



Bluesfest Byron Bay 2019 Regulatory Working Group

Minutes from meeting
Wednesday 27 February 2019 at RSL Club Mullumbimby

Agenda:

WHEN	ITEM NUMBER AND TOPIC	WHO
14:00	Welcome / Introduction	Peter Ryan Chair
14:10	1. Illegal camping	Bluesfest
14:20	2. Litter	Bluesfest
14:30	3. Provision of security services	Bluesfest / Police
14:40	4. Noise	Bluesfest
14:50	5. Event traffic and car parking	Bluesfest
15:00	6. Complaint mechanisms	Bluesfest
15:10	7. Koala Management	Bluesfest
15:20	8. Flooding	Bluesfest
15:30	9. Bushfires	Bluesfest / RFS
15:40	10. Evacuation procedures	Bluesfest
15:50	11. Any other issues raised by government agencies or Council	Reps

Attendees:

#	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Abbreviation
1	Phil	Mallon	Community Rep	PM
2	Ben	Buckland	Roads and Maritime Services	BB
3	Detective Inspector Matthew Kehoe	Kehoe	NSW Police Force	MK
4	Chief Inspector Gary Cowan	Cowan	NSW Police Force	GC
5	Mark	Somers	State Emergency Services	MS
6	Lean	Ross	Rural Fire Service	LR
7	Mark	Ross	Rural Fire Service	MR
8	Bob	Wilcox	Rural Fire Service	BW
9	Chris	Larkin	Council	CL
10	Norm	Graham	Ranger Tweed Byron	NG
11	Peter	Ryan	RWG Bluesfest	PR
12	Brendan	Meek	Bluesfest	BM
13	Steve	Romer	Bluesfest	SR
14	Nadja	Konietzko	Bluesfest	NK

Abbreviations:

BF = Bluesfest

RWG = Regulatory Working Group

Welcome and Introductions

RWG Chairman, Peter Ryan opened the meeting at 2pm and introduced himself and outlined the scope and purpose of this RWG. Round-table introductions were then made.

The Chair discussed the draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the operation of the RWG, which were distributed prior to the meeting. He asked if anyone had any perceived or otherwise conflict of interest, and if anyone had any comments or suggested edits to the TORs before they were accepted. The response was negative on both items.

Action Item 1: The TORs were adopted.

The Chair invited BF management, Steve Romer and Brendan Meeks, to address the RWG and outline BF status with respect to the items of relevance to the RWG (see agenda).

BM and SR noted that with the benefit of 9 years of festivals at the Tyagarah site, BF was confident of operating safe and enjoyable world-class festivals at the site and fulfilling the 2016 consent conditions. Specifically:

1. Illegal Camping

BM advised that illegal camping was historically not a significant issue at BF, however they conducted regular patrols and liaised with Police and Council on any instances. At an average age of 49 for patrons, “rough” camping was not high in patrons' options. No further feedback was discussed on this issue.

2. Litter

- BF pays \$20,000 bond to Council, which has been refunded each festival.
- BF has volunteers to help sort rubbish on site and has teams patrolling the site surrounds cleaning up rubbish.
- Measures such as closing food stalls just prior to the last acts have assisted in reducing rubbish external to the site.

3. Provision of security services

- The BF security company is AGIL and has about 170 security personnel and CCTV equipment.
- Security as well as traffic management personnel start work on the Wednesday morning, when campers commence bump-in.
- There are roving external security patrols throughout the festival times.
- Security also patrols the wider neighbourhood, including Fox Lane and Greys Lane.
- Security company maintains a log of their trips and activities.

4. Noise

- Baseline acoustic levels were updated in January 2019 for the Noise Management Plan for this Easter festival. The acoustic consultant is David Moore, a specialist in music festivals and long-term consultant to BF.
- BF has a complaint system in place. David responds to any resident who calls or lodges a complaint to check sound levels and distinguish the source(s). He is able to request adjustments to sound spectrum features as a result of attendance at a resident's dwelling.
- Following a question by DI Matt Kehoe, BM confirmed a complaints hotline is put in place prior to each festival. The hotline is advertised and is publicly announced.
- Phil Mallon asked if many noise complaints were received at BF festivals. BM responded that complaints have reduced significantly year after year. In earlier years, noise management and available reduction techniques were not as good as now. By way of example, previous years may have seen 30 or more complaints, versus maybe 3 in recent years.

