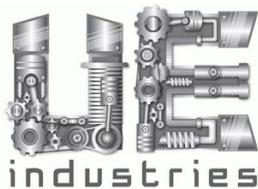




OBJECTION RESPONSE

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Subject Matter

This document is focused on summarising concisely the comprehensive and extensive measures implemented by the organisers of Yemaya Festival to address the concerns and objections raised by residents of the Warrak and Bayindeen regions.

Any and all measures implemented are found within the permit application documentation directly, with this document serving as the event organiser's official response to the points raised.

1.2 Methods of Analysis

The event organisers undertake an extensive process of research and analysis through the entire event planning timeline, to ensure a proactive and responsive approach to any and all safety and risk mitigation endeavours. This is accomplished with an extensive knowledge based in long-term industry experience, reinforced by regular undertakings in investigative research, comparative examination, benchmarking evaluation, community consultation, patron engagement, as well as staff, contractor, and stakeholder debriefings,

1.3 Findings

Comprehensive documentation is in place to an industry leading standard across all key safety and operational areas, providing for effective response and management of any incidents encountered. Great effort has been taken to reduce any potential negative impact of the event to an absolute minimum, with similar effort devoted to maximising the tourism, recreation, economic development, and regional diversification value of the event to the local community.

1.4 Conclusions

Whilst significant emphasis can be placed on the potential negative outcomes of the event, these can only be considered reasonably in the context of the measures implemented to mitigate the respective risks. Fair consideration would also require equal attention to be placed on the positive potential of the event to the greater region.



2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Dedication

Where most events outsource not only the duty but also the processes and documentation of event planning, the organisers of Yemaya Festival are proud to retain full responsibility for the preparation of all internal documents to personally ensure standards are progressively maintained and improved wherever possible.

The event organisers take their responsibility for the safety and well-being of all patrons, staff, contractors, and service providers incredibly seriously and implement every reasonable measure to ensure these are maintained continually.

In order to lead by example and be enabled to make more informed decisions regarding the event planning, the event organisers have undertaken further education in relevant fields such as Fire Warden training and Licences to Perform High Risk Work in Rigging and Elevated Work Platforms (EWP).

Ultimately, a truly 'hands-on' approach guides the entire event planning process all the way through to the onsite operations.

2.2 Research & Development

The event operates in a unique industry where it is accountable to an extensive list of governing bodies, including but not limited to the local Council, Victoria Police, Country Fire Authority, Ambulance Victoria, Department of Land, Water, and Planning, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Catchments Management Authorities, Parks Victoria, Aboriginal Clans Corporations, and WorkSafe.

In order to ensure compliance across the extensive scope of legislation, comprehensive research is undertaken to provide the most informed choices towards all elements of the event planning. The full research inventory currently holds over 1,960 documents (9.6gb data) on alcohol, building code, crime, emergency, environmental, fire, governance, heritage, illicit substances, mapping, noise, planning, rigging, road safety, medical, tourism, traffic, and WH&S.

2.3 Practicality

All event planning documents have been written in the context of providing clear instruction to all relevant staff of necessary internal procedures. The emergency management plan in particular, has been designed to provide swiftly and concisely the procedures to be followed in sequence for any significant incident or emergency event, clearly outlining the specific roles and responsibilities of associated staff. While all major documents are provided to internal staff ahead of time to allow opportunity for absorption, the layout is designed such that anyone may scan through the relevant page and become familiar with or reminded of the necessary process within seconds.



2.4 Document Scope

The permit application comprises an extensive list of documentation with significant supplemental information supplied to provide complete transparency on all internal processes.

The main cache of documents includes the following as a bare minimum:

- Acoustic Report & Noise Modelling
- Alcohol & Illicit Substances Policy
- Crowd Management Plan
- Emergency Management Plan
- Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Management System
- Event Plan & Safety Management System
- Fire Management Plan
- Landscape Map
- Lighting Plan
- Medical Management Plan
- Noise Management Plan
- Planning Report
- Risk Assessment Matrix
- Site Map
- Structure Map
- Traffic Management Plan

3. OBJECTIONS ADDRESSED

3.1 Summary

Below are all of the key objection topics raised, with detailed responses provided in the following sections.

