

DEFQON.1

FESTIVAL

18 ⚡ 19 SEPTEMBER 2015
SYDNEY ⚡ AUSTRALIA

Statement of Environmental Effects

Development Application for Defqon.1
2-day Camping and Music Festival at Sydney
International Regatta Centre

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Statement of	1
Environmental Effects	1
1. Introduction	3
2. Description of the development to be carried out	3
3. Site details	4
3.1 Location	4
3.2 Real Property particulars	4
3.3 Description of site	4
3.4 Adjoining land to Sydney International Regatta Centre	4
4. Planning context	5
4.1 Penrith Local Environment Plan 2010	5
4.2 Existing uses of the Sydney International Regatta Centre site	5
4.3 Development objectives	6
4.4 Penrith Lakes Parklands	6
5. Capacity of venue	7
6. Factors taken into account concerning impact on environment	8
6.1 List of environmental factors considered	8
6.2 Impact on surrounding uses	10
7. Aspects and possible impacts of the development	11
7.1 Introduction of camping on northern shores of warmup lake	11
7.2 Bump in	12
7.3 Bump out	13
7.4 Bridge over warm up lake	13
7.5 Defqon.1 music festival	13
8. Development objectives	14
9. Environmentally sustainable development	15
9.1 Environmental outcomes	15
9.2 Social outcomes	15
<i>Arts in western Sydney</i>	15
<i>Annual donations contributing to Penrith youth</i>	16
<i>Defqon.1 Volunteer Day</i>	17
<i>Defqon.1 as an incubator for artistic talent</i>	18
9.3 Economic benefits of Defqon.1	19
10. Stakeholder consultation	20

1. Introduction

This Statement of Environmental Effects accompanies a Development Application for use of land at the Sydney International Regatta Centre (SIRC), being the Defqon.1 camping and music festival.

Defqon.1, which has been held at the SIRC for six consecutive years 2009-2014 under consent from Penrith City Council, is a two-day event commencing on Friday, 18th September until 11 PM on Saturday, 19 September. It will include two nights of camping on site.

The SIRC was opened for competition in 1996. It was the venue for rowing and canoeing events for the Sydney 2000 Olympic games and has successfully hosted numerous rowing and canoeing competitions and other sporting events. It has become a world famous venue and is considered by many to be the best rowing and canoeing venue in the world.

This SEE addresses issues relevant to the Defqon.1 proposal including details of the development, the statutory context within which the proposal is to be addressed and any potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures.

2. Description of the development to be carried out

The development which is the subject of this SEE is called Defqon.1, a ticketed two-day camping and music spectacular festival for 18 to 36-year-olds commencing at 11 AM on Friday, 18th September for camping ticket holders and 11 AM on Saturday, 19th September for non-camping patrons who are attending the Defqon.1 Festival only. Amplified entertainment on both nights will end at 11 PM.

Some key features of the approval sought include:

- Up to 30,000 patrons overall (as per current previous DA consent)
- Up to 5,000 campers (up from 1,000 previous consent)
- Festival program includes 8 stages of entertainment (as per previous consent)
- Festival program from 11AM-10PM, with soft close 10PM-11PM on Saturday, 19th September 2015
- Camping entertainment will include low level vibe music Midday-6PM Friday, 20th September
- No passouts (as previous consent)
- Supervised swimming in camping area (not previously offered)
- Bridge connecting SIRC island with northern shores of warmup lake (new feature of Defqon.1)
- Helicopter joyrides (as per previous DA consent, but to commence 11AM and cease at 6PM)

3. Site details

3.1 Location

The land to which this application relates is at the Sydney International Regatta Centre, located at Old Castlereagh Road, Castlereagh. It is 56-58 km west of the Sydney CBD and 2.5 km north of Penrith CBD.

3.2 Real Property particulars

The real property description of the SIRC is Lot 1, DP 1013504. The site is owned by the Minister Administering the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, under the management of the Office of Sport, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The area is 192 ha. The site is located within the Penrith Lakes Scheme, and was the first part of the scheme to be completed.

