



Regulatory Working Group - Draft Minutes

Wednesday 9th May 2018 - 2.00pm to 4.00pm

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)

Elise Huntley (GM SITG)

Brandon Saul (Event Manager, FFB)

Annette Perkins (Manager, FFB)

Neil Johnson (Community Manager, North Byron Parklands)

Claire Atkins (Community Advocate, North Byron Parklands)

Laurel Cohn (Community Representative)

Derek Harper (Community Representative)

Ray Darney (Community Representative)

Chris Larkin (BSC)

Chief Inspector, Luke Arthurs (NSW Police)

Sargent Mal Kentwell (NSW Police)

Sargent Jackie Lilley (NSW Police)

Ranger Lori Cameron (NPWS)

Cr Basil Cameron (BSC)

Brad Sellings (RFS)

Alan Bawden (RFS)

Chad Ellis (SES)

Agenda Items

1. Introductions

The meeting opened at 2.07pm. Peter Ryan (Chair, RWG) welcomed all members of the RWG.

2. Apologies

Inspector Matt Inwood (RFS), Cr. Alan Hunter (BSC), Cr. Mayor Simon Richardson(BSC), Sargent Peter Miller (NSW Police) and Ray Sawyer (RMS).

3. Confirmation of previous minutes

The draft minutes of the August 2018 meeting were revised following minor edits and were subsequently posted on the Parklands website. This meeting confirmed these revised minutes. The two action items were covered at this point in the meeting.

4. FFB2017/18 Summary

Brandon Saul presented a snapshot of FFB17/18 performance. The 25,000 patrons (including approximately 19,265 campers) enjoyed fine weather for the duration of the event. Mostly an unremarkable event in that there were no major issues.

Traffic

Brandon said there was an ongoing focus on traffic management, both on and off the site and while there were the usual high levels of traffic entering the site during the camper arrival day, ultimately this was well managed.

Patron Management

Patrons were generally well behaved during the event. A special effort covering patrons transported by bus in the mornings and lunch time of each event day was put in place to better manage and control numbers travelling to Brunswick Heads to reduce impacts. Controls included patron counts on and off buses and redirection of patrons to other destinations.

Noise Management

Mat Morris discussed the findings from the community hotline which recorded 18 noise related calls.

Of the 18 noise related calls, a total of 9 (50%) such calls were received from the Fern beach/North Ocean Shores area. All 9 of these calls were recorded on the evening of the 30th of December 2017

and the 1st of January 2018 between the hours of 19.00 and 22.45. Of note, these 9 calls were all within a 280m radius of each other as shown below.

In addition to the regular presence of ANE acoustic engineers undertaking attended monitoring samples in this area, the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) Noise Specialist and the Parklands' Venue Manager were also positioned in this location on the evening of the 1st of January 2018.

A light NNW wind was prevalent during the hours of 20.45 and 22.15 on the 1st of January 2017 when these calls were received and while all readings taken both by ANE and the DP&E were well within the approved noise limits, the change in wind direction (from SSW a few hours prior) may have resulted in some residents hearing amplified entertainment noise.



Community Hotline Noise Related Calls from Fern Beach/North Ocean Shores FFB17/18 (source Community Hotline Report FFB17/18)

In addition to the sound monitoring results, the descriptions provided by the acoustic engineers indicated that the dominant noise sources in this area was from insects and infrequent road noise. While amplified entertainment noise could be heard, it was not the dominant noise source.

What was confusing for the acoustic engineers was the provision of some street numbers and addresses by a number of these callers that either did not exist or were inhabited by people that did not contact the community hotline. Also, in one instance the same mobile phone number was used by two callers who gave different addresses to hotline staff. These anomalies were confirmed by the DP&E noise specialist who visited these premises in person. A review of the recorded messages left by these callers confirmed stated street numbers and names.

It was acknowledged that instances such as the above do drain acoustic engineer resources, resulting in reduced service for genuine noise related callers. Community Representative Ray Darney who lives in the above locale reported that the dominant noise source was surf noise from the ocean.