- Noise
- Traffic
- Fire Risk
- Road Capacity
- Safety Services
- Emergency Access
- Trespassing
- Event History

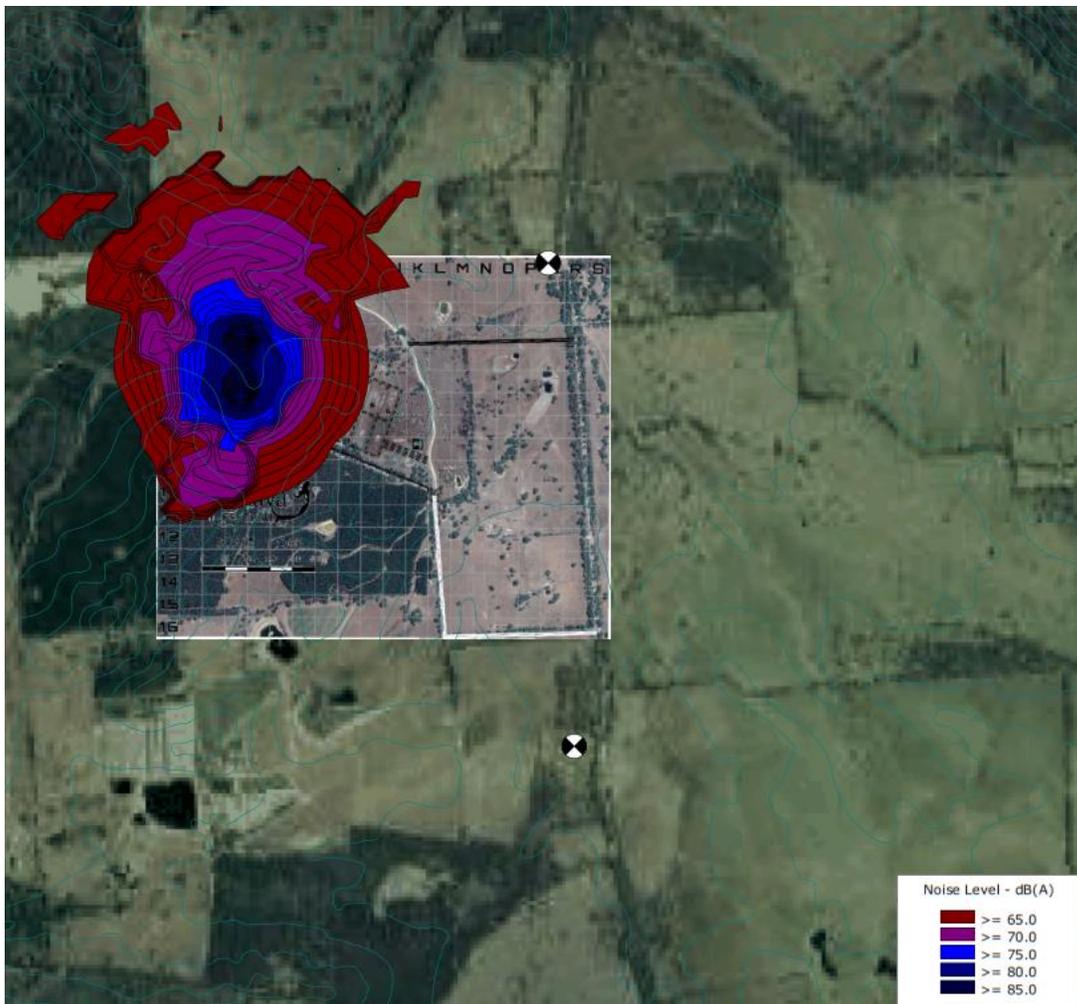
3.2 Noise

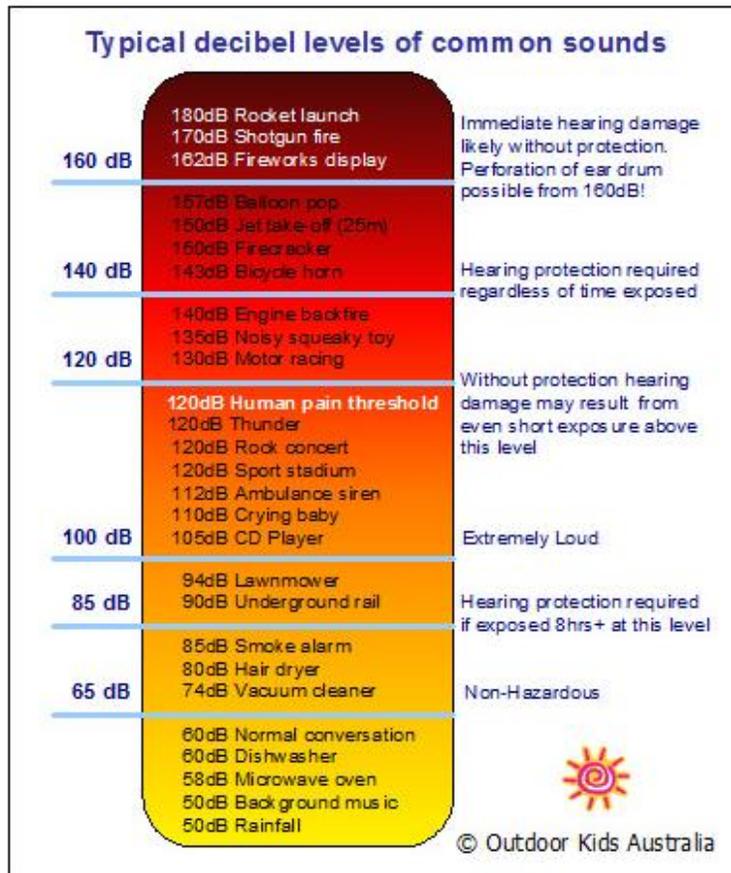
Given the noise pollution potential of music events, tremendous care is taken in the planning of the event location, speaker orientation, equipment selected, and sound monitoring measures in place.