3.3 Description of site

The Sydney International Regatta centre comprises:

- The main regatta lake, which has a rectangular shape of 2.4 km x 200 m
- The adjoining and connected warmup lake, which has an irregular shape, but is approximately 1.5 km east west at its longest point
- The island between the two lakes, on which is located the finish tower, pavilion, boat sheds, scoreboard, grandstand, sealed P1 car park and an administrative compound located above the boat shipbuilding which includes the venue management offices, meeting rooms and purpose-built medical room
- Starting area and timing huts
- presentation pontoon, detention and pond at the south eastern end of the regatta lake, spectator seating, toilets and barbecues
- Internal roads and access gates
- Grassed and sealed carparks
- Informal recreation areas
- Service compound

3.4 Adjoining land to Sydney International Regatta Centre

Adjacent to the SIRC on Old Castlereagh Road are the offices of the Penrith Lakes Development Corporation (PLDC). Further east from the PLDC along Old Castlereagh Road are two private houses. At the junction of Leland St and Old Castlereagh Rd is a commercial property, and thereafter along Leland St and Lugard St is an industrial and commercial precinct.

North of the SIRC, the defunct sand and gravel quarry is under the management of the PLDC, to be handed over to the NSW Government in mid-late 2015 under the terms of the Penrith Lakes Scheme. The area includes historic Hadley House and the McCarthy's Cemetery remnant heritage site. It is intended under the Penrith Lakes Parkland proposed major development to be the Urban Precinct, characterised by higher density nodes within a terrain of mixed development, open grassland and community gardens.

To the South, across Castlereagh Road from the SIRC, are old quarries owned by PLDC and intended under the Penrith Lakes Parkland proposed major development to be the Southern Leisure Precinct.

Adjoining the SIRC to the east and north-east is the Penrith Whitewater Stadium, also a former Olympic venue and used for recreational and competitive rafting, canoeing and kayaking.

East of the SIRC and on the eastern side of Cranebrook Rd is the Waterside Estate, Cranebrook. Apart from the two residences on Old Castlereagh Rd, these are the closest residences to the SIRC.

West of the site are sand and gravel quarries in various stages of use.

To the north-west of the site is the Castlereagh Christian Academy, a small complex used for educational retreats and a historic church.

4. Planning context

4.1 Penrith Local Environment Plan 2010

The SIRC operates under the land use zone RE1 Public Recreation. The consent authority under the *Penrith Local Environment Plan 2010* (Penrith LEP) is Penrith City Council.

Defqon.1 is an event that strongly reflects the aims of the Penrith LEP.

4.2 Existing uses of the Sydney International Regatta Centre site

The range of uses permitted at the SIRC under DA 85-4-2004 includes recreation.

This includes:

- Rowing and canoeing events and training
- Other sporting events such as triathlons and sailing, wheelchair and hand-cycle races
- Passive recreation and picnicking
- Public swimming
- Non-organised sport including cycling and running
- Nitro car rallies
- Extreme sports such as waterskiing, parasailing, wakeboarding, aquatic stunt shows and Formula 1 boats

- Helicopter landing
- Pyrotechnic and pyromusical displays
- Concerts and movie screenings
- Workshops and skills training, including circus skills and trampolining
- Fishing
- A small area of the site within the P6 car park has been used as a skydiving landing area (consent for which was granted on 19 November 2002)
- Social and cultural activities including face and body painting, indigenous themes

All of the above recreational activities have been conducted at SIRC.

This application seeks approval for an expanded use that was not permitted under the development consent for the venue, DA 85-4-2004 which expired on 21 October 2009 and continues to apply, that is a commercially run music festival for over 10,000 people.

As the Defqon.1 music festival was given consent for 6 consecutive years to be conducted at SIRC, this too is now an existing use of the SIRC.

4.3 Development objectives

The primary objective of the Defqon.1 DA has been from its inception to establish a world class musical spectacular event for the young adult demographic, thus enriching the range of cultural/recreational opportunities in western Sydney.

The desire of the promoter, Q-dance Australia, to stage Defqon.1 at SIRC is synchronous with the goal of the NSW Government to maximise the public enjoyment of its venue.

These goals complement the positioning sought by Penrith City Council as an “events city”. Defqon.1 is consistent with Penrith City Council’s Strategic Plan “Key Themes” of achieving a “leading city”, a “city of opportunities” and a “vibrant city”.

Penrith is already home to one of Greater Sydney’s most accessible, multifunctional aquatic and park facilities. It is comparable, or superior, in potential to the Centennial Parklands and Homebush Bay, but each has its own unique assets.

The Defqon.1 vision has always been to nurture a long and sustainable association with Penrith lakes, and Q-dance Australia would like to be there as the Penrith Lakes Vision development takes shape over ensuing years.

