



**Bluesfest Byron Bay
Byron Events Farm
Regulatory Working Group**

Minutes from meeting
Wednesday 1 March 2023 Bluesfest Offices, Tyagarah 2.00pm

Attendees:

#	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Abbreviation
1	Phil	Mallon	Community Rep	PM
2	Fabrizio	Calafuri	Community Rep	FC
3	Tash	Morris-Esch	Bluesfest-Asst to Chief of Events	TM
4	Peter	Mair	State Emergency Service (SES)	PM
5	Chris	Larkin	Byron Council-Manager SSD	CL
6	Nadja	Konietzko	Bluesfest Chief of Events	NK
7	Peter	Ryan	Chair, RWG	PR
8	Mark	Elm	SES A\Superintendent Regional	ME
9	Mark and Leah	Ross	Rural Fire Service (RFS)	MR LR
10	Chris	Ross	RFS Mullum Captain	CR
11	Bob	Wilcox	RFS	BW
12	D\Insp Matt	Kehoe	NSW Police	MK
13	Leisa	Sedger	TfNSW (via Zoom)	LS

Abbreviations:

BF = Bluesfest

RWG = Regulatory Working Group

Welcome and Introductions

RWG Chairman, Peter Ryan opened the meeting at 2.00pm and introduced himself and outlined the scope and purpose of this RWG.

This meeting would discuss Bluesfest 2023 arrangements and improvements since 2022, and the proposal to allow 100 days amplified Small Events (from the current allowance of 10 amplified, 90 non-amplified). Round-table introductions were then made.

Apologies

Norm Graham (NPWS)

Discussion Items

Item 1 Bluesfest Easter Event 2023

NK commenced with her appreciation of the regular support and attendance shown at the RWG meetings, and followed with a summary of BF 2023:

This will be the 34th Bluesfest event, held between 6-10 April.

To reduce traffic pressure, a soft opening will be scheduled on the Wednesday 5th April to allow campers to filter in. Some soft music may be included.

There will be 4 stages (no Jambalaya stage) and improvements have been made for water management at other stages, including hardstands at Mojo and Delta stages. Drains have also been cleaned out to facilitate faster drainage of runoff.

Security checkpoints have been moved to AFTER patron vehicle parking, which will greatly assist traffic flows and reduce back-ups. The Traffic Management Plan has been revised.

A new pedestrian bridge has been constructed to reduce pressure on the existing bridge and on internal roads. In addition, one-way traffic and pedestrian flow routes will be implemented to improve the flow of patrons and vehicles.

Emergency service vehicles will be exempted from this system.

LS asked if the south ramp off the M1 onto site could be opened on the Wednesday to assist flows.

Action 1: This option would be looked at by NK and BF management.

Red Dawn is the new Security contractor; an experienced organisation.

Busses—BF are encouraging a tap system to replace cash, which slows things up. This is consistent with the festival site, which is cashless. BF will take a closer management role with bussing contractors. There will be soft drink carts and perhaps light music at bussing points to enable re-hydration and some entertainment while patrons wait for a bus.

PM asked about the relationship with bus contractors. NK responded it was pretty good, and while the two businesses were quite different, they both understood the importance of an efficient bus service for traffic management and patron satisfaction, especially at peak exit times.

MK also advised that southbound buses will use Greys Lane, where LS advised the gates there will be opened between 8pm and 2am. Otherwise the gates will be locked.

Action 2: Residents in this area need to be informed (BF management and FC).

PM asked if the bridge connecting site with the Tyagarah service station near the Emergency Services Area was repaired, and (MR) if it had a weight limit. BF will respond and also advised the bridge will have security placed there.

On this matter, CL asked if directing some buses this way to the M1 was also an option.

BF will look at this idea.

NK advised the Emergency Centre will have a representative of key agencies all in one office.

MR advised RFS would attend this office when needed; otherwise they would be stationed in their positions and in radio contact.

NK advised that based on projected lower patron numbers this year compared to last year, one northern campground would be designated for larger vehicles.

