



AT BYRON EVENTS FARM, NSW-AUSTRALIA
FROM THU 2ND TIL SUN 5TH APRIL 2026

MINUTES OF BLUESFEST REGULATORY WORKING GROUP THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2026, 11 am
BF OFFICES, TYAGARAH

ATTENDEES

Peter Noble (Director, BluesFest), Blake Vanderfield-Kramer (Gnl Mgr BF), Jodie Sharpe (Ops Manager BF), Faith Paine (BF), Judit Nink (BF), Peter Ryan (Chair), Phil Mallon (Comm Rep), Fabrizio Califurni (Comm Rep), Kim Hardinge (TfNSW), Marie Ormiston (TfNSW), Chris Larkin (Byron Shire Council)

APOLOGIES

Norm Graham (NPWS), Mark and Leah Ross (RFS), NSW Police

ITEMS

1. Outstanding Action Items previous meeting July 2025

Previous Action Item 1

After unsuccessfully attempting to source alternatives such as the Splendour site, additional off-site parking for the 2025 event was found at late notice at Eagle Farm on Greys Lane. The RWG has been informed this was not permissible, and also created some issues and concern re traffic and safety from residents in the Tyagarah area. The RWG meeting in July 2025 agreed that BF was to work on finding permissible off-site car-parking in the event it was required in 2026 and beyond.

JS and BVK updated the status: There is currently no plan to seek or use off-site car-parking in 2026 due to expected lower patron numbers for BF 2026 and the rearranging of the site. BF have changed carparking and camping layouts to 2022 layouts to create more carparking.

Some 7,000 car spaces should be available on site.

In parallel, BF are in discussions with Destination NSW and the relevant State Departments regarding the nomination of BF as a Hallmark Event. This allows the State to permit certain uses

(eg car parking areas with appropriate risk management). A Determination is expected shortly, at the Minister's discretion.

New Action Item 1

BF to advise the RWG (including FC, Tyagarah community rep) the outcome of this determination.

Previous Action Item 2

ExternalTraffic Issues 2025

These included back-up to the M1, Kiss N Ride (KnR), Greys Lane, some northbound congestion and an amended Traffic Management Plan (TMP) including a Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS).

JS and BVK updated the meeting: a revised TMP and TGS has been prepared (CL advised it is about to be signed off). Closer visual management of traffic near the St. Helena tunnel is proposed as well as routing traffic northbound to Gulgan Rd and looping to site.

Bussing and Drop-offs

Buses are now to be scheduled on specific times per town. The bus loops for the most in-demand towns have been split so that each town is serviced by its own dedicated bus route, rather than a single bus covering multiple towns. Some of the further bus routes are sold on demand. This will assist drop-off traffic efficiency. Bay FM has also been engaged to promote maximum use of buses. Tickets should be pre-purchased, although QR code facilities are available at the bus stops but with seating subject to availability. Issues with bussing at large events is problematic as patrons typically are slow to pre-book or leave it to much later, when bus companies find it harder to schedule sufficient drivers and buses. Some \$400,000 is spent on buses.

The KnR situation is problematic at all large events, not just BF. People will attempt to find the shortest, easiest way to be picked up or dropped-off. The BF KnR site is at the south end, close to the south exit which can discourage patrons to walk there, notably upon exit each night. Initiatives for 2026 include better signage, marshalling at the KnR site to hasten vehicle movements (eg like an airport drop-off zone).

Preventing KnR and unauthorised trespass at the Tyagarah servo is important both for the owners, and for overall personnel and vehicle safety. The assistance of NSW Police to be a presence here has been requested by BF.

Marie Ormiston (TfNSW) advised that geolocate facilities can be used by KnR users, thereby directing drop-offs and pick-ups to the correct KnR area in the south. MO also advised it was TfNSW policy to separate buses and cars for safety so the KnR site needs to be maintained separate to bus zones.

PN suggested that in future the KnR site be located at shorter distance to maximise its use and reduce safety issues. BF management will look into this.

The issue of unauthorised parking in areas such as Stacey's Way, Tanner Lane, Airfield, Yarran Rd and Greys Lane in 2025 noted by some Tyagarah residents is recognised by BF. Increased policing of the areas by BF will be undertaken in 2026.

BLUESFEST 2026 OUTLINE

BF management updated the attendees. In summary:

BF 2026 will be held on 4 days between April 2-5 (Thursday -Sunday). Campers can arrive from Wednesday onwards, and are encouraged to do so. Some light entertainment and some food outlets will be available.

There will be 3 event fields (Mojo, Delta and Crossroads) and the Crossroads tent is now a significantly expanded structure.

Some internal seating is currently offered via pre-booking. Patrons can bring their own chairs, restricted to designated camp chair areas.

Sales are currently down from 2025, currently perhaps 16,000 patrons per day anticipated (30,000 permitted), with Thursday likely to be a popular “locals” day.

The playing schedule is currently being finalised.

Site improvements include car-parking, upgraded Risk Assessment, ground preparation, extra lighting and designated large vehicle areas.

OTHER EVENTS

The Green Room is booked for an event in late Feb 2026, and two tentative bookings have been made for later in the year\early 2027.

KOALA MANAGEMENT

The established programme at BF site continues under the management of the University of Queensland. Drones are increasingly used along with some radio collar monitoring. Up to 14 koalas, including a joey, are thought to regularly use the BF site. As reported in July, a deceased male was found in the eastern area, a result of dominant male-to younger male conflict (PN advised this was the same male observed, and noted in May 2025 email, by Tyagarah residents).

The Chlamydia virus vaccine is being trialled at BF.

Koalas are not relocated during events at BF. Instead, personal monitoring is conducted on site by accredited persons.

OTHER BUSINESS

New Action Item 2

The email (6 May 2025) from the Tyagarah Community Association (TCA) forwarded to BF management was discussed and a response will be provided via Fabrizio Califurni, the community representative. Several of the relevant items are addressed herein as well.

FC discussed a communication from a Tyagarah resident to other residents to consider requesting TfNSW and BSC to amend the temporary pre and post -event speed restrictions on Greys Lane. This was received a day prior to the RWG meeting but was discussed briefly. In short, the TMP is about to be signed off and more relevantly, TfNSW advised such restrictions are basically State-wide policy and focussed on peoples’ safety. MO observed the actual travel time differences created by the restrictions should only be a matter of 20 seconds or less.

BF management thanked both Community Representatives for bringing community issues to their attention and resolution.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm with thanks to all attendees.

The next RWG meeting will be held following BF 2026.

