

Music Festival Roundtable

22 July 2022



Outcomes

The Music Festival Roundtable provides government agencies and industry stakeholders the opportunity to strengthen relationships, share information, address members' priorities and tackle emerging issues impacting music festivals in NSW.

It is established under the *Music Festivals Act 2019*, with its functions specified in the Act which include supporting the growth of the music festival industry in NSW and the safety of patrons. Membership of the Roundtable is also outlined in the Act and comprises equal distribution of government and industry representatives.

Joint statements about key meeting topics and outcomes are published below.

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- The tenth Music Festival Roundtable was held on 22 July 2022 on site at Splendour in the Grass at Byron Bay. The *Music Festivals Act 2019* requires at least 1 meeting of the music festival roundtable a year to be held at a music festival site.
- The government co-chair was Anthony Keon, Chief Executive Officer, Hospitality and Racing, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade (DEIT) and the industry co-chair was Julia Robinson, General Manager of the Australian Festival Association (AFA). Julia Robinson chaired the meeting.
- Sharyn French, Acting Director - Sustainable Environment and Economy Team, Byron Shire Council attended the meeting on behalf of Byron Shire Council and welcomed the members to the Shire. The Shire supports over 100 approved festivals a year, welcoming 370 000 visitors. In 2018, over \$1 million accrued into the economy. Events in low season are always welcomed, as was the premise of holding *Splendour in the Grass* at this time of year.
- Discussion was had around how the Roundtable can collaborate more regarding future events, with the example of multiple events scheduled for 3 December 2022. It was agreed there would be value in an events calendar.
- Elise Huntley, Event Manager *Splendour in the Grass*, provided a history of the festival from the early days through to the 2022 event. There were approximately 50,000 day-guests, 20,000 campers and 4,000 workers expected at the event.

Due to the severe weather conditions and forecast for the Friday, the major artists including those scheduled to perform on the main stage, were cancelled. Displaced campers were accommodated at the *Blues Fest* camping site as an alternative.

To not be able to provide the full experience was devastating for both the organisers and festivalgoers.

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- Roundtable members toured the Splendour in the Grass event site to experience the festival infrastructure including communications centre, promoters' office, medical set-up, and main stage.

Next meeting

- The next Roundtable meeting will be held in Sydney on 9 November 2022.

Attendee List

Roundtable Members	Organisation
Anthony Keon	Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade
Julia Robinson	Australian Festival Association
Luke Hanley	Destination NSW
Daniel Madeddu	Ministry of Health
Emily Collins	Music NSW
Penelope Pedersen	Local Government NSW
Claire Bunyon (Proxy for Natasha Luschwitz)	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Maryanne Stanford (Proxy for Stuart Smith)	NSW Police
Elise Huntly (Proxy for Jessica Ducrou)	Australian Festival Association
Meeting Guests and Observers	Organisation
Sharyn French	Byron Shire Council
Mitchell Wilson	Australian Festival Association
Michael Rodrigues	Investment NSW
Darren Struthers	NSW Police