- BM further advised BF had a “residents’ tickets” programme, whereby residents within a defined radius of the site received festival tickets, based on predicted noise levels.

Action Item 2: The RWG advised no comments following review of the draft Noise Management Plan.

5. Event traffic and car parking

- BF has been working with the same parking management team for many years, led by Rex Butler.
- BF is introducing paid parking for the first year in an attempt to reduce car trips on roads, reduce car-parking issues, and as a revenue source adopted by virtually all other events of this size. The site can accommodate 7,000-day cars.
- Internal monitoring has shown that 15% of cars have only 1 occupant.
- Workforce Traffic Control are managing Traffic for the next 3 years, led by Matt Adams.
Both entry / exit points need to be heavily managed.
- The issue of the closure and RMS management of Greys Lane was discussed at length and Ben Buckland, RWG rep from RMS, was briefed on the issues. Both NSW Police and BF management advised they had not been consulted on this closure.
- The closed gates are a significant issue for the smooth operating of buses during BF. The East Tyagarah Community group led by resident Nicolas Eishler are also a stakeholder wrt road closures, especially during festival times. Brenden Meek will consult with him and brief him on the conversations with RWG and RMS.
Blanches uses Greys Lane for Southern bus runs.

Action Item 3: BF to liaise with BB and RMS to discuss the possibly to leave Greys Lane open and resolve Yarun Rd traffic.

Police also stated they need the gates open for emergency vehicles.

Resolution as per email from Ben Buckland RMS on March 1.

“I’ve made some inquiries in relation to both the Yarun Rd and Grays Ln gates. Both gates can be opened during the event, as has been the case in previous years.”

- Possible discussion for RMS to create 80km/h area on M1 along that stretch over the time off the festival (BF and NSW Police and RMS).

Resolution as per email from Ben Buckland RMS on March 1:

“With relation to the speed reduction on the Pacific Mtwy during the event, The RMS cannot support this as it would negatively impact customer travel times. However speed reductions may be an option to manage queueing traffic or unplanned

incidents. I will be the RMS contact if there are any issues for the duration of the event.”

- Additional measures such as Traffic management on the bridges, no stopping signs around the festival site, and security guards stationed at Fox Lane showing a physical presence in the neighbourhood.
- Pedestrians on the highway / M1 are a major safety concern. DI MK stated that it was important that the bus transport system and car-park exiting worked smoothly in order to attract patrons to use buses (especially). Once the word spreads that buses at BF were efficient, more patrons would use them.
- Ben Buckland asked how many buses were utilised at peak transport times at BF.
- **Action Item 4:** BM thought at least 30 and would obtain numbers from bus contractors.
- Byron Bay Bus stop holds up to 3 buses at the time. It's a 45minutes return trip.
- Due to the new paid parking system, an appropriate level of security and marshals is desired
- On behalf of service station owners, there was a request from Phil Mallon to make extra signage for the service station that it is OPEN for fuel sales. Maybe this also can be displayed on the VMS boards. And for the provision of two portable toilets at the station as the septic system there cannot handle increased usage by BF patrons at the shop (ice, consumables etc).
- **Action Item 5:** BF management and PM\station operators to discuss a solution
- Gary Cowan from NSW Police was concerned that is the rest stop opposite Grey's Lane will be used by patrons to park. The major concern is that they then cross the highway and walk along the M1 to the festival. This would be a major safety concern and it should be discussed at the risk meetings with BF how to avoid this.
- Another concern was raised by Norm Graham, Tweed Shire Ranger with the request that security guards extend their rounds towards the reserve.
- **Action Item 6:** BM advised they would consider this request.
- It was suggested by several members that BF include messages on their website and on social media and general communications for patron not to park and not walk along the highway.

6. Complaint Mechanisms

- BM and NK advised that BF has a complaint hotline in place for festivals and that number is published in Newspapers and on the BF website.
In addition, social media is monitored for complaints and responses.
- Any complaint is logged, and an action response recorded in the Complaints Register.

