



Regulatory Working Group

Revised Minutes

Wednesday 16th October 2013 - 1.00pm to 3.30pm
Parklands Office – 54 Jones Road, Wooyung (02 6680 4049)

Present:

Peter Ryan (Chair, Regulatory Working Group)
Mat Morris (General Manager, North Byron Parklands)
Brandon Saul (Falls Festival Director Byron Bay)
Matt Evans (CEO, Village Sounds)
Neil Johnson (Community Manager, North Byron Parklands)
Chris Cherry (Community Representative)
Paul Arrowsmith (Community Representative)
Simon Millichamp (Community Representative)
Inspector Gary Cowan (NSW Police)
Michael Baldwin (Roads and Maritime Services)
Wayne Pettit (State Emergency Services)
Damien Hofmeyer (National Parks and Wildlife Service)
Andrew Hill (Byron Shire Council)
Matt Inwood (Rural Fire Service)
Alan Bawden (Rural Fire Service)
Rob Doolan (Balanced Systems)

Apologies

Cr Diane Woods (BSC), Todd Hayman (RMS), Adrian Deville (OEH), Mayor Simon Richardson (BSC), Cr Sol Ibrahim (BSC), Cr Basil Cameron (BSC).

Agenda Items

1. Introductions

Confirmation of previous minutes

The Chairperson presented the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 August 2013. Minutes were confirmed with one comment from Chris Cherry asking if a note from Ray Darney (BSC) covering traffic was handed to the meeting and if this was public. The Chairperson would check this and has since advised an internal memo regarding traffic was handed to him after the meeting. It did not cover or raise additional items to those SITG traffic issues already canvassed by BSC, RMS, NBP, SITG and community representatives in the meeting or in BSC's submission to DOPI following SITG 2013.

Mat Morris introduced Neil Johnson to the RWG attendees. Neil has been appointed as the Community Manager for Parklands and will be a common link for all events. Neil will attend RWG meetings from now on.

2. Falls Festival - Overview

Brandon Saul, Falls Festival Director, Byron provided the group with an overview of the proposed festival as follows:

- 15,000 patron capacity;
- Event sold out (14,000 tickets) – plus 1,000 tickets to be sold to locals only;
- Demographic was listed as 21-35 year olds and event is limited to over 18year olds;
- All patrons to camp at the venue less a small number of day patrons (i.e. less than 500);
- Approximately 10% of campers to start arriving Sunday 29th December;
- Most campers arrive Monday 30th December – some entertainment – no mains stages open;
- Traffic congestion potential alleviated by not stopping or searching vehicles at entry points;
- To better manage traffic there will be one entry for buses and one entry for patrons and patrons will not be interacted with before parking;
- All traffic will be exiting the site on January 3rd, 2014 and the flow will be released in a manner to manage traffic on surrounding roads;
- Show days Tuesday 31st, Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd of January;
- Patron bump out Friday 3rd of January 2014;
- It is currently planned that Wooyung Rd will not be used to exit patrons;
- Generally an older, broader demographic;
- 20 year history at Lorne, Victoria and 10 years at Marion Bay, Tasmania;
- Locations of main stages west of spine road;
- Most acts drawn locally;
- Many lessons learnt from SITG 2013;
- Same senior management team as SITG 2013;
- Traffic improvements a key focus;
- NSW Police consultations very positive;

- A tours desk for local activities will be introduced with patrons able to leave the site and return via public transport as they wish;
- Strict separation of cars and campers with no ability for cars to enter camping precincts;
- Discussed wider “Safe Summer in Byron” program;
- Improved management of internal traffic and pedestrians. Pedestrians off major internal roads and drains to be fenced off.

3. Draft Falls Festival Bushfire Emergency Evacuation Plan (BEEP)

Rob Doolan provided the group with a summary of the BEEP previously issued to RWG members. The BEEP specifically addresses the requirements of consent condition C25. A draft had been provided to the LEMC in August 2013 where a number of comments and requests were made. Based on these requests the event has undertaken consultation meetings with NSW Police and the RFS. The BEEP involves a strong focus on the time of year.

Key changes from the SITG BEEP include:

- A mix of evacuation provisions;
- Dedicated RFS command post located next to Emergency Management Centre and NSW Police;
- Static water tanks located in consultation with RFS;
- Contingencies for quick response resources;
- Real time bushfire data through upgrading an on site weather station to include temperature, wind speed and humidity (delivered by telemetry to Parklands weather station intranet page);
- A more sophisticated evacuation trigger system;
- Staff training and action sheets for specific triggers;
- An escalating level of preparedness stages for the refuge area (70m north of the northern boundary fence);
- No open fires or fireworks; and
- Commissioning of a computer evacuation simulator to model evacuation routes and times;

Paul Arrowsmith asked how cars would be protected whilst parked at the venue. Mat Morris advised all property, including vehicles would be managed on a hierarchical basis with saving lives as the primary priority, then if resources allowed, protection of property.

