

Regulatory Working Group Meeting  
BLUESFEST Offices, Tyagarah, 10.45 am, Wednesday 12 March 2025

## **MINUTES of MEETING**

The meeting opened with a welcome from the chairman and BF management.

### **Attendees**

Nadja Konietzko (BF Chief Events Officer), Jodi Sharp (Licensee and Operations Manager), DI Donna Tutt (NSW Police, Byron) Insp Matt Woods (NSW Police, Tweed), Judit Nink (BF), Phil Mallon, Fabrizio Califurni (Community Reps), Peter Ryan (Chair), Leisa Sedger and Kim Harding (TfNSW on line), Derek Hayne (NSW Police-Licencing, on-line), Helen Motteram (Byron Shire Council Events, on-line)

### **Apologies**

Chris Larkin (Byron Shire Council-Planning)

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting in October 2024 were finalised shortly thereafter and were posted by BF management on the relevant websites.

#### **Action Items**

The Modification for Small and Medium Events, discussed at the October 2024 meeting was approved by BSC on 10 Feb 2025 and is the current DA for the events at Tyagarah. It is version 10.2014.753.10. Copies are available from BF management.

### **Bluesfest 2025 Outline**

NK and JS presented relevant details of BF 2025:

- a 4 Day festival, from Thursday 17 April to Sunday 20 April, 2025; there are 4 stages (including an expanded Crossroads Stage) plus a Busking stage.
- The northern event field will be opened and Jambalaya stage moved to allow for more space.
- a soft opening for inbound campers will run on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>, with some music between 6-10pm and a selection of food options.
- on site camping is sold out; additional campers either have already or will have to find alternatives, of which several exist in the region, and preferably, bus to the festival
- the potential option of directing some campers to the Splendour site at Yelgun is not possible
- BF management advised 95% tix sold, with about 110,000 attendees over the 4 festival days; this equates to around 20,000 patrons on the Thursday and up to 30,000 on the peak days of Saturday and Sunday

- the Cavanbah Centre on Ewingsdale Rd is earmarked for overflow vehicle parking in the event wet weather requires the closure of a few on site carparks; buses will transfer patrons
- food venues, bars and WC facilities have been expanded in number and positions across the site
- a children's playground is to be located at the northern end; a place to chill out, children play and guardians \parents relax next to a massage facility, small bar and cafe
- additional ground hardening and road works since BF 2024 have been completed and despite the rains of TC Alfred, the site is draining well.

## **TRAFFIC and TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

NK and DT advised the Traffic Management Plan (updated) was approved. MW is closely involved with TFNSW teams regarding traffic management details. Updated contingencies included in the revised TMP are attached.

TFNSW reps, LS and KH, advised the organisation would have "eyes on" the M1 and will liaise with their reps and the EEC Traffic controllers throughout the festival; they invited any requests for any further assistance. LS advised that in the event of a significant incident or significant impact, communications need to be coordinated to the Customer Coordination Centre.

Greys Lane will open from 9pm -2am for south departures to assist the egress of patron traffic and busses. In accordance with the consent, letter box drops, website posts and Echo newspaper adverts would be completed.

CDC is the bus operator; private busses can utilise the Bluesfest bus loop close to the southern box office until 10pm and use the pick-up and drop of area (Kiss and Rise) from 10pm onwards.

PM asked if a Pottsville bus service would operate; NK advised pre-purchase for busses was important so the number of busses and the extent of pick-up points could be matched with demand. Signage for the Tyagarah Service Station (which is to open) will be in place for M1 and patron traffic as per the TMP.

Registration processes for patrons were amended for BF 2024, and worked well, with 3-day large vehicles patrons guided to their sites, prior to registration. This process will again be adopted with 3 day campers going directly to their sites, then accredited, and 5 day campers accredited at the Campers accreditation as they have to travel to the northern camp grounds 1 to 3.

LS asked if pre-paid parking will be checked on entry. No, to facilitate internal traffic flows, this will occur once parked.

Day parking patrons will be directed to a spot, and a mobile attendant will register the pre-paid booking or accept payment.

FC asked if the provisions for day parking were sufficient (estimate of 50% availability for total day patrons); JS and NK advised additional car parking may be available on site if needed and if dry weather, with Cavanbah Centre available for the wet weather scenario.

Bike racks are provided at both entrances.

## **NOISE MANAGEMNT**

NK advised that David Moore, acoustics consultant, would once again be on site for the festival duration, monitoring for compliance and advising stage managers of any refinements required. The BF hotline number would operate to receive and action any noise (or other) complaints. Traditionally, NK advised these were very few.

On Thursday 13 March a 500-patron small event will be held in the Green Room. Noise management procedures and limits are set in the modified Consent.

On Saturday 22 March a 1,100-patron small event will be held in the Green Room. Noise management procedures and limits are set in the modified Consent.

### **Koala Management**

NK advised a recent monitoring event reported 5 female (tagged) koalas on site, with a likely 2 or more untagged, and 2 males. Females are reaching breeding age. Chlamydia disease remains an issue (In an earlier programme, 2 of the 3 koalas removed from site in early 2024 for treatment were not able to be saved, regrettably).

The Koala Management Plan is on-going.

### **Social Management and Litter**

BF media continues to encourage responsible behaviour and litter awareness. Camping in non-designated sites and traversing busy roads such as the M1 is actively discouraged.

The meeting closed at 12.20, with thanks to the attendees.

The next RWG meeting will be scheduled following the 2025 BF event.