, security and the approval process
- > These concerns are echoed in this research - it is evident there is confusion about the vision for the site and the intended use of it

'Very undesirable' - in their own words

Environmental concerns

"I have a friend out there, it will disturb his cattle" (postcode 2483, aged 75+)

"Because this location is a natural reserve. It is jeopardizing the life of different species that live there. Need to find a more suitable location" (postcode 2481, aged 40-49)

"Because it's an environmentally sensitive site, it will wreck the flora and fauna. There are local industries and farmers that will be ruined by it. It's away from services centred in the town. Sanitation, they won't be able to do everything with porta-loos" (postcode 2482, aged 55-59)

"Because of the native birds and native animals that live there - let it stay that way" (postcode 2483, aged 75+)

"One of my best friends thinks it will be bad for the environment" (postcode 2483, aged 35-39)

"Because it is not sustainable, the area floods badly" (postcode 2483, aged 25-39)

"The site is too sensitive" (postcode 2482, aged 25-29)

"It's where the bush meets the beach. It is the last bit of area where the bush meets the beach and it will destroy the bush" (postcode 2483, aged 55-59)

"Yelgun is beautiful. They will be crucifying the environment with placards and high rise and there will be no cultural experience of the environment. More of the kids will be on drugs. It's just a money making exercise for a few people at the expense of the rest of the people" (postcode 2483, aged 40-44)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very undesirable' - in their own words

Traffic and noise concerns

"There's not the infrastructure for it" (postcode 2483, aged 55-59)

"I look at it and it's a farmland area. People go there for peace and quiet. Our infrastructure will not handle it"
(postcode 2483, aged 35-39)

"There are no facilities up here to support it. There are no adequate shops and facilities. No police presence. No transport facilities. It would destroy the family amenity of this area. Confine it to Byron Bay or ban it altogether. It's not in the interests of locals. It's just Council who want to thrust it upon us. Send it to Ballina where there are facilities" (postcode 2483, aged 45-49)

"I just don't think the area is ideal for the number of people they are talking about" (postcode 2483, aged 50-54)

"Traffic problems and infringement on the animal habitats at Yelgun" (postcode 2481, aged 70-74)

"I think the traffic and noise are all the issues that are there" (postcode 2483, aged 35-39)

"The noise factor mainly. When they have had the doof parties out here the cattle go crazy and it's like water torture and you can't sleep" (postcode 2479, aged 50-54)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very undesirable' - in their own words

Anti festivals/ developers

"I just hate festivals" (postcode 2479, aged 50-54)

"Because like, there is enough festivals already" (postcode 2482, aged 18-24)

"It has not been thought through properly. People are rushing their decision. They are more worried about making mega bucks than keeping Byron the way it should be" (postcode 2480, aged 45-49)

"I am a supporter of small to medium size festivals not large scale festivals such as would be held at Yelgun. I believe that Belongil Fields is the best site for festivals" (postcode 2483, aged 45-49)

"I think it is too commercialised and done without enough community consultation. I believe an arts and cultural thing should be community based and not run as a commercial enterprise"" (postcode 2483, aged 45-49)

"From what I've heard about it, it's planning to have multiple large events. I'm against a festival site which increases the number of large festivals in the Shire because of the impact on local residents. I've heard that the site has to cross a wildlife corridor and I'm concerned about the effect that might have on the wildlife. If they just had Splendour there and small events, I probably wouldn't have a problem with it" (postcode 2483, aged 45-49)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very undesirable' - in their own words

Local impacts

"For starters I think it will attract a lot of drugs into the area through music festivals, and we don't need that. This is a quiet little place and we don't need that sort of behaviour and the noise."
(postcode 2483, aged 55-59)

"Because it will spoil the natural beauty and ruin the local's peace."
(postcode 2481, aged 50-54)

"Because I don't think both sides have been heard adequately yet. I think the residents need to be taken into account. There are concerns about increased traffic and the rest of it. I think still at this stage it is quite a controversial issue. There is no infrastructure to support it"
(postcode 2483, aged 40-44)

"The local people are concerned about access from local streets and also noise levels."
(postcode 2483, aged 55-59)

"The disruption to people's lives will be unbelievable and the return to locals will be zilch."
(postcode 2481, aged 65-69)

"Because I don't think it's relevant. It's a small community not asking for it. It's a small area of land they can find something better. Byron is better set up to cater for it. We shouldn't impose something onto people who are not asking for it."
(postcode 2481, aged 35-39)

"The residents have gone there to live their life in peace and don't deserve to have it ruined with young people, toilet paper left everywhere, broken bottles, noise and traffic."
(postcode 2481, aged 55-59)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very undesirable' - in their own words

Too far from Byron Bay

"I think it should be at Byron. It's too far north" (postcode 2480, aged 55-59)

"The lack of public transport to the site" (postcode 2483, aged 35-39)

"It's out of the way at Yelgun" (postcode 2482, aged 60-64)

"It's too far from Byron. The kids will all want to go to Byron at the end of an event and they'll all be drunk and stoned. It all adds up to not a good idea, a desperate idea" (postcode 2482, aged 55-59)

"It's too far removed from the places of accommodation so everyone will have to bus it from town and will cause massive dislocation to locals. There will still be massive traffic jams in and out of Byron. Then you also have the added risk of people drink driving" (postcode 2479, aged 50-54)

"Because most people want to go to Byron. People haven't heard of Yelgun. It is an unsuitable site. No transport in and out of the region and the area floods and it is a wildlife corridor and there is nowhere for people to stay and the noise will affect the local residents and wildlife. I feel that it is a totally negative move for the Northern part of the Shire. It should be in Byron Bay because that is what the tourists know and want to see" (postcode 2483, aged 55-59)

"It sustains a lot of people through the quiet business months in winter - the proposed move would take a lot of people out of the Bay, that's why I think it is undesirable" (postcode 2481, aged 30-34)

"At the moment there are different people getting good business from the tourists it brings to the different areas in which the sites are held. It it were just in one set site all of those businesses would miss out and it would become very monopolised" (postcode 2482, aged 35-39)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

'Very undesirable' - in their own words

Not in my backyard

"NOT IN MY BACKYARD!" (postcode 2483, aged 75+)

"Well, because I live very near to the proposed site, and I don't think things are in place to support it" (postcode 2483, aged 70-74)

"I live in Ocean Shores. Byron gets everything. We get nothing except their shit, like millions of cars going to festivals" (postcode 2483, aged 50-54)

"The people in the area will have to put up with it. It should be 20km from any residents" (postcode 2483, aged 75+)