Matt Inwood (RFS) explained to the group the RFS Fire Danger Rating (FDR) system and the Fire Danger Index (FDI). He advised at present the Bureau of Meteorology provides FDI's to RFS based on special weather stations located at Lismore and Grafton. Matt highlighted that the fire danger ratings can vary considerably across such a large catchment (based on Lismore and Grafton stations). For example the FDR could be extreme in Lismore and only moderate in Grafton (or vice verse).

Mat Morris advised the group that Manly Hydraulics (the government agency responsible for installing the initial weather stations at Parklands) had been engaged to augment the northern weather station with appropriate instrumentation to allow the BOM to provide local FDI ratings. It

was agreed that having a site specific capability to determine the FDI at Parklands would be a very powerful real time tool for assessing the dangers of fire.

Paul Arrowsmith asked about mobile phone coverage and Brandon Saul advised it is likely to be worse than at SITG due to an inability of carriers to provide mobile towers at this time of year.

Chris Cherry asked about fireworks as the event covered NYE. Mat Morris and Brandon Saul advised that fireworks were banned and that patrons would be advised of this requirement both via the website and also onsite signage noting offenders would be immediately ejected from the event.

Chris Cherry asked about compliance reporting covering the various environmental, health and safety management manual standards. Mat Morris advised that the compliance audits had been completed for SITG and would form part of the Performance report to the DOPI as per consent condition B7 (2).

Chris Cherry discussed the BEEP's reported timing of evacuating vehicles from site in the event of a fire. She felt that evacuating vehicles would take longer than 4 hours and highlighted that in the Molino Stewart Flood Evacuation Report they had vehicle evacuation times of up to 11-12 hours (based on a 30,000 capacity event).

Mat Morris advised that evacuation times would always vary based on the range of scenarios, conditions and constraints prevailing at the time of evacuating. Aspects involving wind direction, speed, fire fronts, etc. could see evacuation times increase or decrease.

The group discussed catastrophic and extreme FDRs. Matt Inwood advised to the best of his knowledge (without undertaking a review of data sets) a catastrophic warning had never been issued in this region. The upgraded Parklands weather station will prove to be extremely useful for localising FDIs.

Chris Cherry advised of the need for a referencing correction covering primary and secondary refuge locations on page 24 of the report. She also mentioned that the listing of Mullumbimby Showground could be problematic as it may be being used as a campground at this time. She asked if the event had been granted approval to use this show ground? Inspector Gary Cowan advised that the Police are the lead agency for evacuations and they would ultimately decide based on best available information when and where people would be evacuated to, including any offsite location.

Finally Matt Inwood pointed out that while the BEEP covers evacuation, this plan also includes some bushfire management aspects. In the event of an incident Police will make the call to evacuate. Firefighting activities would be the domain of the RFS.

Paul Arrowsmith asked for a site tour in the future prior to the event and both Mat Morris and Brandon Saul agreed this would be possible.

4. Draft Acoustic Monitoring Program

Mat Morris apologised for the late distribution of the draft AMP, explaining that he had been discussing the programme specifics as well as assessing feedback from SITG with the DOPI.

DOPI has advised Parklands that they were satisfied with the management and monitoring of acoustics at the July 2013 SITG event and that acoustic criteria had been met. DOPI had requested that Parklands respond to 19 submissions (from 13 individuals including BSC) regarding issues at the 2013 SITG event. Parklands have responded to DOPI on these submissions.

Chris Cherry had some feedback and comments for Dick Benbow on the SIG Noise Monitoring Report and was advised these could be submitted to the Chairperson who would forward these on to him.

Chris Cherry asked how it was possible that the post SIG Noise Report states that the noise criteria have been met and yet the data presented from unattended data loggers did not substantiate this. Mat Morris advised that unattended data loggers were never used to gauge compliance as there were no controls surrounding non-event noise emissions.

Chris Cherry asked why the delta between dBA and dBC was being increased to 20 in the FF AMP when it had been specifically limited to 10-15 dBAs in the SIG event.

Mat Morris stressed the focus of Parklands actions regarding acoustics was on continuous improvement. To this end, Parklands is looking at setting “operational target” levels for the lower frequency (dB-C, or bass) component of sound. While SITG complied with its noise criteria it was deemed important to start to monitor this low frequency range.

In discussions with DOPI, Parklands is proposing to voluntarily set “operational target” levels for dB-C and monitor and evaluate these as a component of the Falls event acoustic monitoring programme. These are outlined in the current draft AMP. The DOPI has indicated that such monitoring would in fact be beneficial to events as it would allow them to analyse emission levels against any complaints received.

Paul Arrowsmith asked if noise monitoring for the Falls event would still be undertaken at the same properties as for SITG. Mat Morris and Brandon Saul confirmed this would be the case.