Campground 2 would be used for large camping vehicles overflow. In addition, more drainage work has been conducted in the southern camping areas, making them more suitable for 3- and 1-day larger vehicles.

In response to MK, NK advised there would be no increase in camper numbers.

LR asked if hardstand areas could be provided at the designated RFS stations to cover wet ground possibilities.

Action 3: NK suggested RFS meet with her and Mick, the site manager, to specify this work.

NK also advised that Carpark C (north) would be used for artist parking a sit facilitated more efficient departures.

There would be 10 bars (9 last year).

Patron numbers are tracking at less than last year, perhaps 75,000 over the festival (hoping for an increase in late door sales though), with roughly 15,000 on wing days and 20,000 on the main (weekend) days. This is in comparison to a total of around 101,024 last year.

Item 2 Small Events

Currently, BF have an approval for 100 days per calendar year of small events (2,000 patron max and with specified noise, traffic and operating conditions). Ten of these events can be amplified, 90 non-amplified.

The consent allows for the number of amplified events to be increased by Byron Shire Council on BF request, following some trial events and compilation of performance data (eg. noise, traffic, complaints etc) and with the recommendation\endorsement of the RWG.

NK advised Bluesfest are seeking 100 days amplified on a permanent basis, based on:

- prior consultations with Council regarding what constituted a trial event
- an understanding with Council that advertising and consultation for small events was not required (but was for medium and large events). This condition was written in 2014, CL advised.
- the provision of a Performance Report which has complied with all requirements.

BF have compiled and issued a Performance Report, and noise and climatic monitoring data to the RWG prior to this meeting seeking RWG member comments (attached), prior to seeking Council approval.

The evening prior to this meeting Community Rep, Fabrizio Calafuri from Tyagarah, forwarded the attached email from the Tyagarah Community Association Inc. (TCA), following his consultation with them. This email and his verbal report were tabled at the meeting and discussed. With respect to this issue, the Association requests additional, advertised small event trials prior to a Council decision on 100 days permanent small events. BF do not see such a need, advising they have already complied with all trial\test events, and their reporting and monitoring requirements. In addition, no complaints were received on the trial days. Traffic is regarded as a low to no impact issue given the small numbers of vehicles involved.

Lengthy, round-table RWG member discussion was held, the results of which were:

- No objections to the increase to 100 days\year on a permanent basis were made by any members (FC, SES and TfNSW preferring not to offer opinions, with the latter two organisations not seeing it being their role).
- A recommendation for the amendment to the small event condition to 100 days amplified allowance was given by the remainder of the members (PM, NSW Police (with suggested improvements), as well as RFS and BF management). As explained by CL, in accordance with the specific terms of the consent, it was open to the RWG to make such a recommendation.

Several members regarded a further extension to trial small events as not required.

PM, MR, and BF, were of the opinion this would be damaging for any business' planning processes and risk management procedures, and the ability to retain insurances.

In terms of responding to the TCA email and regarding community consultation, and any further responses by the TCA indicted by FC, NK advised that management would welcome additional consultation with the TCA, via the Community Reps to the RWG Chair. This is the correct process. The Chair agreed with this initiative and confirmed it was the correct procedure.

In addition, NK advised details of future small (and other) events can be found on the Byron Events Farm and Green Room websites. This is freely available. The complaints hotline would be open for all sizes of events.

Action 4: CL advised a review of the condition 73 (originally written in 2014 he advised) regarding letter box drops and consultation for events specifically regarding small events, as well as in general, may need updating to contemporary methods and intent. He would also review the interpretation of this condition with BF management asap. As the condition was written some time ago and focused on larger events than those now also contemplated, discussion with BF management to clarify and if needed amend the condition, is appropriate. Cl advised it was open to Council to approve amplified small events on a temporary or permanent basis as per the conditions of consent and with consideration of endorsement by the RWG.

A meeting with BF management will be arranged asap.

The Chair and NK thanked the attendees for their valuable input, and for FC, for his efforts in community consultation and bring forth feedback.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.