"It's way too big and will disrupt our little town as we are close to it" (postcode 2483, aged 55-59)

Responses to open ended question 'why do you say that'

Conclusions

FRESH
PROJECTS

Conclusions

- > This research demonstrates the community in Byron Shire is very diverse
- > There is definitely a community segment with strong concerns about the proposed festival site
- > On the other hand, there is a sense of optimism about the proposed site across other sectors of the community
- > Byron Shire is a place of many different cultures including families, low and high income earners, the self employed, small business owners, new arrivals, young adults who have grown up here and are looking to their future in the Shire as well as older, long term residents who are also keen to see a future for the young people of Byron Shire
- > The purpose of this research was to understand community attitudes and perceptions and to give a voice to the community on these important issues
- > This research will assist future decision making and will enable decisions to be based on sound and rigorous data

Appendix C

Letterbox drop flyer

Dear community member

We write regarding our plans for a sustainable cultural event venue at North Byron Parklands, our 660 acre (256 hectare) land at Yelgun in the north of the Byron Shire. North Byron Parklands is proposed as the permanent home for Splendour in the Grass.

Some 66% of our land is pasture land used for grazing and 33% is identified within Council mapping as High Conservation Vegetation. The majority of the site is not located within the Marshall's Ridge wildlife corridor. Our proposal involves increasing the size and function of the wildlife corridor and to this end we are working with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to increase the site's ecological values, improve the wildlife corridor effectiveness and protect the Billinudgel Nature Reserve.

The event usage proposed is in grazed pasturelands covering less than 50% of the overall site, leaving the majority of the site for habitat use and out of bounds.

In summary, the proposal is for cultural events with an upper limit of 20 days event usage a year. During the remainder of the year the land will operate, in part, as a working farm and within the forested and revegetated areas in a manner similar to a nature reserve.

A later stage proposes a conference centre with a capacity of up to 300 people, a cultural centre covering local indigenous and non-indigenous history from the immediate area, a depot and office for a dedicated rainforest restoration team and a plant nursery for rainforest and bush tucker plants.

Our application will be determined by the Minister for Planning pursuant to Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act). In other words, our proposal will be decided upon by the NSW Government.



Events are defined in the following categories:

- Minor event – less than 300 patrons
- Small event – 300 to 3,000 patrons
- Moderate event – 3,000 to 10,000 patrons
- Major event – greater than 10,000 patrons

We are seeking approval for the maximum event usage of North Byron Parklands to be:

- Major events – no more than 12 event days per year. Splendour in the Grass would occupy 3 of these 12 days.
- Moderate events – no more than 4 event days per year.
- Small events – no more than 4 event days per year.
- Minor events – no daily limits are proposed.

Camping space will be provided on site in association with events, enhancing the cultural experience for patrons as well as reducing traffic impacts and accommodation demands in local areas.

Over the last nine years Splendour in the Grass has donated over \$231,000 to local charities, community and environment groups primarily via their Community Grants Fund. They also donate Splendour tickets to community groups for the purpose of fundraising. In 2009 alone \$8,944 was raised from ticket donations.

Each year Splendour has increased its level of commitment to the community and as the event develops those opportunities will grow.

It is sincerely hoped that Splendour in the Grass can come home to Byron Shire in time for its 2011 event.

We are seeking community views regarding our proposal. To give feedback, to organise a tour of North Byron Parklands or to ask any questions please contact community@northbyronshireparklands.com or 9475 5046.

www.northbyronshireparklands.com

Thank you very much.

North Byron Parklands



Revegetation works

Appendix D

Letter sent to stakeholders



19 May 2010

Tracy Esau
Secretary
P & C Association
Mullumbimby Public School
Morrison Avenue
MULLUMBIMBY NSW 2482

Dear Tracy

We wanted to communicate with the Mullumbimby Public School regarding our proposal for a sustainable cultural event venue on our 660 acre (256 hectare) site at Yelgun.

You may be aware of our impending application (comprising a Concept Plan and Project Application) which will be determined by the Minister for Planning pursuant to Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act).

As you may know, in 2006 two adjoining land parcels were purchased and amalgamated, creating North Byron Parklands. Some 66% of the land is pasture land used for grazing and 33% is identified within Council mapping as High Conservation Vegetation. The majority of the site is not located within the Marshall's Ridge wildlife corridor.

Our proposal involves increasing the size and function of the wildlife corridor and protecting the Billinudgel Nature Reserve. Many initiatives to this end have been undertaken to date and some of these are detailed on our website (northbyronshireparklands.com.au).

The event usage proposed is in grazed pasturelands covering less than 50% of the overall site. This leaves the majority of the site, including the forested and revegetated lands, for habitat use and out of bounds.

In summary, the proposal is for use of North Byron Parklands for cultural events with an upper limit of 20 days event usage a year, with a maximum of 12 of those days being for major events. During the remainder of the year the land will operate, in part, as a working farm and within the forested and revegetated areas in a manner similar to a nature reserve.

A later stage proposes a conference centre with a capacity of up to 300 people, a cultural centre covering local indigenous and non-indigenous history from the immediate area, a depot and office for a dedicated rainforest restoration team and a plant nursery for rainforest and bush tucker plants.

Events are defined in the following categories:

- Minor event – less than 300 patrons
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We are seeking approval for the maximum event usage of North Byron Parklands to be:

- Major events – no more than 12 event days per year. Splendour in the Grass would occupy three of these 12 days.
- Moderate events – no more than 4 event days per year.
- Small events – no more than 4 event days per year.
- Minor Events – no daily limits are proposed.

Camping space will be provided on site in association with events, enhancing the cultural experience for patrons and reducing traffic and accommodation demands in local areas.

The one known event that would occur at Parklands is Splendour in the Grass. Over the last nine years Splendour has donated over \$231,000 to local charities, community and environment groups primarily via their Community Grants Fund. They also donate Splendour tickets to community groups for the purpose of fundraising. In 2009 alone \$8,944 was raised from ticket donations. This practice will continue and expand at North Byron Parklands.

We are seeking community views regarding our proposal so please don't hesitate to call or email me any time on community@northbyronshireparklands.com or 9475 5046.

If any of your members would like a site tour of North Byron Parklands I will gladly arrange this.

The use of the site and its impacts on the local community will be continually monitored to ensure best practice management as well as to avoid or minimise any negative impacts.

There is a significant amount of information on our website - northbyronshireparklands.com.au

Thank you very much.