Police

Inspector Luke Arthurs advised that Falls Festival was “getting better and better”. No major issues. Police assisted with traffic and a number of illegal parking vehicles on Tweed valley Way.

Compliance

Three DP&E officers attended FFB17/18. No non-compliances or opportunities for improvements were issued by these officers.

5. Splendour in The Grass 2018 Update

Elise Huntley presented details of the upcoming SITG 2018:

- Tickets went on sale 19th April 2018;
- Sold out in 21 minutes;
- Approved capacity is 35k (the 2,500-patron increase is for day patron tickets only);
- 19.5k campers;
- The local’s sale generated unprecedented demand with residents in the northern rivers region securing 11.9% of tickets issued
- Community tickets for surrounding residents and fund-raising tickets were held back from sale and sit under the approved capacity limit of 35k patrons;
- Both the draft AMP and draft BEEP have been prepared (and issued to members of the RWG for comment);
- The Transport Management Plan has been prepared and approved by Local Traffic Committee;
- Additional planning of internal traffic is currently being undertaken;

- Taxi, shuttles, ubers and pick up/drop off in southern car park to be implemented again;
- Council Trade Waste Agreement issues still being sorted out with Byron Shire Council. There is a lack of clarity surrounding blending rates (for black water and greywater) to comply with Council ammonia rates. Mat M and Elise to meet again with Council on this issue;
- Initial planning meeting with Police has taken place;
- Community grants program for SITG is open now and be announced prior to the event (previously these grants were announced post event). The program for SITG has distributed \$165k to local community groups in the north of the Shire since calling Parklands home;
- Reusable bottles are being strongly being promoted this year;
- Discussed gas bottles – with only certified RVs, etc allowed to bring these bottles onsite. All other gas bottles and butane canisters are strictly banned across the entire event and camping ground areas; and
- Glitter outlets have been banned from the event.

Cr Cameron asked what arrangements are in place for trade waste from food vendors etc (i.e. grease trap waste). Mat M advised all such liquid waste is directed to Summerland Environmental Services in Ballina which are EPA licensed to accept this type of waste.

Cr Cameron asked about fireworks and how events stop them. Brandon and Mat advised that patrons are informed via the terms and conditions on tickets, the banned items list on websites, newsletters and social media that offenders will be ejected from the venue. Bag and vehicle searches are also employed to identify such. Two events back, two patrons were caught letting off fireworks and were evicted from the venue immediately.

Derek Harper (Community representative) asked about pill testing. The group discussed the Groove in the Moo program in Canberra. The proposed changes in drug detection locations, now to take place inside the main gates would confer greater powers to Police to evict patrons caught (given the event precinct is a “licensed area”). Brandon said event promoters would work with NSW Police regarding this issue should it arise. Having a liquor license also provides additional requirements above and beyond the Parklands conditions.

Alan B from RFS asked about car parking redemptions and how this program was travelling. Elise advised that there were different occupancy rates for campers (closer to 3 per vehicle) and day patrons (closer to 4 per vehicle). The scheme was working well in terms of moving day patrons onto

public transport systems. Also discussed Uber Pool share riding options as another tool to reduce vehicles coming to site.

Alan B also asked what level of intelligence events had regarding the type and size of recreation vehicles being allowed onsite? Events advised they had a range of ticketing data that provided information about the number of RVs, caravans and other larger vehicles. While this data didn't specifically capture any trends in a move towards larger recreational vehicles it was noted that most typical patrons in the 18-30 year bracket would not be in a position to over capitalise in oversize RVs on top of all other event related costs. Alan noted that any such information would be valuable for the fire management plan.

Community Representative Laurel C noted that in relation to public transport services it seemed easier to get to an event than get home. Elise advised that more buses were being hired including ones without local school commitments. There was also a proposed change to the layout of bus turnaround area to dedicate a section to Byron buses (within the old taxi shuttle bus loop). It was noted that egress from Parkland events and other major cultural and sporting events also experience a certain level of delay when patrons leave the venue.

