

North Byron Parklands, a history:

2006 Byron Council hired a Community Economic Development Officer whose job, in part, was to identify a site for large scale events (BSC agenda 20/12/05, p 36).

September: DSRD facilitated a meeting of key agencies (DSRD, DECC, DoP and Byron Shire Council). The meeting recognised the conceptual merit of the proposal to establish a cultural facility of regional significance, whilst simultaneously achieving significant environmental outcomes.

North Byron Parklands consulted with immediate neighbours and Conservation of North Ocean Shores. Given their positive response, on 15 September 2006 we met with Mayor Jan Barham, councillors, senior staff and Council's ecologist, who supported the plans for a cultural event venue.

December: The property was purchased and Council resolved to rezone it as a cultural events site. Council report to meeting 19 December 2006:

Purpose: To recommend an amendment to Byron LEP 1988 to facilitate a proposed Regional Cultural and Events Facility at Wooyung.

Summary: For a number of years the issue of a sustainable site for events has been under consideration. This proposed area of 260 hectares (660 acres), adjacent to the Pacific Highway and on the northern edge of Byron Shire, has attributes to accommodate large events subject to some rezoning of the land.

The proposal, if it proceeds to finality, will result in a number of benefits to the community, environmentally through the enhancement of regional wildlife corridors and land swaps, economically through potential employment prospects and socially/culturally as a centre for festivals and events.

2007 We met with the Ocean Shores Community Association and the Brunswick Valley Sports Association. We held community open days and tree planting days on site and provided 160 people with site tours. A public meeting was held at Byron Shire Council to discuss a range of issues. We also met further with neighbouring land owners. In August we lodge a DA for a trial event.

We also hosted an environmental forum and invited approx 30 environmental groups to attend. At this forum a range of environmental initiatives and mitigation strategies were discussed in detail. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

2008 July: Approval was granted to host a trial event. Over ten government agencies were consulted by Council, with none objecting to our application.

October: CONOS challenged the Council approval for a trial event.

2009 The Land and Environment Court found fault with Byron Council's processing of the approval and invalidated the DA approval.

2010 March: Byron Council exhibited their Draft Events Policy through a 60 day public exhibition period. The majority of public submissions opposed the suggested restrictions on major events. Byron Council's own planning staff opposed the restrictions. Further, a petition was submitted with 2054 signatures opposing the proposed restrictions.

July: The NSW Department of Planning designated North Byron Parklands as a major project.

September: North Byron Parklands lodged our application with the Department of Planning.

October/November: North Byron Parklands' six week public exhibition period with the NSW Department of Planning. The Department received 4,821 submissions in support of the proposal and 715 submissions against. The Department also received a petition with 4,160 signatures in support of the proposal and petitions totaling 25 signatures against.

November: Splendour in the Grass received a highly coveted "Commended Award" for their 2010 event from the prestigious international Greener Festival Awards.

2011 April: North Byron Parklands prepared a response to submissions. The *Reply to submissions and preferred project report* (291 pages without appendices) includes substantial modifications to the original proposal, including the downsizing of the scale and frequency of events for the first five years.

July: Splendour in the Grass was again held in Queensland whilst we await approval. Mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council Allan Sutherland states that Splendour injected approximately \$20 million into their economy over three days. The Council, supported by the Queensland government, launched a "save Splendour in the Grass" campaign to keep the event in Queensland.

July: Despite community and Council staff opposition to the restrictions proposed to major events in the Draft Events Policy last year, Byron Council proposed an amendment to the 1988 LEP to permanently restrict major music events. A four week public exhibition period in relation to this proposed amendment concluded on August 18. Council received 3525 submissions. 43 of these were supportive of the LEP amendment to restrict major music events and the remainder objected to the amendment.

December: The Department of Planning and Infrastructure finalised their assessment of North Byron Parklands, recommending approval. They forwarded the application to the Planning and Assessment Commission to undertake the final determination on the project.