Sincerely

Mat Morris
General Manager

Appendix E

Advertisements in Tweed Echo, the Byron Shire Echo and the Byron Shire News
regarding the March 2010 North Byron Parklands information afternoon

Champ's high hopes for triathlon



Luis Feliu

Current world para-triathlon champion Bill Chaffey, of Bilambil Heights, hopes the inaugural Kingscliff Triathlon this Sunday, March 7, will boost the sport's profile to get more Australian wheelchair athletes involved.

The 34-year-old senior constable at Tweed Heads police station remembers when he first started wheelchair triathlons not so long ago, he was always competing against overseas athletes.

"There were no others from Australia, and I managed to get others involved, but then, all my competitors were from overseas where the sport is big," he told *The Echo* this week.

"This event is a first for the region, I guess they're trying to make it a flagship event, and trying to get a Noosa-style triathlon for Kingscliff," he said.

Bill was a keen triathlete before an accident five years ago left him with a paralysed leg. During an early morning train-

ing ride, he was struck from behind by a truck and seriously injured. He suffered incomplete paraplegia as a result and now walks with a cane or crutch.

He initially tried cycling with one leg on a regular bike and tried the run section on crutches but later switched to the hand-cycle and wheelchair in events where a 1.9 kilometre swim, 90 kilometre cycle and 21 kilometre run leg is the norm.

World crown defence

So between office duties in pre-prosecution work, Bill trains hard, especially with the defence of his world crown looming in September in Hungary, a year after winning his wheelchair division at the ITU World Triathlon titles on the Gold Coast.

Bill, one of the more than 380 competitors in the inaugural Kingscliff event, is currently recovering from a shoulder tendon injury but feels confident of doing well on Sunday in his new hometown race.

Bill will be joined in the 'Al-

most Olympic' race by Paralympian Marayke Jonkers, from Queensland's Sunshine Coast, who won a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics in the individual medley and two medals in the 2004 Games in Athens.

She only recently became involved in triathlon and is aiming to earn a place at this year's world triathlon titles in Budapest.

Race organisers have confirmed road closures on the Sunday morning with Marine Parade from Seaview to Turnock Street closed from 4.30am-11.30am (DST) and Turnock Street to Wommin Bay Road from 6.30am-11am. The full length of Wommin Bay Road will be closed from 6.30am-11am, while Chinderah Bay Road from Wommin Bay Road to its southern end will be closed to traffic from 7am-11am. Marine Parade from the surf club to the new board walk will be closed to traffic heading south from 6.30-11am.

Left: world para-triathlon champion Bill Chaffey of Bilambil Heights training on the Tweed for this Sunday's Kingscliff Triathlon.

Bill says the fairly flat course, with few steps or dirt sections, is ideal for wheelchair triathlons and he is looking forward to the ocean swim.

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NORTH BYRON SHIRE

Information afternoon Sunday 14 March 2-5pm

Visit North Byron Parklands. Talk to the team and learn about the vision for the land.

Site walks leaving at 2:15pm, 3:15pm and 4:15pm. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen and walking shoes.

Jones Road Yelgun. Jones Road is off Tweed Valley Way 2km north of the Yelgun interchange, or 24.5km south of Murwillumbah. Continue along Jones Road for about 400m.

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Minister pressed for 'proper' rally review

Luis Feliu

The state government has promised to conduct a proper economic review of the controversial world rally, as set out in law, according to North Coast MLC Ian Cohen.

Mr Cohen last week said state development minister Ian Macdonald had 'conceded to pressure' and 'committed in the House to a proper economic review' of the rally, run through the Tweed and Kyogle shires last September.

The government forced the event onto the shires with special legislation, which also required a review of the economic and social impact on the region. The review was conducted late last year.

But the Greens MP said his office had been 'alarmed to hear' that Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC), the company contracted to review the rally, was not going to undertake an economic cost ben-

efit analysis, which residents expected.

"I asked the minister in question time why IMC was not doing an economic analysis and how IMC could possibly recommend the continuation of the rally to the minister if such an analysis has not been done," he said.

Anecdotal assertions

"The minister's initial response was his usual bluster about what a great event it was and how local businesses did such good trade over that weekend. Such anecdotal assertions are spurious and mean nothing if not supported by a full economic analysis of the event. I have heard of businesses that actually suffered as a result of the event. A proper analysis is the only way to determine if the event was financially viable.

"I have reservations as to how we will discover the real cost benefit of the rally, since

the amount of funding given by Events NSW to the rally organisers has been kept secret under "commercial in confidence". If we don't know the initial outlay, how can final figures be determined?"

No Rally Group (NRG) spokesperson Andrea Vickers said the minister's response was only 'a small step out of whitewash territory' and 'the reviewing parties have said they have neither the expertise nor the budget to conduct a proper economic analysis'.

"We call on the minister to commission a proper cost-benefit analysis by a qualified independent party, not to rely on submissions to IMC by Rally Australia and Events NSW, who are both interested parties."

"It's time for the scamming, shamming and whitewashing to stop, and for the minister to come clean and set up a valid, transparent, expert and independent review as he is obliged to do," Ms Vickers said.

www.tweedecho.com.au

The Tweed Shire Echo March 4, 2010 3



Upgrading the Pacific Highway Tintenbar to Ewingsdale

Planning approval

The NSW Minister for Planning approved the Pacific Highway Tintenbar to Ewingsdale upgrade on 29 January 2010. The Chief Executive of the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) subsequently agreed to proceed with the construction and operation of the project subject to the conditions set by the Minister for Planning, the RTA's project priorities for upgrading the Pacific Highway and available funding.

Planning approval documents are available on the project website or by contacting the project information line (see below).

The RTA will now start preconstruction activities to prepare the project for construction. These will include field investigations, property acquisitions and the start of the tender process.

For more information contact the project information line 1800 882 787 (toll free) or visit the website www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific

Pathways Foundation

Every Child's Rise

The Pathways Foundation is a National Farm Prevention Charity that assists young people make the fundamental emotional shift from being a child to becoming a young adult. Pathways does this by providing contemporary, community based life skills of Passage programs including Pathways to Manhood, Pathways into Womanhood, as well as Young Stars camps, and school and community talks.



UPCOMING CAMPS

Young Stars Camp

For boys aged 12-15 and their fathers (or mentors)
(NORTH COAST TOUR PROGRAM)
12th - 13th June 2010

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW

The success of Pathways relies heavily on the time invested by our local volunteers. We currently need assistance in the areas of marketing, fundraising, promotion and more. Please contact Anthony Brown on 0415 132 399 for more info about what you can do. To ensure we can continue to support our youth.

