



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

Minutes from meeting Thursday 15 February 2024
Bluesfest Offices, Tyagarah 3.30pm

Attendees:

#	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Abbreviation
1	Phil	Mallon	Community Rep	PM
2	Fabrizio	Calafuri	Community Rep	FC
3	Jodie	Sharpe	Bluesfest-Opns Mgr\ Licensee	JS
4	Peter	Mair	State Emergency Service (SES)	PM
5	Chris	Ross	NSW RFS Mullumbimby	CR
6	Nadja	Konietzko	Bluesfest, Chief of Events	NK
7	Peter	Ryan	Chair, RWG	PR
8	Stephen	Pritchard	NSW RFS	SP
9	Mark and Leah	Ross	NSW RFS, Mullumbimby	MR LR
10	Peter	Noble	Bluesfest Director	PN
11				
12				
13				

Attendees via link: Leisa Sedger, Matthew Muller, Ruby Driscoll-Dyer, Kirsten Yeates (Tf NSW)
Helen Motteram (Byron Shire Council)

Abbreviations:

BF = Bluesfest

RWG = Regulatory Working Group

Welcome and Introductions

RWG Chairman, Peter Ryan opened the meeting at 3.30pm and introduced himself, Bluesfest management, and outlined the scope and purpose of this RWG.

This meeting would discuss Action Items from the previous meeting in June 2023, and Bluesfest 2024 arrangements.

Round-table introductions were then made.

Apologies

Norm Graham (NPWS), Matt Kehoe (NSW Police), Bob Wilcox (NSW RFS)

Discussion Items

Item 1

Action Item 1 June 2023 Minutes

This item relates to the amendment BF have lodged with BSC which includes the community notification of medium (and small) events. The existing Condition 73 is out-dated by way of communication mediums and a more effective and rapid mechanism is proposed. The Tyagarah Community is the community of focus.

The RWG and BF management confirmed that notifications to the Community of previous Green Room events had been completed. However, it was noted by FC that the 2023 Tyagarah fire and current land development DAs are a major focus of many community members. JS and NK advised their policy was to notify as soon as tickets went on sale. The RWG members appreciate the efforts made by FC to disseminate information as he receives it.

BF management wish to embed an effective and informative system of notifications. This would apply to all events, despite Small Events not requiring notification as per DA compliance.

BSC have made some suggestions in this regard, which the BF management team is discussing in parallel with the amendment. More news is expected in the coming weeks.

At this point, further communication with community reps, FC and PM will take place.

Action Item 2 June 2023 Minutes

NK confirmed the TMP had been amended in consultation with TfNSW and Alderton Consultants. Greys Lane was and will continue to be opened to traffic when volumes exceeding the 18,000 patron /day trigger were met, between 8pm and 2am (or earlier if not required) (NK, JS, RD-D, LS). Otherwise, the Northern Interchange is the main exit.

NK advised of a further improvement in traffic(camping) management. All 3-Day camping and large vehicles will pass directly to their sites. Accreditation will take place once on site. This will reduce hold-ups on entry and the need for additional movements on site.

Action Item 1—RD-D asked if this system could be reiterated to the local community (JS/NK confirmed).

LS asked if Greys Lane could be closed via a future modification. This was currently a “needs” basis and could perhaps be reviewed thereafter.

Action Item 3 June 2023

The site plan in A3 pdf form was delivered to Peter Mair (SES).

Events 2024

Easter Bluesfest will be number 35. PN expressed the current nation-wide difficulties in holding and financing large music events, and promoters were constantly working on new models and ways to successfully manage the industry in the face of changes. Around 70,000 patron days across 5 days will be considered a good outcome (compared to 100,000 pre-covid).

Costs continue to increase, and this is heavily impacted by reductions in patron numbers, as it more or less costs the same to float the same event (PN, NK).

BF 2024 will be a 5-day event, with five stages (no Juke Joint). Thursday 28 March to Monday 1 April. Tickets are selling, although a concerted sales efforts will as usual be made in the upcoming month.

Bussing will be provided by BF this year, as the pre-existing bus company no longer provides a service which includes collecting fares from patrons when boarding the buses. This enforced alteration to bus operations has resulted from the change of bus company owners two years ago. The BF management team has worked hard to provide a flexible ticketing system despite the bus company's dictum of only providing the number of buses and drivers based on BF patron pre-demand, meaning tickets need to be pre-purchased well in advance to estimate demand. Discussions are on-going.

Large vehicle bookings and 3 Day Camping are particularly popular.

Monitoring and Maintenance

The regeneration, weed management and planting programmes continue, as do monitoring of koalas.

Site Introductions

The RWG members were introduced to Jamie Uren, the BF Site Manager.

The meeting closed with thanks to the attendees at 4.35pm.