7. Koala Management

- BF commissioned the Biodiversity Management Plan undertaken by consultants AWC and is working with Prof Sean Fitzgibbon of Queensland University on the Koala Plan of Management (KPoM) monitoring aspects.
- BF has various programs in place to monitor and treat affected Koalas
- There is signage to stay out of the Koala area
- Traps for wild dogs have been set up to reduce feral animal numbers
- NPWS Ranger Norm Graham referred to a 15 February 2019 letter from OEHL requesting that surveys need to be able to be measured to determine if the aims and objects of the Koala Management Plan are being achieved. Norm advised this communication from OEHL to BF regarded some final clarifications on the KPoM, specifically a request for streamlining and making consistent its monitoring methodologies so that data can be compared year on year, without dilution or questions due to different methods, and requested an update from BF.
- SR and BM advised the KPoM has just been updated to confirm that following OEHL requests the KPoM monitoring methods will now be streamlined and made consistent, no matter who conducts the monitoring. The revised KPoM was now with Dept of Planning for sign-off prior to going to Council. The original documents will be held by BF and Council.

8. Flooding

- BF has identified flood prone areas.
- BF monitors weather predictions ahead of and during festivals. BF has flood markers on the bridges. In BF's DA there is a full flood mitigation strategy outlined and flood mitigation strategies are in place.
- Campground floods first, there are markers around and an exit route for evacuations.
- Mark Somers of SES advised he had read the flood and evacuation plans and would like to discuss specific emergency procedures with BF during upcoming site risk meetings.
- CI Gary Cowan requested GPS coordinates from Bluesfest.
NK of BF has advised:

[BF coordinates:](#)

DD COORDINATES -28.5854426582 153.541382834

DMS COORDINATES -28°35'7.59" S 153°32'28.98" E

GEOHASH COORDINATES r6vjmuJmtx30e1y4v

UTM COORDINATES 56J 552940.09947582 6837822.6981811

9. Bushfires

- BM summarised the site Asset Protection Zones and access routes for emergency vehicles. He advised the BF site has hydrants for RFS to tap into; approximately every 90m radius.
- RFS has an on-site command centre and has at its disposal 1x category 1 Tanker with a capacity of approx. 4,000 litre, and additional 2x Category 2 light tankers between 1,200 – 1,500 Litres capacity. All vehicles carry an adapter to hook onto the Bluesfest site hydrants.
- BF has a “no open fire policy”, particularly in the camping grounds, however gas bottles are allowed.
- Consequently, RFS advised the BF camping teams need briefing about the mindful use of gas and that act on RFS advice as there have been issues in the past with adhering to the RFS advice for safe operations and camping ground management.
- Entrance 104 in between the wreckers and petrol pump is an emergency vehicle entrance only to allow for seamless access and exit to and from the festival site. BM advised the internal bridges would take larger loads than sign posted.
- Bob Wilcox of RFS advised the largest threat wrt fires would be fires originating from surrounding bushlands, such as the Nature Reserve.

10. Evacuation procedures

- BF has an evacuation plan in place as part of their Event Manual.
- Please find here a link to the dropbox folder of the BF Event Manual. The evacuation plan is under Section 4C Emergency and Risk Management.
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3uwzo4dagtm3stw/AACi0ZkRaTK1F2Bh8JXn0v1Ea?dl=0>

11. Licencing Policies and current political climate

- Brenden Meek now holds a licence for extreme risk events; however, BF has now been labelled as low risk event and can proceed with the regulations as per their current Liquor License.
BF will voluntarily implement improvements in form of a chill out area within the on-site medical area.
- DI BM advised NSW Police were generally quite satisfied with BF operations, patron behaviour and the controls in place.

Other Business

- The proposed date for site inspection by RWG members is Monday 15 April at 10:00AM. Confirmation and details to follow.
- Online induction for NSW Police and Emergency Services will be arranged by BF.
- Gate 4 to have bollards installed.
- The Chairman thanked all attendees for their input and a constructive first meeting. The meeting closed at 3.50 pm.