

My name is Dr. Norman K. Sanders. I am now retired. I have been an Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles and a Lecturer in Human Ecology at the Australian National University. I also served two terms as a Senator in the Australian Federal Parliament.

I will begin with a discussion of noise. Noise is a widely misunderstood term. In fact what many call noise is really sound level. Sound levels can be measured with a meter. Noise cannot, because it is purely subjective. Noise is unwanted sound.

A sound level of 110 DB is music to Splendour patrons and painful to anyone else. 50 DB of Splendour sound in the surrounding community is NOISE because it reminds us of Splendour and what it is doing to us.

Every time we hear Splendour noise, we get angry and feel helpless, like those communities which get swallowed by an ever-expanding coal mine.

And this community is ANGRY! There is a movement to institute a class action against Splendour to claim damages for loss of amenity and damage to the community. The Class Action would name the State and Splendour as the defendants.

We residents take pride in our suburb. Splendour moves in and there are festival goers sleeping in cars on the streets and in the parks. Front yards are used as toilets, parks are littered with condoms, needles and bongos. The streets are getting hammered by traffic and are full of potholes. (If Splendour is supposed to be such an asset to the community, why can't the Council afford to fix the potholes which Festival traffic creates?) Parking spaces are a rarity and we can't even get to the banks or post office.

Festivals such as Splendour are indisputably magnets for drug use. Unfortunately festival patrons bring their drug habits into the community which becomes obvious by their behaviour in public. I was having a cup of coffee in Brunswick Heads across from a Splendour bus stop. A young woman left the bus stop and lay down in the middle of the road, blocking one lane. Any attempt to move her was met with a burst of obscenities. Finally, the bus arrived. She got up and staggered aboard. A great example for our kids.

Now Splendour is asking for even more event days. But who IS Splendour? It is no longer a home-grown Byron Bay operation. It is now owned 51% by Live Nation Entertainment a multinational company which operates in 40 countries around the globe and claims 550 million fans. Their game plan is clear. Once the approvals are granted, the local investors will sell out and Live Nation will own 100% of Splendour.

The Independent Planning Commission states:“

We're committed to building community confidence and trust in the decision-making process for major development and land-use planning by maintaining a high level of independence, expertise and transparency.”

This is a chance for the Commission to demonstrate its adherence to its stated policy.

So who do you support? A profit-hungry multinational or a suffering community?

It's your choice!

Sincerely,

Dr. Norman K. Sanders

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