Pathways to Manhood

For boys aged 15-19 and their fathers (or mentors)
(NORTH COAST TOUR PROGRAM)
19th - 24th April

(SINGLE CAMP DATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR)

For bookings call: 1300 850 766

For information contact: Anthony Brown 0415 132 399

Regional Co-ordinators North Coast 0408

www.pathwaysfoundation.org.au



Rudd betrays public on whaling

Sue Arnold

Last week, we had PM Rudd assuring the Australian public that his government would take Japan to the International Court of Justice if whaling did not cease and that this action would be initiated by November, just before the start of the next whaling season.

Across the pond, NZ's Prime Minister Key indulged in a similar spin. A visit between Japan's Foreign Minister and Minister Stephen Smith was widely broadcast with the Japanese Minister making a very muted response to the so-called threat of international legal action.

A few days later, the International Whaling Commission released its draft proposals to 'fix' the IWC, thereby placating Japan and putting the whale killing show back on the road. This proposal has been drawn up over the last 12 months by a Small Working Group (SWG) of the IWC, consisting of a number of member governments including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the USA.

Behind-doors deal

So on the one hand, PM Rudd tells the public that his government will take Japan to the international courts while behind the scenes, his officials have been negotiating a deal which will see commercial whaling resume.

This draft proposal, the focus of a meeting of the SWG in Florida from March 2-4, is a disgraceful document. Not only does it allow Japan, Norway and Iceland to continue whaling, there is no suggestion that the Japanese whaling fleet should leave the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.

As well, the draft allows for Japan to begin coastal whaling,

thus setting up another category of whaling in the IWC. If Japan is allowed to begin coastal whaling, this would be a discriminatory act likely to get right up the noses of countries like South Korea who are keen to have the same rights. A not unfair proposition.

If the draft is accepted, Japan will be let off the hook of any potential international legal action. All doors to the international courts would be closed with the only option a challenge in a WTO Tribunal, a most unlikely event.

Quotas for killing

So Australia has been involved in a deal behind the scenes which would absolutely prevent any future government from taking international legal action. Kevin Rudd at no time advised the public that his government is engaged in a process which would not only reward Japan for its violations of many international treaties, but involve Australia in setting quotas for killing whales.

This is an act of supreme betrayal. In the face of polls which show that more than 90% of Australians oppose whaling and are very unhappy with Rudd's broken promises, only a very arrogant Prime Minister would indulge in such double dealing.

The proposal sets up a situation where any whaling by the three whaling nations would be policed and infractions enforced by its own personnel.

Contracting governments would have the right to 'apply' sufficiently severe sanctions so as to effectively ensure compliance. Given that Japan has no domestic legislation which protects whales, and given the obscene cruelty of the horrendous dolphin drives, it is highly unlikely that Japan is going to

come up with 'sufficiently severe sanctions'.

A section which deals with vessel monitoring was obviously put together to thwart any efforts by Sea Shepherd to harass the Japanese whaling fleet. Whaling captains are advised that they have no need to broadcast their position if it might 'endanger the safety and life of crews'. Never mind what the whaling fleet might do to the protest vessels.

The contentious subject of whale killing methods has basically been consigned to the too hard basket.

No policing

There are recommendations that the IWC usher in a program for ten years where all hunting of great whales comes under their control. So in effect, the Commission would set quotas rather than whaling countries taking that right to themselves under reservations or scientific permits. But there's no prohibition on whaling in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary. Nor a provision for an international police force to monitor any whaling.

A review of the ten year program would be undertaken after five years, but the draft proposal also recommends that the IWC meet every two years instead of annually. Quotas set may be down-scaled if 'a significant event negatively affects the status of stock'. There's no explanation as to what a significant event might be.

NGOs are thrown a carrot by being promised the opportunity to speak at IWC meetings. But only if they behave, are not disruptive, do not demonstrate, and notify the Chair prior to discussion of the agenda item they wish to speak to. Then if irritated, they can only speak af-

ter Contracting Governments as time allows. Comments shall be brief.

Yeah. They sure will. And if any of the NGO comments are not welcomed by Contracting Governments, then there's a good likelihood that the NGO will lose accreditation or be suspended. In other words, two different sets of standards for governments and NGOs.

There's not a single whale species which has sufficiently recovered to allow whaling. Climate change is severely impacting the world's oceans with consequences that are far reaching. Ocean acidity has enormous potential to cause irreversible environmental catastrophes, anoxic (dead) zones are spreading, overfishing and pollution are having major impacts.

Dysfunctionality

In the face of massive environmental problems, the IWC SWG, which includes Australia, has come up with a proposal that deserves to be condemned outright. It is probably time for the United Nations Environment Program to step up to the plate and examine the dysfunctionality of the IWC.

At the domestic level, Kevin Rudd has massively underestimated the public's genuine concern and compassion for whales. He and Minister Garrett need to understand that the people are not stupid and we do not like false promises, hypocrisy and duplicity.

In the US, people are talking seriously about Barack Obama being a one term president. In the light of the whaling sell-out and the installation debacle, Kevin Rudd and his government could share a similar fate.

It's time the Prime Minister was made accountable.

Radioactive waste is coming our way

Matthew Hartley

Nuclear waste will arrive in this country from Scotland and France beginning in 2014. That's not coming from me, that's from Martin Ferguson, on behalf of the Rudd government. There is no wriggle room any more: the ALP, the Libs, and the Nats, are committed to the arrangement. It has been explained to us in the past, and it has begun.

Last week, Howard government legislation imposing a waste dump on traditional owners was repealed, but as Ferguson pointed out, the waste is arriving. The Northern Land Council has already agreed on a site, Muckaty Station near Tennant Creek, but they may find another.

Let's examine how things now are. A foreign-owned

mining company operates a uranium mine in Australia, a highly dangerous activity. They sell the uranium overseas, with all the dangers of transporting the stuff. It is used to boil water in a power station. Then it comes back here, even more dangerous and unstable, and is stored at our expense, for at least 750 million years. The profits go to largely overseas shareholders. The risk is all ours.

Risk. Let's see; in the last 100,000 years Australia has been largely submerged, through an ice age, a wet continent of forest, oh, and a new species arrived, humans. We've existed about 150,000 years and we only learnt part of how something as basic as rainfall works within living memory. Gondwana began to break up 167 million years ago, it is

surmised. How can there be any practical risk management over a period of time where absolutely anything will happen and the continent will have smashed through South-East Asia? There can't.

This will cost us, forever. It is a purely corrupt deal between mining companies and politicians, at our expense. It must be stopped.

It can only be stopped by taking control the federal government. This can be achieved. A coalition of independents must be formed with an agreed binding agenda. Candidates must run in every electorate. This nuclear lunacy and larceny must end.

