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26th February 2020

**Submission response to the Application for Development Consent and Liquor Licence ,
The Drop Festival 2020, Keirle Park Manly.**

Northern Beaches Licensing Police have received notification from Liquor and Gaming NSW and the Event Manager as to the Drop Festival, 2020 to be held on Saturday 14th March at Keirle Park.

In 2019, Northern Beaches Licensing Police were involved in significant planning processes providing recommendations regarding safety, security and the service of liquor for the event which was held at Keirle Park on the 23rd March 2019.

Keirle Park is normally used as a sporting field therefore does not have specific permanent infrastructure other than small sporting sheds/ buildings. The field is open and normally used by local sporting clubs and the community.

The park is located north of Manly town centre on Pittwater Road, there is limited public transport on the Northern Beaches particularly in this area. Patrons attending this event either are able to use local bus services or private cars/ uber/ taxi. There is limited parking in the surrounding residential area.

In 2019, the event attracted 6,200 patrons. There were a number of drug detections and 2 females transported to hospital as a result of drug overdose from within the festival site.

Police had concerns from the 2019 festival regarding intoxication and the service of liquor was ceased prior to the designated cease service time. Police and Security recorded a number of patrons accessing the site without valid tickets "fence jumpers" and both agencies conducted a number of removals due to intoxication or drug possession.

Service of liquor at the main bar in 2019 was ceased prior to the permitted service time upon agreement with the Licensee due to the concerns regarding patron safety and overall intoxication observed amongst patrons on the site.

The egress of patrons from the event in 2019 had safety and traffic issues which had not been

Licensing Unit
Northern Beaches Local Area Command
Manly Police Station
3 Belgrave St, Manly 2095
Telephone 9976 8075 | Facsimile 9976 8090 | E/N 68019|

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appropriately planned for or risk managed. Transport was also a concern as this site is particularly isolated from main transport hubs and is located on the main access road to Manly from Brookvale.

This is the second year for this festival to be held at this site under a similar format however initial event proposals included the format to be an "All Ages" event with a capacity of up to 12,000.

Police have been clear as to not support the significant increase in capacity due to the crowd crush concerns which were identified by Police and Ambulance at the 2019 event. The egress from this isolated site with limited infrastructure and transport modes is also of main concern and the reasoning behind a recommendation to limit capacity to 10,000.

Police also have made it quite clear corporately that we do not support an all ages event of this nature at this site. This is as a result of the Drug detections and overdoses recorded in 2019 along with the documented alcohol and drug related youth crime that is prevalent on the Northern Beaches.

Police also have significant concern as to the health and welfare ramifications in allowing unaccompanied minors on a "proposed licensed premises" which has documented drug use history.

Liquor and Gaming NSW and the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority have deemed this Festival as being High Risk due to The Drop Festival Manly 2019 fulfilling components listed in the Music Festival Act 2019.

As a result the Event Manager has prepared Event Safety Plans, Health Management Plans, Security Management Plans, Alcohol Management Plans. The Event Manager has also agreed at this stage to the statutory and recommended conditions for the liquor licence which is listed as follows:

- 1) Food of a nature and quantity consistent with the responsible service of alcohol must be available during liquor trading hours
- 2) Minor must not be permitted entry into designated bar area
- 3) No more than four (4) alcoholic drinks may be sold/ supplied or served to a patron per visit to the bar
- 4) No shots, shooters, slammers or bombs to be supplied/ sold
- 5) No drinks containing any more than 4% ABV spirits/ Liquor
- 6) No drinks/ spirits of a alcohol by volume of over 4% can be supplied
- 7) All drinks must be supplied in a plastic/ polycarbonate or aluminium vessel
- 8) Sale of alcohol must cease 30 minutes prior to the end of the event
- 9) The licensee and their staff must comply with any lawful direction relating to the sale and supply of liquor made by a NSW Police Officer, being the senior officer on site or Inspector from Liquor and Gaming NSW
- 10) The licensee must ensure that immediately after the licensee is aware of an incidence of violence causing an injury to a person on the premises the following steps are adhered to : - Take all reasonable steps to preserve the crime scene
 - Inform the NSW Police Force of the incident
 - Comply with any directions given by Police to preserve or keep intact the area where the violence occurred.

Police also strongly recommend the inclusion of a CCTV requirement.
That main entry/ exit , main bar area and main stage/ front of stage and "pit" area.