In order to reduce the potential sound throw to neighbouring residences, the following have been undertaken:

- Site selected specifically for isolation from neighbouring properties
- Predictive noise modelling completed by a qualified acoustic engineer
- Comprehensive noise management plan included as part of permit application
- Speaker orientation directed westward away from all residences
- Stages positioned at the furthest point on the property from nearest premises
- Directional speakers utilised to reduce volume throw beyond short distance
- Noise monitoring undertaken progressively throughout duration of the event

Based on the predictive modelling below, the sound at the closest noise sensitive premises will be under 60db outside the residence, approximately the volume of average conversation or a dishwasher, and would be inaudible from within the residence.





3.3 Traffic

The traffic flow created by the event will be limited to primary ingress and egress based on several event policies and measures designed to reduce the number of vehicle movements and the risks associated.

The following measures will be implemented by the event organisers:

- 'No Car Movements' policy to prevent patrons moving their vehicles within the festival
- 'No Pass-Outs' policy to prevent patrons leaving site until leaving event
- Mini-supermarket to be established within the festival in collaboration with Ararat IGA to eliminate need for patrons to leave for supplies
- Internal multi-lane ticketing system established to enter cars into property and prevent any bottlenecks
- Additional temporary parking area adjacent to ticketing area to facilitate any overflow traffic as a contingency measure to keep all external roadways clear

While there will likely be some minor impact to local congestion via the southern section of Buangor-Ben Nevis Rd at peak ingress and egress times, at no point will access be blocked or impeded to any local residents, with Colonial Rd completely free for local traffic as may be required.



3.4 Fire Risk

Taking into account the accepted fact that bushfire activity is becoming exponentially more frequent and severe, all efforts are devoted to establishing the best possible response to any incidents.

The following elements make up the fire response procedures in place:

- Fire Management Plan in place to the satisfaction of CFA
- Fire suppression vehicles and resources based onsite to provide instant response and reduce any impact on local services
- Qualified and experienced staff deployed on a 24hrs/day roster
- All equipment built to CFA specifications (Storz fittings) to allow interchanging connections as may be required
- Onsite fire defence perimeter to be established around primary Emergency Assembly Area using Scotty Water Walls to create protective mist barrier in the instance of Shelter-in-Place measures being activated
- Event scheduled outside of Fire Danger Period to reduce internal and external risk

3.5 Road Capacity

Primary access to the site will be via Buangor-Ben Nevis Rd, which is sealed asphalt and unlikely to suffer any noticeable deterioration based on the expected vehicle movements. Vine Rd North is also sealed for the main stretch, with only the secondary section being compacted dirt from the adjacent quarry. Both roads handle constant use by large trucks and heavy machinery which have infinitely greater impact than a brief influx of smaller vehicles.

3.6 Safety Services

In order to reduce any impact on local emergency services and to provide immediate response capacity to all potential incidents onsite, extensive capacity is provided onsite which includes but is not limited to the following:

- Engagement with Victoria Police to provide onsite response as required
- Security guards and perimeter patrol units positioned in all key event areas
- Fire suppression vehicles, resources, and qualified and experienced firefighters
- National First Aid for emergency medical response and treatment
- Ambulance Victoria onsite with vehicles for emergency transport
- DanceWize services by Harm Reduction Victoria to support medical teams
- Traffic management services monitoring internal and external vehicle flow
- Guardians Program providing proactive safety and support services to patrons
- Blow Me First running driver testing to all patrons on egress to reduce road risks
- Radio communications for all areas of operations and emergency response
- Event Command Centre operating 24hrs/day logging all incidents

3.7 Emergency Access

To ensure clear and unobstructed access is maintained for any emergency response requirements throughout the duration of the event, arrangements have been made to establish a secondary access path to the site via a neighbouring property. The path will be constructed to an all-weather standard meeting or exceeding CFA requirements for large vehicle access, and will be devoted to emergency and staff access only. The road will be a welcome addition by the landowner which will allow greater year-round access to their whole property, making for the ideal mutually beneficial scenario we aim for, whereby the plans of event development are aligned with that of local development.