Matthew Hartley of Byron Bay intends to run as an independent candidate for the federal seat of Richmond.

parklands

NORTH BYRON SHIRE

Information afternoon Sunday 14 March 2-5pm

Visit North Byron Parklands. Talk to the team and learn about the vision for the land.

Site walks leaving at 2:15pm, 3:15pm and 4:15pm. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen and walking shoes.

Jones Road Yalgoo. Jones Road is off Tweed Valley Way 2km north of the Yalgoo interchange, or 24.5km south of Murrumbidgee. Continue along Jones Road for about 400m.

community@northbyronparklands.com.au / 0475 5066 / www.northbyronparklands.com.au



parklands

NORTH BYRON SHIRE

Information afternoon Sunday 14 March 2-5pm

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Site walks leaving at 2:15pm, 3:15pm and 4:15pm. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen and walking shoes.

Jones Road Yelgun. Jones Road is off Tweed Valley Way 2km north of the Yelgun interchange, or 24.5km south of Murwillumbah. Continue along Jones Road for about 400m.

community@northbyronshirerparklands.nsw.gov.au / 9475 5066 | www.northbyronshirerparklands.nsw.gov.au



10. BYRON SHIRE NEWS, THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010.

Appendix F

Advertisements in Byron Shire Echo and Byron Shire News
following Splendour's temporary move announcement

SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS

Over the last couple of weeks a lot of comments have been made about our temporary move to Woodford. Here are some facts -

- Byron Shire Council did not reject an application for Splendour In The Grass at Belongil Fields in 2010, we didn't make one. The site was available and we would likely have been approved for a festival as per previous years. However in response to the draft event policy that was prepared without any industry consultation we had to make the decision to seek a Council that supports the festival's potential and opportunity it brings. The draft event policy places so many restrictions upon events that under it Splendour cannot have a future in Byron Bay.
- Any event smaller than Splendour will struggle to operate under the draft event policy guidelines.
- Splendour should not be blamed for holiday letting issues in Byron Bay. We are one event in winter, the quietest possible time to stage an event. There are many other busy peak times throughout the year that contribute to residents wanting to capitalise on the popularity of their town.
- The proposal for the North Byron Parklands site is for up to 12 days of major events (over 10,000 patrons) a year. Splendour would occupy three of these 12 days. We do not seek 12 - 16 major events per year.
- We understand the entire community do not attend our festival. With that awareness we earnestly strive to present an event that benefits the Byron Shire socially, environmentally and economically at the same time as managing any impacts. The 660 acre North Byron Parklands site has far superior characteristics to Belongil Fields to better manage impacts such as noise, traffic, illegal camping and waste.

If you would like Splendour to return to Byron then we need you to contact our Councilors and write letters of support to our local newspapers.

For more information on the Parklands site please visit www.northbyronshirerparklands.com.au

Thank you

Oh Christmas tree...

Oh my goodness! Well, bring on Maca's, I say. It matches the tacky, plastic advertising board that is supposed to be our Christmas tree.

What are these people thinking? I have never seen an uglier Christmas tree in my life!

Did this really cost over \$10,000? I for one would have been insulted and outraged if Council had paid for this.

What made Byron beautiful and unique is slowly being eroded away by greed.

There are people with nothing to eat locally and further afield. Why couldn't they string fairy lights in trees already there?

Shame, shame, shame.

Fiona Grant
Federal

I was on the school bus Friday morning listening to the kids screaming, yelling, swearing, L...ing this and that and then... "The tree, the tree, oh look the tree, oh yeah, merry Christmas, cooooo!" etc etc. Turned the 1/1 monitors into angels in a second. It was a delight. Thank you Byron Shire and Byron United for making it happen again. Just what all small country town communities need. Let's hope the tree cheer turns the hoolies into angels too.

Jude Southwell
Sunrise

It is not in dispute that the Christmas tree in Byron Bay is possibly the ugliest installation that I have ever encountered, irrespective of any misguided Christmas cheer that I might possess.

However this year, the tree symbolically takes the celebration of capitalism to even greater heights by providing as decoration various signage advertising local businesses. Aesthetically this is a grotesque and it should be removed forthwith.

Nick Gazzard
Blindmooth

A big thanks from the depths of our pockets must go to the humble, noble and industrious folk who so graciously saved Byron town centre from a joyless Christmas season by erecting what is surely the greenest and biggest, marketing - oops I mean Christmas - tree that the Byron clocktower has ever seen!

To stand beneath this modern wonder is to behold the crowning jewel of our humanity's long evolutionary road from oceans to caves to great shopping malls (and also risk being pushed out in front of a truck by a mob of schoolies crossing the road).

Now that's \$10,000 well spent!

Meanwhile down at Main Beach, majestic pines gently invite hungry holidayers to enjoy their generous shade while admiring the brilliant bay.

Surely a couple of grand could see one of these trees transformed by night into a 'real' Christmas tree.

Ten grand could have them all colourfully alight creating a magical Christmas night walk.

Well, maybe next time... Merry shopping and drinking everyone!

Mauricio Laratro
Byron Bay

CHECK IT CLEAN IT RECYCLE IT

Remove lids, caps, corks and tops. Squash containers.

Flatten boxes.

Rinse and clean all bottles and cans.

Don't put recyclables in plastic bags.

Don't break glass.



For more info call: 6626 7000
www.byron.nsw.gov.au/sustainability/swap-market

10am - 2pm, Sat 12th Dec.
outside Council Chambers, Mullum.

It's fun, free and green!

Composting demos

BBQ and cakes

Byron Shire Swap Market!

Seed swap

Buskers welcome!

An Initiative Of Byron Shire Council

Supported by: **seedsavers**



SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS

Over the last couple of weeks a lot of comments have been made about our temporary move to Woodford. Here are some facts -

- Byron Shire Council did not reject an application for Splendour In The Grass at Belongil Fields in 2010, we didn't make one. The site was available and we would likely have been approved for a festival as per previous years. However in response to the draft event policy that was prepared without any industry consultation we had to make the decision to seek a Council that supports the festival's potential and opportunity it brings. The draft event policy places so many restrictions upon events that under it Splendour cannot have a future in Byron Bay.
- Any event smaller than Splendour will struggle to operate under the draft event policy guidelines.
- Splendour should not be blamed for holiday letting issues in Byron Bay. We are one event in winter, the quietest possible time to stage an event. There are many other busy peak times throughout the year that contribute to residents wanting to capitalise on the popularity of their town.
- The proposal for the North Byron Parklands site is for up to 12 days of major events (over 10,000 patrons) a year. Splendour would occupy three of these 12 days. We do not seek 12 - 16 major events per year.
- We understand the entire community do not attend our festival. With that awareness we earnestly strive to present an event that benefits the Byron Shire socially, environmentally and economically at the same time as managing any impacts. The 660 acre North Byron Parklands site has far superior characteristics to Belongil Fields to better manage impacts such as noise, traffic, illegal camping and waste.

