



BLUESFEST BYRON BAY 2020 REGULATORY WORKING GROUP

Minutes

Wednesday 06 February 2020, 10:00 – 11:30

At Bluesfest Office Tyagarah Tea Tree Farm

WHEN	ITEM NUMBER AND TOPIC	WHO
10:00	Welcome	Peter Ryan Chair
10:10	1. Introduction Intro new community rep, Fabrizio Calafuri Apologies	Bluesfest
10:20	2. Recap on RWG purpose and coverage. Summary of meetings to date	Bluesfest and Chair
10:40	3. BF to provide update and status/results of all items listed for RWG coverage (e.g. current Modification, koala management update, studies prepared/currently being prepared for BF 2020.	Bluesfest
11:00	4. Update on action items listed in last RWG meeting minutes	Bluesfest
11:10	5. Other Business	Bluesfest
11:20	6. BF 2020 Inspection	Bluesfest

Apologies:

Ben Buckland (RMS), Mark Somers (SES), Chris Larkin (BSC), Norm Graham (NPWS)

Attendees: Peter Ryan (Chair), Phil Mallon (Comm Rep), Fabrizio Calafuri (Comm Rep), Jess Gilmore (BSC), Mark and Leah Ross (RFS), Bob Wilcox (RFS), Mal Kentwell (NSW Police), Matt Kehoe (NSW Police), Brendan Meek (Bluesfest), Nadja Konietzko (Bluesfest), Leo Gortz (Bluesfest).

Peter Ryan introduced and welcomed new Community Representative, Fabrizio Calafuri, to the group. Fabrizio joins Phil Mallon as the community representatives on the Bluesfest RWG.

Brendan Meek and Nadja Konietzko updated the meeting on RWG relevant items, as follows:

Illegal Camping

Signs erected in local area a few years ago, including Greys Lane, to stop illegal camping are working. Fabrizio Calafuri reported an improvement in the situation since the signs were erected.

BF Security patrol the area in addition to Council rangers.

Litter

To minimise litter upon exit, BF reduce the number of "open" food and drink outlets closer to exits at end of each night. Patrons are prevented to board buses with food and drinks.

Litter has traditionally not been a problem.

Police

Emergency Command Centre and Communications will be centralised from now on; near the Police command centre.

Security stakeholder meetings are held daily at the festival (traffic, campgrounds, security, CCTV camera).

An additional, new, CCTV camera will be mounted facing Gulgan Rd.

Agile Security is the contractor, and they work well with NSW Police.

Provision of security services at Tyagarah Fuel station:

Phil Mallon asked for No Parking signs at the front of the garage and toilets, as long-term parking by festival patrons significantly impeded business at the fuel station. Alternatively, 30 minutes parking signs.

Action Item: BF will arrange.

Permanent gates at Exit 104 was discussed. The site is located between the fuel station and old wreckers yard boundary. It would be kept locked most of the time and manned by security during events.

Action Item: Discussions between BF management, Fuel operators and the new owner of the old wreckers yard (Andrew Solerno) will be held.

Noise and 2020 Modification

An amendment to the noise plans to reflect the recently approved modification to maximum daily numbers of 30,000 has been prepared by BF consultant David Moore.

Geo Link is working towards a deadline to March 1 for an update to the site's Fire Management Plan (FMP).

RFS will update their plan with updated maps

David Moore will again be present on site for BF 2020 to monitor and manage sound levels.

Event Traffic and Car Parking

Paid Parking has been introduced for the first time this year, and management are expecting less cars on site.

The group discussed the idea of pre-purchase online bus tickets which apparently worked well at other regional festivals last year.

Workforce is the contracted traffic management company and have previous experience at site with no major issues.

Complaint Mechanism/Community Hotline

Access to the community and complaints hotline will be published before the BF event.

BF have a Digital Customer Service system for responding to calls and emails. All enquiries are logged and kept.

Koala Management

Reference to Performance Report Condition 56

VIII. Environmental management targets and strategies for the reporting period, taking into account identified trends in monitoring results have been reported; Koala Monitoring continues to be conducted by Dr Sean Fitzgibbon of Qld University.