6. AMP and BEEP

Mat M discussed a number of changes to the BEEP and thanked Laurel C for her comments. Changes included:

- Ensuring consistency throughout the BEEP when using the term Fire Warden (and not Fire Marshall). Appendix C was updated to include this terminology;
- Denoting Fire Warden locations on the Appendix C map which includes any venue greater than 100sqm, any approved bonfire location and locations throughout the camp ground; and
- The placement of approximately 26 concrete bollard way-finders with 6m poles that include alpha-numeric locations for patrons in the camp ground to assist in identifying incident locations and greater response times.

There were no additional comments regarding the BEEP provided by the RWG members.

Mat discussed the SITG Draft AMP and noted that R12 was currently included as a sensitive receptor. Based on further discussions, this receptor may or may not be a sensitive receptor for this event. However, for the purposes of correctness, R12 is currently treated as a sensitive receptor for SITG18.

No other issues were raised regarding the draft AMP.

6. Regulatory Update

Mat M discussed the current application and provided the following details:

- Public exhibition closed on the 16th of February 2018;
- Approximately 106 objections
- The response to Submissions Report is currently being finalised by Parklands with a view to lodging with the Department in June;
- The Department may take 2-3 months to make their recommendation before forwarding to the Independent Planning Commission (formally the Planning and Assessment Commission);
- The IPC will hold a public meeting later in 2018 and it is hoped a decision can be made by late 2018 or early 2019.

Cr Cameron asked if there would be any changes to the project as a result of the submissions received and if so, would these changes go back onto public exhibition. The Chairperson advised that any changes to the project would be discussed with the DP&E who decide the process thereafter. Regardless, any such changes would be placed on the DP&E website and discussed in their submissions to the IPC. The public would also be able to comment on any changes as part of the IPC public meeting process where submissions from interested parties would sought and discussed at this meeting.

7. Other Business

Voluntary Jones Road Bushfire Management Agreement

The group discussed the Voluntary Jones Road Bushfire Management Agreement (VJRBMA). Mat M read the entire agreement to the group and noted both the proposed actions and frequency of actions committed to by agencies and landowners.

Mat M, at the request of R12, advised the group that because the electrical easement was not considered a safe vehicular access route (due to the topography and lack of any formed roads), R12 felt that exotic weed removal was required along Jones Road to provide a year round safe fire egress.

The Chairperson at this point reiterated Matt Inwood's statement at the recent Fire Street Meeting that a) the fire break was the most significant improvement in bushfire management (i.e. excellent defensible space) and b) exotic weeds such as lantana and the like actually did not burn well and that the fuel load densities were associated with mature trees and fallen logs.

The eastern Jones Road egress was discussed and this was deemed a significant improvement in providing additional egress for residents. Community Representative, Ray D asked if the details of this egress could be included in the VJRBMPA. Mat M agreed to include it in the agreement.

Alan B from RFS advised Jones Road residents have an important role to play in developing bushfire survival plans. These plans must include leaving their premises as early as possible to avoid any egress limitations. Alan further stated that "in the event of a bushfire in an area such as this, getting out early is the primary objective. Having an alternative egress [such as the eastern Jones Road egress] is the best possible outcome for this locality."

National Parks discussed the planned burn regimes and constraints for these burns along Jones Road. It was agreed a collective responsibility for bushfire management has been achieved with this agreement.

DP&E Presence at RWG meetings

Chris Larkin from BSC noted that the Department now has an office at Murwillumbah with compliance officers. Chris suggested a presence at future meetings by the compliance section. The Chairperson advised that the compliance team may not be the appropriate section of DP&E as they usually had a narrow focus where a lot of issues raised by the community tended to cover a range of other matters. Parklands noted it was talking to DP&E about this request.

Finally, Mat M advised the group an RWG tour would likely be set for Friday 20th of July for any interested members. Confirmation on this point to follow.

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

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.