If you would like Splendour to return to Byron then we need you to contact our Councillors and write letters of support to our local newspapers.

For more information on the Parklands site please visit
www.northbyronshireparklands.com.au

Thank you

8, BYRON SHIRE NEWS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009.

Appendix G

“Splendour 10th Anniversary at Woodford” media release 25th November 2009



25 November 2009

media release

SPLENDOUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY AT WOODFORD

Splendour In The Grass has been working toward establishing a permanent sustainable event venue to stage the festival. The chosen 660 acre North Byron Parklands site at Yelgun in the Byron Shire is undergoing the comprehensive approval process with the NSW Department of Planning and will not be ready for next year's event.

In the meantime and as they approach the tenth anniversary of Splendour In The Grass, organisers today announced the festival will temporarily relocate to Woodford in Queensland, home of the Woodford Folk Festival.

"Woodford Folk Festival and their beautiful site Woodfordia have been a great source of inspiration to us and we feel honoured to borrow their home" said Jessica Ducrou, organiser of Splendour in the Grass.

"Securing the venue has meant we have been able to confirm dates and we are happy to announce that Splendour's tenth anniversary event will run over three days, from Friday July 30 to Sunday August 1 2010".

Mayor Allan Sutherland of Moreton Bay Regional Council said "We have worked hard to attract this signature celebration of music and culture to Woodford, an area that already has the runs well and truly on the board when it comes to hosting quality music festivals. Moreton Bay Regional Council's prompt endorsement of the event – and eagerness to work with event organisers, the venue owner and the State Government – highlights its desire to create a region that values economic development, lifestyle and unforgettable experiences.

"We have a great opportunity to grow our event and give people better access to the festival but at the same time keep Splendour In The Grass a unique and personal experience" said Jessica Ducrou. "Given the size of the venue we will be able to accommodate almost all festival patrons in camping grounds onsite, giving more people the full festival experience. The purpose built venue also means that we can incorporate a broader range of arts and cultural experiences, which we have been wanting to do for many years".

"Having one of Australia's premier contemporary music events at Woodfordia will be a privilege" said Bill Hauritz, Director of Woodford Folk Festival. "Splendour is one of the best managed events I have observed, they are responsible, caring and disciplined organisers. We can expect the best. We are grateful to the Queensland Government and Moreton Bay Regional Council for their enthusiasm and support, which has enabled Woodfordia to host Splendour in the Grass in 2010".

"We will continue to work through the approval process for our permanent home in the Byron Shire" said Jessica Ducrou.

**For further information including interviews and images please contact Caroline Desmond
02 66875674 0415 499429 caroline@carolinedesmond.com.au**

Appendix H

“NSW Government to decide North Byron Parklands” media release 24th July 2009



24 July 2009

media release

NSW Government to decide North Byron Shire Parklands

The New South Wales government is to be the consent authority for an application by North Byron Shire Parklands to develop a permanent event venue on their site.

The application for the 256 hectare Yelgun site falls under Part 3 A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, which deals with major projects.

Due to the scope of the proposal required to prepare the site as a permanent events venue, the application falls outside of Byron Shire Council's jurisdiction.

In July 2008 the Byron Shire Council granted consent to conduct a one off trial event at North Byron Shire Parklands. Council's decision was then challenged in the Land and Environment Court by the group Conservation of North Ocean Shores Inc (CONOS).

On 6 May 2009 Justice Brian Preston found fault with the technical processing of the application and revoked Byron Shire Council's approval for the trial event. He said Council should have issued consent for both use of roads and a place of assembly, whereas they only issued consent for a place of assembly.

North Byron Shire Parklands have written to Council advising that they wish to formally withdraw the trial event DA.

Mat Morris, General Manager for North Byron Shire Parklands said "We still have ongoing involvement with the planning department at Byron Council. We will be lodging local DA's to further improve the habitat values of the land and we wish to finalise the subdivision to allow us to dedicate land free of cost to the National Parks and Wildlife Service as an addition to the Nature Reserve.

"The local community does not lose the right to have input into the processing of our application. The application will be placed on public exhibition and any person can make submissions in the same way that they would with Byron Shire Council.

"We are confident that we can develop an asset the community will be proud of. One which incorporates cutting edge conservation and sustainability practices and which will provide substantial local employment opportunities".

Further information can be found at www.northbyronshireparklands.com.au

For further information including interviews, images and site visits please contact Caroline Desmond on 02 6687 5674 or 0415 499 429 or caroline@carolinedesmond.com.au

Appendix I

Letters to the Editor from North Byron Parklands in 2010

Offended by 'smoke and mirrors' jibe

As Brett Bishop (Letters, January 7) is aware, the proposal for North Byron Parklands is for a sustainable multiple-event venue.

We have applied to Byron Shire Council for a two-stage subdivision for two reasons. One is to transfer land to increase the size of the Billinudgel Nature Reserve and the other is to increase the value of our land so that in the event that we are unable to proceed with our dream, we may on-sell the land in a more attractive state. The Minister for Environment has granted land owners consent for the subdivision.

We do not intend to activate the second stage of the subdivision, division of the 660 acre site into six lots, unless we fail to achieve approval as a sustainable event venue and are forced to sell our land. We began this process over eight months ago, prior to the draft events policy fuelling our temporary move to Woodford.

As local event organisers and music promoters who work ethically and honestly, we take great offence to Mr Bishop's statement: "C'mon Splendour developers, stop the smoke and mirrors and try honesty instead." Perhaps Mr Bishop can stop the smoke and mirrors and try honesty in relation to the environment at North Byron Parklands.

A portion of the property adjoins the Billinudgel Nature Reserve and approximately 35% falls into an area which has been identified as a wildlife corridor.

Whilst considered wildlife corridor from a planning perspective, decades of intensive farming resulted in a less than pristine environment. The land was seriously degraded when we purchased two adjoining sites and amalgamated them over three years ago.

Approximately two-thirds of the property had been extensively cleared and the remaining vegetation is predominantly compromised by invasive weeds and damage from livestock. Movement of animals between forested

areas has been restricted by this fragmentation and a host of physical barriers including Tweed Valley Way and the recently upgraded Pacific Highway. Our work in regeneration and reforestation, while never good enough for some, has dramatically improved the habitat values and biodiversity of the land.