4.4 Penrith Lakes Parklands

SIRC is surrounded almost entirely by lands that are the subject of the Penrith Lakes Parklands, a 1,940 hectare site located on the eastern banks of the Nepean River. Since the 1980s, the PLDC has operated a sand and gravel quarry at the Penrith Lakes. Now, as the terms of a 1987 deed of agreement come to fruition, this land is being transferred in large measure to state control.

Q-dance Australia has recently made a submission regarding the Penrith Lakes Parkland draft vision plan. In its submission, Q-dance has stated that the vision plan is misconceived in that it is collocating two conflicting uses

At page 3 of its submission, Q-dance states:

“It therefore comes as a great surprise and disappointment to see that a residential Urban Precinct has been proposed to nestle immediately adjacent to the Sports and Events Precinct, thereby severely undermining the ability of that precinct to continue to host major events of many kinds. It will also have the potential to constrain noise which is inextricably linked with the presence of large crowds thereby jeopardising any large event of many thousands. Also to be considered are matters such as the effect of venue lighting on the nearby residences, traffic implications and crowd management.”

It is particularly concerning to Q-dance that earthmoving in order to facilitate the earliest possible commencement of construction of the Urban Precinct, has commenced while the consultation period was underway.

5. Capacity of venue

No increase in maximum numbers over and above the previous Defqon.1 consent is sought. This DA seeks consent for a 30,000 person event, which is the same maximum number as under the last approval.

However, an increase in maximum campers is sought from 1,000 maximum under previous DA, to 5,000.

Note that these numbers are not expected to be achieved in Year 1 of the proposed 5-year DA, and the commercial expectations are that numbers will build. Anticipated numbers in 2015 are:

Defqon.1 festival	25,000
Defqon.1 camping	2,000

Event plans submitted to Penrith City Council for the 2015 edition of Defqon.1 have been developed accordingly.

However, there is ample support for the maximum numbers sought under the DA, with the following justification that the event footprint is being greatly increased.

Q-dance Australia has undertaken a Crowd Capacity Report which confirms the capacity of the SIRC island to accommodate 32,586 people, consistent with the previous Crowd Capacity Report by RiskWorks Consultancy in 2012.

The new Crowd Capacity Report also addresses the maximum number of campers that can be accommodated at the new camping grounds on the northern bank of the warmup lake.

The maximum capacity for campers is 5,420.

Accordingly, the maximum numbers sought for Defqon.1 festival and camping of 30,000 and 5,000 respectively, are well within the safe limits stated in the Crowd Capacity Report.

6. Factors taken into account concerning impact on environment

6.1 List of environmental factors considered



Environmental factors considered

1	Any environmental impact on a community
	<p>The Defqon.1 camping and music festival has been assessed to have temporary environmental impacts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motor vehicle traffic during ingress and egress of the event, primarily from 10AM-2PM and egress between 10PM-midnight on Saturday, 19th September which are addressed in the <i>Defqon.1 Transport, Traffic and Pedestrian Management Plan</i> which is submitted in conjunction with this Statement of Environmental Effects. 2. Noise impacts from amplified music, primarily during 4-10PM on Saturday, 19th September which are addressed in the <i>Defqon.1 Noise Impact Assessment and Management Plan</i>
2	Any transformation of a locality
	No
3	Any environmental impact on the ecosystems of the locality
	No
4	Any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, scientific or other environmental quality or value of a locality
	No
5	Any effect on a locality, place or building having aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific or social significance or other special value for present or future generations
	No
6	Any impact on the habitat of protected fauna within the meaning of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
	No
7	Any endangering of any species of animal, plant or other form of life, whether living on land, in water or in the air
	In six years of staging Defqon.1 at the SIRC, there has never been any bird or animal harmed as a result of the event. Even fast moving watercraft are used on the lakes, but birds hear and see the craft approaching and move away quickly.
8	Any long term effects on the environment
	None
9	Any degradation of the quality of the environment
	No
10	Any risk to the safety of the environment
	No
11	Any reduction in the range of beneficial uses of the environment