Chris Cherry said the acoustic regulatory history of the project was long and somewhat complicated, and that LA 90 noise criteria, which can be around 10-15dB lower than the LAeq criteria were not adopted for the project.

Mat Morris responded that there were a few criteria commonly adopted for noise from events such as music festivals and other industrial activities, and that the Planning and Assessment Commission which assessed and approved the project, had in its approval document set the criteria the company was following in its management and monitoring plans.

Paul Arrowsmith advised some of the community had commissioned their own acoustic monitoring during SITG. The results of this monitoring would be reported to DOPI and shared

with the RWG. Chris Cherry advised some monitoring data obtained for this work showed noise levels in excess of the criteria set for the project. Mat Morris expressed surprise, as the comprehensive Benbow monitoring had not found any such occurrences. It was suggested to await the report and review the methodology and data regarding aspects such as background employed by the person(s) undertaking the sampling.

Paul Arrowsmith offered the opinion that it was important that the Falls event performed well with respect to acoustics and traffic, so the community's anxiety could be relieved and things could settle down.

Chris Cherry stated there was insufficient time to review the Falls AMP given its late distribution. The Chairman and Mat Morris agreed. It was agreed that Chris Cherry would provide written comment at the earliest opportunity, and within two weeks.

Chris Cherry also had comments on the SITG Benbow monitoring report, which she had hoped to address to the author. Instead, Chris Cherry will forward these to the Chair and Mat Morris within one week for response.

"Paul Arrowsmith asked if in accordance with approval condition C16, the company was going to undertake mitigation at the dwellings of previously identified sensitive receivers. Mat Morris responded that the event monitoring program demonstrated the festival was in compliance with set noise criteria, a large factor in decisions regarding this condition.

Brandon Saul also responded at length to PA's question. He described his earlier efforts and desire to solve the issue of mitigation and described the emotional turmoil for all, and he personally, that negotiations regarding a Neighbourhood Agreement with some sensitive receivers and these particular approval conditions had now ensued. He expressed frustration with the responses to date from some neighbours and his feeling of stalemate and waning motivation to resolve the issue. After further commentary, however, he said that discussions with sensitive receivers would be on-going."

Chris Cherry asked when the flora and fauna monitoring reports would be made available. Mat Morris responded they would be available in late October or November as previously advised to members in August 2013.

Damien Hofmeyer asked if a similar plan and schedule of fauna monitoring would be conducted this coming summer, as had been conducted previously. Mat Morris responded it would be, with some adjustments for seasonality.

Chris Cherry asked if there was linkage between fauna and acoustic monitoring. Mat Morris responded that ecologists utilised hand-held noise monitors.

Chris Cherry asked about the use of sodium vapour lighting as per the approval. Mat Morris advised that such lighting was not readily available from suppliers and that the condition in question asked for the use of such lighting where possible. Mat Morris advised that lighting was assessed with the ecologist on the Friday of SITG and adjustments made to reduce light spill.

5. National Parks and Wildlife Services

Damien Hofmeyer addressed the group to provide some clarity between NPWS and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). He provided details of past organisational structures within the department, which it was noted had changed since the original approval.

Essentially NPWS deal with all on-park issues while OEH handle all other matters (fauna and flora, pollution, licensing, compliance, etc). The Chairman clarified that a pollution control licence was not applicable to the NBP site and this explained the restricted role of OEH at the site.

Damien Hofmeyer advised that Adrian Deville from OEH was leaving the organisation and Krister Waern would be the new OEH contact.

Damien Hofmeyer advised that NPWS had no issues with SITG 2013 as "its neighbour" to the Billinudgel Nature Reserve and with the operation of SITG 2013. Damien Hofmeyer also clarified to the RWG that the \$25,000 bond returned to NBP reported in the Minutes of the last meeting was concerning compliance relating to any "on-park damages, litter, etc within the Billinudgel Nature Reserve, and was not pertaining to the results of ecological monitoring that will be regulated by the DOPI.

He also advised NBP that there had been a credible sighting of a koala on Jones Rd the week before however he did not specify where the sighting occurred or who was the "credible source".

Damien also advised that NPWS was currently upgrading the fire-fighting capability of tracks within the BNR, and some truck and machinery traffic and associated issues would be visible to local residents and neighbours for a short time.

7. Other Matters

It was reported that the Traffic Management Plan does not need to come to any further RWG meetings, however plans will be supplied to RWG members after endorsement by the Local Traffic Committee. It was reported that Wooyung Rd is not included in the current TMP for the Falls Festival but that it may be in future events.

RFS representative Alan Bawden enquired regarding the annual report required under B7, which includes results of consultation with the RWG. He indicated it would be better to have this report sooner than later to allow adequate feedback from the RWG. He also asked if a third event had been planned and it was advised by Mat Morris that at this stage no third event had been locked in. It was feasible that a third event could be held in 2014.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the RWG will be scheduled for the first quarter of 2014.