No major adverse impacts were observed during the last festival period. Baseline data for the vegetation monitoring sites has been gathered and included in the annual report.

Bush regeneration activities during the reporting period have been slow due to a focus on the development of the new approved KPoM and the extremely dry conditions. The dry conditions have impeded re-restoration activities through the year and plantings will occur once decent rainfall occurs.

Wild dog monitoring has been undertaken by Dr Sean Fitzgibbon with no wild dog activity being recorded at the site. Reconeco have been engaged to undertake wild dog control if required at the site.

In response to a suggestion from Fabrizio Calafurni to publically share relevant koala monitoring data, BF management have since provided the following summary:

Bluesfest 2019 Performance Report | Condition #56 | DA 10.2014.753.3

Report from Dr. Sean Fitzgibbon

One of the main aims of the Bluesfest Koala Monitoring Program is to assess the movements and well-being of collared koalas during the annual Bluesfest music festival. Two males (named Lamar and Mariachi) were monitored during Bluesfest 2019. To assess the impact of the festival upon the monitored koalas, each individual was radio-tracked daily during the festival (18th March – 22nd April 2019) as well as the two days prior to, and the day immediately after, the event. In addition to determining locations by tracking, behavioural observations were collected to try and assess if the monitored koalas were behaving in an unusual manner, such as regularly re-positioning or appearing agitated. Based on the gathered tracking data and the direct observation of koalas during Bluesfest 2019, it is concluded that the event did not have a significant negative impact upon the two monitored koalas. No unusual behaviours were observed, and the koalas appeared to remain within their normal range areas during Bluesfest 2019. Further, monitoring of Lamar and Mariachi in the months following the festival showed that they continued to utilize their home range areas on the Bluesfest site.

Flooding

Flood Studies and Emergency Evacuation Plans in place, in accordance with consent conditions.

Water via overland flow generally comes from West to East and thence to Simpsons Creek.

To date, flooding has not been an issue at site, and continual improvements in managing on-site water during rainfall events have been successful, leading to a drier site.

Bushfires

The site has thankfully escaped any bushfire issues. Asset protection Zones are in place across the site, including camping areas.

Pursuant to the new consent (2017) no events may be held on days where Catastrophic conditions are declared (none declared since this category was introduced several years ago).

Police Matters

Matt Kehoe advised BF management to prepare for the possibility of drug Amnesty bins managed by NSW Health (for example, located before gates and one inside of the event). NSW Police do not manage or operate the system. BF will discuss this issue with Steve Barnes (Emergency Centre medico) and NSW authorities asap.

Jess Gilmore asked if the Deputy Coroner was to visit the event this year, as discussed last meeting. NSW Police advised this was unlikely given her Inquiry was now completed.

Evacuation Procedures

Detailed procedures are contained in the Event Manual. Site security are also trained in the agreed evacuation procedures, and when and where to implement them in the event of an emergency.

In response to a question from Matt Kehoe, BF advised the helipad was located at the adjacent Tyagarah airfield.

Other Business

Matt Kehoe asked if the site's internal footprint was changing as a consequence of the recently approved modification for 30,000 patrons. BM advised only minor changes were to take place, whereby the Juke Box and Delta stages (smaller stages at the northern precinct) will be moved back to allow additional "front of house" room. An expanded "Eat Street" will also be included in this area in 2021.

RFS would like to set up their compound on the Tuesday prior to the Easter event. BF advised this would not be an issue. They also advised that being volunteers, manning the EEC full-time would present manpower challenges. In response, NSW Police advised 24hour manning was not necessary; 6pm-2am was typically sufficient, and a senior officer was not required.

Leah Ross suggested the traffic controllers at the emergency gate be fully briefed on where to direct emergency vehicles, as an update to site layout and to minimise any delays.

This will be actioned.

A brief site visit of the 2020 Easter event in set-up mode will be offered to interested persons on Monday 6th April. Jess Gilmore, Phil Mallon and Fabrizio Calafurni asked to attend.

Action Item; Chair and BF management to arrange.

The meeting closed at 11.30 am with the Chair and BF management thanking all participants for their input.