This work is ongoing and would substantially increase should approval for a sustainable event venue be achieved.

Parklands' ownership of the two amalgamated sites provides a unique and one-off opportunity to help restore the wildlife corridor link between Billinudgel Nature Reserve and the Mount Warning Caldera.

We firmly believe that the environment will benefit from our sustainable event site that will only be used for large events for up to 12 days a year. Please Mr Bishop, consider all options for the site if we were forced to sell.

Jessica Ducrou,
North Byron Parklands

Splendour site

REGARDING Brett Bishop (NS, 26/4): Mick Daley is entitled to write what he sees.

You are entitled to write about what you see, but not what you don't.

Please allow others to make up their own minds, without writing untruths about what is proposed at North Byron Parklands.

I refer to your comments at the February 25 Draft Events Policy meeting at the Byron Surf Club, where you agreed that Splendour should come back to Byron, albeit to Byron township.

You said that events bring economic and cultural benefits and the best place for them is in Byron town, as you live at Yelgun and never come to Byron.

Brett, we hope you will walk the site with us and share your concerns rationally. It is never too late for this.

We ask the community to tour our site and see for themselves what is being proposed. To make an appointment please email: community@northbyronshireparklands.com; or telephone 9475 5046.

**MAT MORRIS, general manager,
North Byron Parklands.**

THE NORTHERN STAR, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2010, 21.

Letters

Differing views of a festival site

■ Good people, please don't turn off just yet! Latest word from North Byron Shire Parklands - the cosy feelgood name given to the proposed privately run mega festival city for the north of our Shire. This week one of our local associations was sent a letter from NBSR. It outlines in black and white the intended uses for their unwanted and completely inappropriate (over) development proposal currently before the NSW state government.

If we as a community allow this to proceed, then the residents of the north, plus the plants and animals of the Billimudgel Nature Reserve and surrounding areas, will be subjected to, as plainly stated in the letter, an unlimited number of festival days per year.

Comprising four massive Splendour type 3-day events, with more than 10,000 people and no upper limit on numbers; four 'moderate' single day events with up to 10,000 people; and no limit of 'small, less than 300 people events per year.

I cannot (politely) express how fed up I am of fighting this monstrous proposal. Here are the issues yet again that just won't go away, no matter how many times NBSR use 'sustainable' and 'best practice' in a sentence.

Doof doof doof - noise, noise and more noise till jam.

Great, just what you want at home in your own living room and later in the 'boudoir' after a hard day in paradise. Traffic - cars, buses, trucks in their thousands. Turning Tweed Valley Way into Parramatta road.

Ecology - the plants and animals of the Nature Reserve and the local area. Our wildlife is far too threatened and fragile to risk the negative effects of this outrageous proposed development.

Holiday letting - turning more of our largest residential and the most affordable areas in our shire into short term party accommodation. It only takes one house like this to ruin a whole street.

Be prepared, people! This letter from them is just the start of the process. Be alert and alarmed! Soon will be our chance to write submissions to defend our lifestyle, our neighbourhoods and our planet, yet again.

■ Bishop Yelgun

■ Thanks Bob Oehlman, (Letters May 18) for your take on wildlife at Yelgun. We agree

unreservedly with your statement, 'With increasing pressure of development and diminishing habitat, nature reserves and wildlife corridors are absolutely vital for the ongoing survival of our unique Australian fauna.' Biodiversity cannot be sustained in Nature Reserves alone and the contribution of well managed habitats on private lands is widely recognised to be vital to conserve native ecosystem functions, especially connectivity.

Maintaining the status quo on the two farms we purchased and amalgamated was not going to achieve this. Under the stewardship of North Byron Parklands we consider that the flora and fauna of our land will be significantly better off than under any other realistic proposition for the land. To develop our aim of establishing a world class cultural event site within an enhanced ecological setting we have already planted over 7,000 trees, installed nesting boxes and are dedicating land to the Nature Reserve to permanently establish the wildlife corridor. Current plans are to increase the area of native vegetation on Parklands by 11 per cent, and to establish additional plantings over another 25 per cent of the property.

We are committed to maximising ecological values and functions of our land and we will do this by increasing habitat connectivity, removing weeds and limiting event uses to a very small percentage of each year.

Given the amount of down time (the length of non-event periods) and the increase in native vegetation and tree cover, any adverse influences on flora and fauna caused by limited event use will be offset by the dimension of enhanced habitat values and ongoing environmental repair.

We are pleased that you have sought to undertake a 50 page study. If this report contains material to assist in maintenance of biodiversity values, we would be grateful to receive a copy to add to the hundreds of days of onground environmental assessment, audits and fauna and flora sampling that we have undertaken to date.

We encourage the community to visit our website to understand what we are proposing for our land and to contact us to arrange a site tour - www.northbyronshireparklands.com.au

Mat Morris
General Manager
North Byron Parklands

be showing the film *Australia Pumping Empty* after dinner.

Liane Simons
Ocean Shores

Signage DA

I would like to alert residents of Ocean Shores and surrounds to the fact that there is a DA in at Council for new signage for the Ocean Village Shopping Centre and the proposed Target building. More than 18 new signs (not six as previously advertised) are proposed. Some signs are as large as 15sqm and

continued on page 15

Broken Head Quarry Earthworks

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Pathways Foundation

Every Child's Rise
Thank you.

The North Coast Pathways Foundation wishes to express our deepest gratitude to all who supported our recent Opera at the Castle. It is reassuring to know that films of Passage work will continue for parents and children here in our corner of the world.

Most especially we would like to thank the Crystal Castle and its staff for their timeless efforts. Also to the myriad of artists (David Kao, John Dalheim, Nami Delamere and Leigh Pearson) who donated their spectacular works for our auction.

But ultimately we wish to thank our passionate and committed guests for showing up with their hearts, and beaming with joy to support the future of the young people in our community.

If you wish to know more about this important and profound work, please visit www.pathwaysfoundation.org.au or contact Anthony Brown - Regional Coordinator on 0416 130 109.



www.pathwaysfoundation.org.au

Transition night

If you were interested in the Transition Town film nights that were recently held around Byron Shire, or are just intrigued by the Transition Town concept of building strong, resilient, local communities, come and join us on Saturday May 29 at 4 pm at Ewingsdale Hall. Transition Byron Shire is hosting a 'Potluck with Pur-

pose' so we can learn more about one another, what we're up to and our visions for the future as well as the important activity of sharing food. Come meet and eat with others who are interested in creating an abundant, healthy and happy future in the Shire and beyond.