Environmental factors considered	
	No
12	Any pollution of the environment
	<p>Potential pollution have been identified as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water pollution at SIRC lakes from motorised watercraft. Motorised watercraft must comply with SIRC's requirements as to correct products to be used in engines, as per Defqon.1 <i>Aquatic Safety Plan</i>. 2. Litter at public assembly areas, bus stops. Q-dance assigns SIRC cleaning staff to attend Penrith Station and Leland St bus stop periodically throughout the day of the Defqon.1 event to ensure there is no litter problem. 3. Noise pollution from amplified music. Noise impacts from amplified music, primarily during 4-10PM on Saturday, 19th September which are addressed in the <i>Defqon.1 Noise Impact Assessment and Management Plan</i>
13	Any environmental problems associated with the disposal of waste
	<p>On-site aggregation of waste into solid mixed waste, cans and commingled recycling occurs in accordance with the Defqon.1 <i>Cleaning, Waste and Recycling Plan</i>. All waste is disposed of at licensed waste and recycling facilities.</p> <p>Annually Q-dance undertakes a review of its waste disposal procedures and attempts to reduce waste to landfill. This is done in cooperation with the SIRC cleaning staff and waste contractor, Remondis.</p>
14	Any increased demands on resources (natural or otherwise) that are, or likely to become, in short supply
	None
15	Any cumulative environmental effect with other existing or likely future activities
	No
16	Impact on surrounding uses
	As below

6.2 Impact on surrounding uses

Quarries

Q-dance Australia has consulted with Penrith Lakes Development Corporation in order to ascertain if there will be any interruption to their operations. There will be no material impact on their site. The PLDC has generously allowed Q-Dance Australia to store materials and shipping containers on its property nearby to the SIRC.

The PLDC has also agreed to assist Q-dance in preparing access to the Defqon.1 camping areas.

Penrith Whitewater Rafting Stadium

In 2015, owing to the closure of the Perimeter Road (aka the Haul Rd) for earthworks at the Penrith Lakes, operational access plus emergency egress will take place through the WRS.

Castlereagh Academy

Q-dance Australia annually hires the Academy facilities to house its construction and production personnel, and will have sole occupancy of this facility.

7. Aspects and possible impacts of the development

7.1 Introduction of camping on northern shores of warmup lake

Brief description

For the first time, the northern shores of the warmup lake of the SIRC will be used as part of a major event, Defqon.1 Music festival. The area to be used is indicated in the draft site map attached.

The area to be used for camping in 2015 aims to accommodate 2,000 campers is bounded as follows:

North

Entire northern boundary has 2 m cyclone fencing with barbed wire

South

Waterline, warm up lake, and densely wooded area

East

No natural boundary, the boundary runs approximately North-South at Zc-Zb on the site map

West

Partial natural boundary of woodland, the remainder has no natural boundary from 0-12 to N-10

Activities include:

- erecting tents
- patrons sleeping
- circulating within camping grounds with exception of curfew (3-6AM)

Possible impacts - patron safety

There are after-dark concerns such as spraining or falling on uneven ground.

Kevin Flynn, Venue Manager, SIRC described the Fauna present at the site.

A variety of water birds reside in and around the edge vegetation, including wood ducks, swamp hens, cormorants, pelicans and Eurasian coots. Other birds include a species of hawk and other common birds – pigeon, noisy minor and Indian minor. Attached is a list of different birds, updated only as far back as 2008. No formal studies of fauna on the northern bank have been undertaken in recent years.

The Defqon.1 music does not appear to be a deterrent to the birds, who seem to stay on site throughout.

Black snakes are said to be common and it is likely that brown snakes exist as well.

Contact with venomous spiders or snakes is a possibility if campers are in longer grass or bush.

Amphibians include frogs and turtles (eastern long-neck).

Mr Flynn expects that rabbits and foxes are present.

An echidna that was found on the island was taken and released on the northern bank a few years ago.

Actions

Grass in the vicinity of the campers will be well mown before the event.

The camping grounds will have its own Medic Station in case of stings or bites.

Possible impacts - environmental safety

Litter is a potential concern, however after six years at SIRC, it can be stated with confidence that windblown litter or dropped by patrons in the water is rare. Litter on the ground occurs, but vigilant site staff and cleaning personnel ensure that this is kept to a minimum.

The only place this is not possible is in the main stage area which accommodates the greatest concentration of patrons and is the scene of the famous Defqon.1 end show.

7.2 Bump in

Brief description

Majority of heavy bump-in is hoped to take place via Whitewater Rafting Stadium (with consent from WRS management). This will entail unloading and reloading onto a smaller vehicle all camping infrastructure, including water, toilets, waste water, tents, scaffolding, acoustic equipment, generators etc

The access via WRS to unfenced SIRC land is across a downward sloping grassy paddock which has a tendency to be soft and, if there has been recent rain, a strong possibility that the track would not hold out for the 50 to 60 vehicle movements over 3 ½ weeks.

