



Regulatory Working Group

Revised Minutes

Wednesday 16th August 2017 - 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Ocean Shores Country Club, Orana Rd, Ocean Shores NSW 2483 (02) 6680 1008

Present:

Peter Ryan (Chair, Regulatory Working Group)

Mat Morris (General Manager, North Byron Parklands)

Matthew Evans (COO, Secret Sounds)

Elise Huntley (GM SITG)

Neil Johnson (Community Manager, North Byron Parklands)

Claire Atkins (Community Advocate, North Byron Parklands)

Laurel Cohn (Community Representative)

Cr. Alan Hunter (BSC)

Chris Larkin (BSC)

Chief Inspector, Luke Arthurs (NSW Police)

Sargent Peter Miller (NSW Police)

Inspector Matt Inwood (RFS)

Alan Bawden (RFS)

Agenda Items

1. Introductions

The meeting opened at 2.05pm. Peter Ryan (Chair, RWG) welcomed all members of the RWG.

2. Apologies

Derek Harper (Community Representative), Cr. Mayor Simon Richardson(BSC), Damien Hoffmeyer (NPWS), Sargent Mal Kentwell (NSW Police), Michael Baldwin(RMS), Ray Darney (Community Representative), Chad Ellis (SES), Ray Sawyer (RMS), Cr Basil Cameron(BSC).

3. Confirmation of previous minutes

The draft minutes of the April 2017 meeting were revised following minor edits, and were subsequently posted on the Parklands website. The meeting confirmed these revised minutes.

4. Splendour In The Grass 2017 Summary

Elise Huntley presented a snapshot of SITG 2017 performance and items. The 32,500 patrons (including approximately 19,265 campers) enjoyed fine weather and well-received performances.

Traffic

Traffic during camper bump in and exit experienced no issues, confirming the effectiveness of the improvements made during SITG 2016 when some internal traffic management issues were experienced, notably with drop-offs and pick-ups and bus congestion. No such issues were experienced this year, which was very pleasing to management and patrons alike.

The addition of satellite parking stations at Mullumbimby (with bus pick-up) for some staff and the relocation of the Guest Services to the Council owned Cavanbah centre in Byron was also successful in assisting traffic management.

Patron Management

Patron behaviour was considered by Police and Parklands to have been good with the venue and event continuing to work with NSW Police to embed contemporary measures for behaviour and counter terrorism alike at all large events now in NSW.

Noise Management

Approximately \$110,000 was spent before SITG 2017 to design purpose arranged new sound speaker systems and system arrays. These, aided by good weather conditions and closely managed sound engineering, had a dramatic effect on external acoustics. Noise complaints to the Hotline numbered only seven (compared for example to SITG 2015, when more than 120 complaints were received). The total number of complaints at SITG 2017 was 13. Patron experience with respect to sound was good, whilst external noise was successfully controlled.

Medical Management

SITG operates a sophisticated emergency and medical treatment facility, and this year introduced a self-care option for minor cases. This worked successfully with a significant reduction in medical presentations recorded.

Media

The event was positively reported and widely received across all media. Media reports covering issues such as traffic and noise were positive and this was also strongly reflected on social media platforms.

Debrief with Authorities

Several de-brief sessions were conducted with relevant authorities and key event personnel.

Litter Management

In past events, litter has been an issue, notably with abandoned camping gear on-site. SITG 2017 introduced new systems to allow recycling and sorting of equipment, via a broad media campaign to patrons. This was very successful, with approximately 70% of equipment taken home by its owners and suitable equipment recycled by the Social Futures organisation.

Illegal Camping Management

Event managers worked closely with Council to allow for additional controls and to permit the use of a new public sign reminding campers of BSC regulations re illegal camping located at the start of Shara Boulevard. It was noted that the two calls regarding illegal camping which were followed up, were found not to be related to SITG.

Chris Larkin (BSC) advised it may be best to use the Council after-hours contact number to report illegal camping, rather than the Parklands hotline.

Event managers appreciated the additional efforts this event by Council enforcement officers in patrolling areas most favoured by campers.

ACTION 1

Council to produce a summary of Council-related calls and incidents, and make available to next RWG meeting.

Compliance

Three DP&E officers attended SITG 2017. It was not clear if DP&E proposes to issue a report, however, Parklands believes any non-compliance issues were very low and minor in nature. Council also attended the event to check compliance relating to food, health and safety in food serving areas.

Onsite Camping

Approximately 19,250 patrons camped at SITG 2017. While incidents were low, Mat Inwood (RFS) raised two incidents regarding gas bottles and butane canister cookers, after one fire incident with a home-made and installed cooker in a camper van. No serious incident ensued, however all agreed an uncontrolled fire or explosion would be unacceptable. This item raised several points and discussion:

- RFS would like consistent rules (documented in the Bushfire Management Plan) across all events regarding the use of gas storage containers and appliances, based on a rigorous hazard risk assessment.
- A discussion about incident locations and information flows between event, security and emergency response bodies to follow in the event of an incident.
- Discussion and resolution of camping and tent\vehicle layouts, access lanes adjacent to drains, etc which is consistent across events.
- All water tanks suitable for emergency response to be fitted with Storz fittings and the dam's emergency water access point to be clearly accessible, in line with Bushfire Management Plan.
- Such issues are not unique to the Parklands events, and occur State-wide wherever large outdoor events are held.