I will give a presentation of photos and impressions gath-

ered on my visit to Japan where I met the initiator of Transition Towns in Japan, Hide Enomoto, and visited an intentional Yamagishi community that's 40 years old and functions non-hierarchically and with no money used internally. We'll then have time for questions, discussions and networking before dinner. For those who wish to stay on we will

Letters to the Editor

Fax: 6684 1719 Email: editor@echo.net.au Deadline: Noon, Friday. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

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Thursday 27th 6.30pm
ZINO + CAROLINE

Friday 28th 6.30pm
BOHEMIAN COWBOYS

Saturday 29th 6.30pm
RAGGA JUMP

Sunday 30th 6.00pm
SHINE

Monday 31st 6.30pm
VIKKI GRANT

Tuesday 1st 6.30pm
CHRIS ARONSTEN

The Byron Shire Echo May 25, 2010 13

Letters

Love and gratitude to you all

I couldn't have made it through the past two and a half weeks since my beloved Steve (Stephen McDermott) passed on, without the wonderful support of this community. It is truly unique. Steve was known and loved by an eclectic mix of people in the Brunswick Valley. I want to express my deep gratitude to those who, from all walks of life, have reached out to Steve's children and me with their kindness and support, including dozens of Steve's patients. Many people who I have never met approached me at the memorial service on

May 16 at Torakina to tell me how they or their loved ones wouldn't be walking/breathing today without Steve's care. Thank you so much for sharing your stories with me. I have also received many beautiful cards and letters from Steve's patients and tai chi students, not to mention the beautiful letter in *The Echo* from Brian Seymour.

In April, Steve and I travelled to Kerala in Southwest India, where he received treatment at an Ayurvedic hospital. We couldn't have done this without the support of this community.

In particular, I would like to thank Russell Green, Emma Francis, Dianne Hunter, Cath Murray-Matheson and Kenny Barnham for coordinating a raffle to raise money to help with this trip (along with Brunswick Healthfood Store, Bayside Acupuncture, the Billinudged Pub and the Mullum Giants for selling tickets). The winners of the raffle are listed in the classifieds section.

I want to say a big thank you to Donny McCormack for filming the memorial service, Doug Manning for providing shelter, power and sound,

Gavan Higginson for helping Doug and Donny set up, Liz Jackson from Luscious for her food and flags, Sue Smith for organising the Gyuto Monks recording, Paul Kimmel for his flute solo, Lyne Davis Robertson and Grant Robertson for performing 'Winter', Shinye Letai for her beautiful service (and for becoming a wonderful new friend) and everyone who attended.

As Steve would sign off his letters, 'with love and gratitude' to you all.

Kerry Sunderland
Brunswick Heads

able neighbourhood. Now, people have to get in their cars. Great work, Byron Shire councillors. Great work, Jan. It's great that you've thought globally, and really done such an atrocious job locally.

Matt Hartley
Independent candidate for
Richmond

Parking lines

If there's any paint left over from painting new lines on the streets of Byron for nose-in parking could we please have some parking lines painted in Mullumbimby? At present only the disabled spaces are marked, with a general free-for-all along the street.

It is impossible to know where to park, especially as the day goes on and cars come and go leaving differing spaces between vehicles. Drivers and passengers sometimes have to squeeze in or out of cars or not-quite-big-enough spaces are left between vehicles. Give us some guidance, please.

Jen Jacobs
Mullumbimby

Send in the clowns

In the sideshow that politics has become we need clowns. John Howard has been well replaced. In focussing on 'people smugglers' instead of the causes that create the refugees who seek facilitators to save their lives we are witnessing the sleight-of-hand manoeuvres designed to take our focus off real problems and desperate victims. It is cynical in the extreme. How are 'people smugglers' different from lawyers? Do we vilify lawyers for the behaviour of their clients? No, we elect them to govern us.

Jim Nutter
Main Arm

Chlorine smell

When bathing my 2 and 5 month old recently, the smell of chlorine from our mains water has been really noticeable. Sam at Rous Water's a nice bloke, but told me nothing will be investigated unless more than one person complains. Well, chatting with other locals reveals I'm not the only one who's noticed the increase

in smell, but I am the only one who's called Rous Water. So I'm asking the same of you as I did of them - please call 6621 8055 and let's see if we can't get a more satisfactory explanation.

Sam Leader
Mullumbimby

At Parklands

Brett Bishop (Letters, May 25) raised concerns about potential holiday letting as a result of the North Byron Parklands proposal. We understand your concerns, Brett, in relation to the amenity at North Ocean Shores and the surrounding regions. With larger event usage at Parklands limited to 12 event days per year (Splendour in the Grass occupying three of these 12 days) and with increased camping provided on site (we will be able to accommodate some 50% of patrons in onsite camping), it is most unlikely that rental housing used for long term rental would be sacrificed for the limited times per year that events occur. We would not operate at full capacity (ie 12 major event days) until after a few years of operation.

Brett, as you may be aware, North Byron Parklands had applied to fence off further important areas of forest at Parklands. We were to spend \$45,000 on fencing and this was to be supplemented by a further \$45,000 grant approved in May 2009 from the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

A part of this action was that we were willing to sign a Property Vegetation Plan - locking this land up forever and protecting it from any future development. We agreed to do vegetation monitoring for three years and weed control for ten years and exclude cattle forever from these blocks.

But we could not use the grant that we were approved for because Byron Shire Council's approval for a trial event was overturned in a court case in the Land and Environment Court and instead we had to pay Conservation of North Ocean Shores (CONOS) \$93,400.

We are consistently improv-

ing the biodiversity values of our land yet our total environmental works cannot possibly commence until we secure approval of our proposal. We are trying to secure and then sustain a sensible usage for the land so that we can pay for these additional environmental works that would be ongoing.

I encourage the local community to view our website - www.northbyronshirparklands.com.au - and to contact me with any feedback or questions about our proposal or to undertake a site tour. I can be contacted on community@northbyronshirparklands.com or 9475 5046.

Mat Morris
General manager

North Byron Parklands

Go solar

Just a word of encouragement to any of you who just aren't too sure of the benefits of solar panels on your roof. Our summer bill from Country Energy (Dec, Jan, Feb) was... nothing!

We have solar hot water and a PV system feeding into the grid. Winter will be a different story of course, but we're well pleased.

Bronwyn & Jean Sindel
Mullumbimby

GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER


Byron Bay Golf Club

Sunday 27th June

Shotgun start at 8.30am

Ambrose Event

Breakfast & Lunch included



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The Byron Shire Echo June 1, 2010 15