Light bump in can occur via bridge, buggy access only, no cars.

Possible impacts

Collision with a tree or a building is a real possibility from the entrance of the WRS back road, the "S-bend" which shows signs of previous collisions with vehicles. Thereafter, an avenue of casuarinas which are close to the road and low hanging, so impossible for a large truck to pass.

As with the rest of the site, tree species are predominantly Casuarinas, Melaleucas and Eucalyts.

Between the WRS and the campground is the potential to become bogged, especially carrying heavy plant and equipment. If this occurs, it would leave a heavily rutted mud patch.

Actions

As far as tree protection measures – fencing must be sufficient to protect from vehicular impact and/or vandalism (K Flynn).

Resurfacing of the driving track using blue metal - this is being done by arrangement with Penrith Lakes Development Corporation.

7.3 Bump out

As above.

7.4 Bridge over warm up lake

This will be constructed at start of bump-in.

The bridge will consist of the following main elements:

- 1 16 x Cement Ballast at 1tn evenly spaced. (Will remain *in situ* until next year unless otherwise needed, or there is a need to move them) Note: these are regarded as temporary constructions for planning purposes.
- 2 13 x 12.2 by 3.4m barges, sitting 1 metre above the water.
- 3 2 x Gangways (one at each end)

The concrete blocks will be dropped to a depth of the lake floor, being 5-6m.

ASO will sign off on this system.

Kevin Flynn said: I acknowledge that the anchor blocks are considered to be temporary overlay (for the purpose of the DA). Unless they are causing any problems (e.g. to aquatic plant harvesting operations), they should be able to remain in place. Unfortunately they cannot be buoyed as this would cause problems to rowers/sailors, etc using the lake. I recommend that the blocks be linked by a submerged cable or chain so that they are easier to relocate (assumedly by divers) next year.

It is not intended to install fencing on this bridge, as Q-dance will be relying on the following measures to ensure that patrons do not fall in the water. Our safety consultant has a great deal of experience doing events in waterfront locations and is of the view that the following precautionary measures will suffice:

Possible impacts and actions

- 1 Adequate lighting - Lighting Plan to be provided
- 2 Both sides of the bridge will have a clearly marked line on the ground that patrons may not step across
- 3 Orderly behaviour will be enforced by security guards – Security Plan to include specific measures.

In addition, the aquatic safety team will be present at all times monitoring the bridge from the water.

7.5 Defqon.1 music festival

At its maximum under a proposed DA for Defqon.1 2015 to 2019, the event could grow to 30,000 people including 5000 campers.

This would make it one of the biggest events ever held at the SIRC.

Possible impacts - noise

With up to 8 stages of electronic music, often with a strong beat and played loud, at its peak after 4 PM when the background noise begins to subside, complaints may be received on the Q-dance Australia community hotline or community email.

Actions

The Defqon.1 Noise Impact Assessment and Management Plan addresses the procedures of community notification, the community hotline and community email address and the method of follow-up of complaints.

Possible impacts - traffic congestion

Approximately 75% of Defqon.1 patrons arrive at the venue via an integrated rail bus ticket which is part of their festival ticket. For a limited period during ingress and egress of the festival, priority is given to the buses that transport patrons from Penrith Railway Station to the SIRC.

Further possible impacts include patrons who are dropped off in the precincts close to the SIRC, walking on busy roads and becoming a danger to others and themselves.

Action

The Defqon.1 Transport, Traffic & Pedestrian Management Plan addresses the above.

8. Development objectives

The primary objective of this development application was to establish a world class musical spectacular event for the young adult demographic, thus enriching the range of cultural/recreational opportunities in Western Sydney.

The desire of the promoter, Q-dance Australia, to stage Defqon.1 at SIRC is synchronous with the goal of the Office of Sport, Department of Premier and Cabinet to maximise the public enjoyment of its venue.

These goals complement the positioning sought by Penrith City Council as an “events city”. Defqon.1 is consistent with Penrith City Council’s Strategic Plan “Key Themes” of .achieving a “leading city”, a “city of opportunities” and a “vibrant city”.

Penrith Valley is already home to one of Greater Sydney’s most accessible, multi-functional aquatic and park facilities. It is comparable in potential to the Centennial Parklands and Homebush Bay, but each has its own unique assets.

