Please accept this as my submission regarding North Byron Parklands.

I **strongly object** to NBPL becoming a permanent festival site and to the increase in patron numbers, increase in festival length and increase in festival frequency for many reasons.

1. This area is a wildlife corridor, imperative to the survival of 40 endangered species including koala. No creature could endure the thumping of the base for many kilometres around the site and they will not stay in the area, meaning they will most likely die as there is nowhere else to go. I live some 7 kilometres away and when the wind blows in our direction nothing stops us hearing that incessant banging - not curtains, blinds or closed windows. I gets in your head and drives you mad.
2. The site floods quickly. I have seen cows standing in water past their bellies on many occasions where the camping is located. Consequently, patrons will not be safe.
3. The area sits on peat. This has burnt for months in the past. No festival goer would understand how quickly fire would spread nor how devastating it would be in this wildlife corridor. In the case of a fire patrons will not be safe.
4. NBPL is 51% owned by the United States company Live Nation that is under investigation for antitrust laws. Most money will go overseas. This company has no regard for our country or our diminishing wildlife.
5. Since these mega festivals have invaded the area, the vibrant local weekly music scene has dramatically decreased. Many previously vibrant and well attended venues have closed and have run into disrepair and the many jobs this smaller scale industry that spread all over the shire have also reduced. Mega festivals may have some jobs and work experience, but they are gained at the expense of the regular year round shire-wide venues.
6. Festivals of this ilk bring nasty drugs into the area that make users aggressive and out of control and patron deaths have occurred as a result.
7. Tiny plastic glitter so popular at these festivals is extremely harmful to the environment, and with the site adjacent to Coastal Wetlands and the Billinudgel Nature Reserve this has a huge impact on the health of the system. Other rubbish is left strewn across the site and shows a disgusting lack of respect or concern by patrons.
8. Self-monitoring of anything never works. Byron and Tweed shires would have to monitor all compliance issues at the full expense of NBPL.
9. NBPL’s waste water plan – that’s raw sewerage – is not acceptable. The proposed increased number of patrons is double the shires population. Current systems can not cope and to release on site treated effluent into the wetlands and Billinudgel Nature Reserve is totally hazardous and irresponsible in the extreme.
10. I find it shocking that the traditional owners have not been consulted at all. This is one of the most important indigenous sites in Australia that links song lines with Uluru. There is even a bora ring under the main stage. What total disregard and desecration of indigenous culture! Aunty Delta Kay, a descendant of the Arakwal Bumberbin clan of the proud Bundjalung Nation and spokesperson of the local indigenous people, distanced herself from the recent Fields of Healing festival. She states “**Cultural appropriation is nothing but cultural genocide.** To those people who abuse, dilute and trivialise native traditions while preying on the vulnerable who are searching for connection and meaning – please stop!”
11. Living near the Devine Lookout, I see festival goers illegally camping at the lookout, shitting and leaving their food scraps and plastic mess behind them with no care or regard to our neighbourhood.

I repeat, I am totally against this site being used and abused in this fashion for a permanent festival venue. There are other festival sites in this shire that should be used instead. Please do not allow this to become a permanent mega festival site that is totally out of proportion to our shire.

Olga Tresz

Resident and owner,

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