My name is Kate Foster and I am the part owner, along with my husband, of Mrs Birdy- a café and general store in South Golden Beach, closest to the Parklands Festival site. We are a family of six and, like the majority of young families in the area, often struggle to make ends meet in this challenging local economy. Our business is open 7 days a week, all year round (expect for selected Public Holidays) and we work extremely hard to provide a consistent and reliable service to our much-loved locals. In an area where conveniences are more scare than in the city, our local patrons rely heavily on our business to provide them with everything from meals and morning coffee to package delivery, ATM access, milk and bread. Whilst we greatly appreciate our regular clientele, there is no doubt that the extra and significant income generated throughout festival times helps to make our business profitable. This, in turn, allows us to offer an ongoing level of service for locals right throughout the year, particularly in the quieter winter months when trade can be excruciatingly slow.

In the time that we have owned Mrs Birdy we have experienced three festival weeks, one Splendour in the Grass and two Falls Festivals. On all occasions the support from the Parklands staff has been excellent. We have been provided with relevant and helpful information, signage and extra bins. The Parklands representative visits us regularly before, during and after the festival and any issues we raised (although very minor) were immediately acted upon by Parklands staff.  At no time during either festival did we have any negative experience with festival goers. At all times they have been polite and considerate patrons.

We do support Parklands in their bid for a permanent festival site and recognise the multiple benefits, both culturally and financially, to our local community.

Thank you.