Fine for Splendour festival noise breach

The Department of Planning and Environment has fined North Byron Parklands for the Splendour in the Grass 2014 music festival breaching noise conditions.

A team from the Department attended the event in July this year and despite the fine imposed for noise issues, a report on the event’s compliance released today shows it generally met its approval conditions.

“North Byron Parklands was required to take steps to measure and minimise noise from the event,” a Department spokesperson said.

“Extensive noise monitoring was carried out at multiple locations, speakers were positioned to avoid directing sound away from the event and shipping containers were used to absorb as much noise as possible.

“Despite taking these steps, the event breached its approval's noise restrictions.”

The spokesperson said wind contributed to the breach, carrying noise further than it would have done otherwise.

Given these circumstances the Department considers a $3,000 fine is appropriate.

“The Department is working with the venue to reduce bass noise from next year’s event to minimise its impact in terms of sound and vibration on nearby residents,” the spokesperson said.

The report shows the festival’s traffic management has improved significantly since the 2013 event.

“While the event’s complaint handling processes met approval conditions, there were capacity issues whenever there was an unusually high number of calls to the line simultaneously,” the spokesperson said.

“We’ve recommended that there are more people answering community hotline phones next year.”

The Department received 36 submissions raising concerns about the event from the community and considered all input in putting together the report.

These submissions included issues outside the Department’s jurisdiction like illegal camping, as well as littering and disorderly conduct. These are matter for the local council or police.


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