3.8 Trespassing

The issue of trespassing is an obvious area of concern for neighbouring residents and is of most impact to the festival itself, and has thus been the principal focus of the event organisers. The Trespassing Management Plan provided includes an extensive and comprehensive list of measures to address the matter and ensure that no breach of the perimeter may occur, and that any attempts are promptly detected and addressed. The measures in place constitute the sheer definition of best practice standards, as no other event of even remotely similar nature has implemented even half of the procedures proposed.

The following make up the trespassing suppression measures in effect:

- Neighbour collaboration
- Video surveillance of access points
- Monitoring of neighbouring properties
- Prosecution of intruders
- Bonus system to reward intercepts
- Perimeter patrol units deployed
- Zero tolerance policy in effect
- Surcharge for intruders caught
- Police presence as deterrent

3.9 Event History

The event last ran successfully in 2016 with incident rates on par or below industry leaders like Rainbow Serpent Festival. Despite having run with no permit breaches and having generated over \$150,000 in direct revenue to the local community, the subsequent permit application was denied for a variety of arguable reasons. We fought that decision in VCAT through 2018 to eventually have the permit denial upheld, despite having seemingly addressed every concern thoroughly and validating so with four expert witnesses. We stand by the level of planning behind the event and all elements of its operations as genuine examples of best practice in all areas, and do not feel that justice was served in that particular instance as we'd not completed an environmental assessment which would have nullified all points raised as the basis of the decision.

3.10 Community Benefits

Opportunities are available to all local businesses to become involved in the event through a variety of contribution areas, with the following plans currently in place:

- Main food stall to be run by Buangor Primary School
- Mini-supermarket to be established within the festival in collaboration with Ararat IGA
- 5 x \$1,000 donations to local community groups (Golden Gateway Festival selected)
- Long-term endeavours in collaboration with Landcare and Project Platypus
- Contracts available for traffic and waste management support services
- Festival food token exchange system to be established with selected Ararat small businesses to encourage tourism spending, free food token provided for spending over certain amounts

3.11 Noise Impact on Livestock

Based on review of an extensive amount of research on the impact to livestock from noise exposure, it is highly unlikely that there will be any detrimental impact to animals on neighbouring properties. The acoustic modelling predicts a volume under 60 dB at the closest noise sensitive premises, and the lowest detected impact from the research was identified at above 80 dB.

It was also identified that livestock would become acclimatised to regular noise exposure. Given the proximity of the neighbouring quarry and regularity with which heavy vehicles traverse the exact same travel routes planned, it is presumed that animals in the area will already have adapted to much more significant and regular noise pollution.

The extracts below along with the attached report from Marshall Day Acoustics demonstrate relevant findings from the research reviewed:

National Agricultural and Food Centre - Research Institute for Animal Production (2014) Effect of Noise on Performance, Stress, and Behaviour of Animals

According to Kovalčík and Šottník (1971), noise as high as 80 dB had no negative effect on dairy cows. Feed intake was increased, milk yield was unchanged, and indices of the rate of milk-releasing were improved.

Noise at 75 dB increased average daily weight gain of lambs and improved their feed efficiency compared to control and the 100 dB groups. Acclimatization to sound was evident (Ames, 1978).

Noise at 90 dB seemed not to affect productivity and egg quality of laying hens.

The majority of the literature suggests that farming animals and wildlife species exhibit adaptation after repeated exposure to noise.

M. Pšenka (2016) Frequency analysis of noise exposure of dairy cows in the process of milking

According to Phillips (2009), the inconvenience threshold for cattle is in the range from 90 dB to 100 dB, with a physical damage of the hearing apparatus at 110 dB. During our experiment, the noise level for cattle inconvenience was detected in two cases in the Farm B, both in the milking equipment during milking (LZFmax 96.1 dB at the frequency of 500 Hz and LZFmax 90.6 dB at the frequency of 2,000 Hz). During the experiment, there was no noise that causes physical damage to the hearing apparatus of cattle.

The limits of noise causing response in the behaviour of animals are in the range from 85 dB to 90 dB (Manci et al. 1988).