The CCTV should be recorded and retained for a minimum of 30 days.
The CCTV must be made available to Police and Inspectors from Liquor and Gaming NSW and Northern Beaches Council upon request within 24 hours.

The Event Manager agreed in a stakeholders meeting on the 20/2/2020 to utilise CCTV at the main entry/exit and the front of stage/ pit/ dancefloor area however is in dispute regarding the main bar area.

Police submit that the main bar area should be included in this requirement and will be making this submission to Liquor and Gaming NSW. This is a matter of public safety.

Police have also made recommendations to the Event Manager and Licensee applicant to utilise 2.4m fencing around the entire event area to discourage unlawful entry to the site and in particular to minors.

The Event Manager has agreed to the fencing for the event at all stakeholder meetings which have been held.

Police have received an updated plan/ site lay out of the event on the 13th February 2020. Police have also reviewed the Alcohol Plan of Management and submit that the plan be reviewed to include the following:

- Exact detailed entry policy and inclusion of refusal reasons
- The entry policy to be clearly displayed at point of entry/ gates
- Inclusion of Digital drivers licence as a form of Identification.

Section 29 of the plan details the provision of free drinking water, Police submit that the free water outlets within the festival site be clearly sign posted to ensure accessibility to patrons in day and evening periods.

Part 8 of the Alcohol Management Plan refers to patrons being removed who are deemed to be "overly" affected by alcohol. Police submit that reference to the patrons being removed who are "intoxicated" should replace what is currently written in section 13. The term intoxication is in line with current legislative literature.

Part 11 of the Alcohol Management Plan refers to the provision of security at the bar areas. Police recommend that a licensed security guard be placed at each bar que to assist with Patron ID checks and intoxication assessment. These guards should be present at all times whilst the bars are open and selling/ supplying alcohol.

Police note that there will be a "VIP" area within an existing building on the site. It is recommended that a capacity for this VIP area be suitably identified and nominated to ensure that this area then is not over crowded and suitably managed by security.

A security guard should be present at the entry to the VIP area to manage capacity and patron screening for intoxication.

Police note that the Medical tent and Dancewise space are all located outside the licensed footprint/ plans for the event. This was addressed with the Event Manager who confirmed that they were as it was in line with other jurisdictions to provide a safe space for patrons who may be concerned by being approached by a drug dog.

Police advised this would create confusion regarding the "no pass outs" and management of patrons who are entering/ leaving the licensed premises.

The event manager was concerned as to patrons who required the treatment or services being intoxicated and having to be removed from the site, Police informed the event manager that the provisions within the Liquor Act in Sect 73 refer to defences regarding the identification, cease service and contacting Police, all of these provisions may be applied at this event site as Police will be present.

Concerns regarding capacity and consistency:

To date the relevant plans which have been supplied to Police for review note capacity as per the Safety Management Plan v1 of an expected attendance of 5000 – 7000 patrons. Police are basing recommendations of capacity figures of up to 10,500 as provided at the Stakeholders meeting on the 20 February 2020. Police have not been supplied a revised capacity in any plan or associated document.

Of note the Safety Management Plan v1 page 4 refers to the User Pays charges and a quote supplied by Northern Beaches Police Area Command. This quote is under dispute and has not been agreed to by the Promoter, Mr Jeremy Stoney as at 26/2/2020. Police have devised this quote based on capacity, nature of the event, isolation of site, current identified risks associated with the event in 2019 and current intelligence.

Police continue to recommend the Police presence as documented.

Police also recommend that 2 Ambulance crews be allocated to the site should the capacity be up to 5,000.

Police are aware of correspondence from Ambulance NSW as noted on page 5 of the Safety Management Plan v1 that there had been a booking request form submitted, there has been a review of services however that was based on a capacity figure that has not been conveyed in any other relevant plan to Police or Northern Beaches Council.

Police have spoken with the Event Manager on 26 February 2020 who confirmed they are operating from the Safety Management Plan V1. Police submit that this plan should be updated by the Event Manager to accurately reflect capacity, operational plan regarding the services outside the licenced footprint ie Dancewise and Medical, the current Security Management Plan and Alcohol Management Plan.

Police recommend that the Alcohol Plan of Management be reviewed and revised and should be included as conditions of consent and also the Liquor Licence.

Regards



Sergeant Sascha ORROCK
Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Licensing Supervisor.