ACTION 2

The venue, event managers and RFS will hold a meeting before the next event to clarify the above points. The Bushfire Management Plan and the Bushfire Emergency Evacuation Plan will be updated as a result of the meeting outcomes.

Laurel Cohn raised the item of ticket numbers at SITG. It was noted that FFB 2016/17 had been fined by DP&E for exceeding the relevant ticket number ceiling. Elise Huntley and Mat Morris explained that “free” tickets such as those issued to surrounding neighbours and those donated to community groups for raffles, etc are typically not included in ceiling numbers (which is normal industry practice). However, it has now been clarified with DP&E that from now on these tickets will be included as part of that event’s capacity limit. Mat Morris advised that SITG 2017 would also be fined, and clarification of the issue was helpful for future planning. Mat Morris also confirmed that all ticket holders and workers were accounted for in the design and implementation of emergency evacuation plans.

5. FFB2017/18 Update

Mat Morris stated that this event was yet to be approved as part of the requested extension modification, however the event had made a commercial decision to go to market as part of its National on-sale campaign noting in all such marketing material that the event was “subject to regulatory approval”. The Modification document seeking to extend trial events was assessed and recommended by the DP&E. The approval (or rejection) of the extension modification is now with the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) for their final decision. Mat clarified that local press coverage had got things confused, and that no approval for events beyond the end of 2017 had yet been granted (as reported in the Byron Echo). A public hearing has been announced by the PAC at Ocean Shores Community Centre on 29 August. Falls BEEP and AMP documents are in preparation, and will be issued as per usual in time for assessment, subject to event approval.

Laurel Cohn asked Mat Morris for a copy of the 2015 Flood Risk Management Plan. Mat advised this document was never finalised, however it has formed the basis for a revised 2017 FRMP which will be included in the forthcoming EIS as part of the State Significant Development application.

6. Regulatory Update

State Significant Development Application

Mat Morris summarised the forthcoming EIS and proposal for permanent approval. As a result of community feedback, the proposal has been scaled back significantly from the original (20 event days of up to 50,000 patrons). The proponents now seek;

- 2 events at 35,000 patrons (being SITG and Falls);
- 3 one-day (separate or combined) events up to 25,000 patrons; and
- 5 community events (separate or combined) up to 5,000 patrons.

For SITG only, an incremental glide-path from 35,000 to 42,500 and then to 50,000 patrons subject to meeting KPIs.

Parklands expects the approval and decision process for the EIS to take over 12 months.

7. Other Business

Mat Morris confirmed Laurel Cohn's question that future Noise Impact Reports and Performance Reports will include the recordings of exceedances as well as any non-compliances (as is currently the practice).

Inspector Luke Arthurs raised the question of each event managers' response after the incidences when a patron had been searched by Police and found in possession of a small quantity of prohibited drug (as opposed to saleable/commercial amounts which are dealt with differently). The Chairman noted this was not a RWG-specified matter, and in ensuing brief discussions, it was agreed that the confirmed meeting between NSW Police and event managers scheduled for the near future would address this issue.

Sgt. Pete Miller advised that event NSW Police were happy with patron behaviour and overall event management procedures. NSW Police and SITG event personnel worked well together. The stationing of police officers in the Event Communication Centre was a positive initiative and worked well.

Cr. Alan Hunter stated he was impressed with the way the RWG discussed, responded and dealt with issues raised at meetings. The RWG focus on improving events was evident, and he was happy to be a member of the group.

Laurel Cohn asked that community representatives stay on the RWG for longer than proposed in this term (due to trial approval lapsing on 31 Dec 2017), in the event that the extension is granted. Mat Morris advised that Parklands supports this request.

Recommendation

In the event that the extension is approved, Parklands would support the continuation of three current community representatives for the term of the extended trial to 31 August 2019.

Laurel Cohn asked for plenty of time to review the annual Performance Report. Mat Morris advised flora and fauna post SITG17 monitoring was only just concluding and was aiming to issue the report on 1 December 2017. As much time to review as possible will be factored in where possible.

Chris Larkin advised that Council Health Officers were generally satisfied with vendor management and that a report would follow.

Mat Inwood requested that the disparity and confusion between Workplace Health and Safety requirements and practices of Worksafe and those of the individual, approved emergency response organisations at the events be streamlined. This can be arranged by excluding the emergency services from the event's site rules.

ACTION 3

The venue to pass on the request to have NSW Police and RFS employees excluded from the Event Site Rules regarding long sleeve shirts, hats and other sun related PPE as their current uniforms comply with their own organisational OH&S requirements.

The Chairman thanked those present for their valuable input and attendance.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.