SIRC seeks to claim its share of world-class recreational events. Q-dance Australia has successfully delivered such an event to Penrith for six years in a row and put Penrith on the map with .

9. Environmentally sustainable development

Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) is required to consider not only environmental values, but also social, and economic outcomes.

Q-dance Australia strives always to be a top class corporate citizen, with compliance as a high priority, as the record shows. Its engagement with the community, responsibility towards safety of its patrons and voluntary giving in the region, demonstrate that it holds social values high and makes a considerable contribution to the artistic, cultural and social life of Penrith.

Defqon.1 has brought considerable economic benefits to Penrith and the surrounding region, thereby completing the trio of requirements for ESD - environmental, social and economic outcomes are all improved. These are described in further detail below.

9.1 Environmental outcomes

Defqon.1 is an event which relies very much on energy – the energy to amplify its music, energy in the form of exciting sports like jet ski, jet pack rides and the slingshot amusement ride, fuel to power the helicopters which provide scenic flights for patrons - all require energy.

Laser lights and pyrotechnic displays add to the intensity of energy utilised by Defqon.1.

Balancing this is the massive reduction in motor vehicle transport with a very small number of patrons electing to visit the event by private car.

In future years, Q-dance would like to explore the possibility of offsetting even more carbon emissions, thereby fulfilling aim (c) of the Penrith LEP:

“development to be designed in a way that assists in reducing and adapting to the likely impacts of climate change.”

Bringing together over 20,000 people requires food and drink for a period of many hours, and in the case of campers a 48-hour period. There are also many materials which are used for staging, fencing, facilities, signage etc

Q-dance Australia employs a waste minimisation officer, who is dedicated to educating staff and patrons about the importance of diverting waste from landfill, ensuring that proper signage is in place, procedures and even promotions to encourage container recycling.

It should be noted that from time to time, on some years Defqon.1 will produce a spike in waste. This occurs when a long cycle of reuse of material is finally ends and the materials are no longer able to be reused. A large amount of these materials is postconsumer or post production scrap.

Q-dance extends the life of this scrap by a long way, but ultimately these materials can be reused no more and must be disposed of.

9.2 Social outcomes

Arts in western Sydney

Defqon.1 was the first major music festival to situate itself west of Homebush Bay in the heartland of Western Sydney, thereby fulfilling some key goals and aspirations of the Western Sydney Arts Strategy.

These goals, of fostering and enabling the people of Western Sydney to have access to world-class, or indeed any, culture and the arts are reflected in a new report compiled by Deloitte for the Sydney Business Chamber and Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith Councils, called *Building Western Sydney's Cultural Arts Economy*.

54% of Defqon.1 patrons are from Sydney's West and South West. With the major single chunk of patronage originating in Sydney's west, it is clear that Defqon.1 is enabling audiences of 18 to 30 from that region to have access to a world-class cultural event without having to travel outside of western Sydney.

The event also attracts in excess of 20,000 people, approximately one third of whom are from interstate or overseas, making it a drawcard for NSW tourism.

One in 10 Australians and nearly one-third of NSW's population live in western Sydney, but the region receives just one per cent of Commonwealth arts program funding and 5.5 per cent of the state government's arts budget, according to the *Building Western Sydney's Cultural Arts Economy* report.

"This basic unfairness diminishes the cultural life of the people of Western Sydney and disadvantages the development of the industry," said David Capra from the Western Sydney Arts & Culture Lobby, in a recent Media article. Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/report-urges-more-arts-spending-moving-cultural-institutions-to-western-sydney-20150225-13oo3v.html#ixzz3YIAkeJBy>

The Report also concluded that taxpayers spend more than four times more money on subsidising each visitor to venues in Sydney's CBD compared with western Sydney. For example, taxpayers spent an estimated \$112.50 on each visitor to the Australian Museum and \$74.93 for the Sydney Opera House. The subsidy for each visitor to the Riverside Theatres was \$14.15 and Joan Sutherland Performance Arts Centre a mere \$6.20.

The report recommends spending \$300 million on cultural infrastructure in western Sydney over the next five years and a doubling of the state government arts funding in the region.

This is a NSW State arts policy of many years standing, consistent with the Deloitte report, not to mention the views of the Sydney Business Chamber.

Annual donations contributing to Penrith youth

Turning from the broader social outcomes to real people and their involvement in Defqon.1, Q-dance annually invests in a number of initiatives that benefit the people of Penrith.

These initiatives have included, for example, scholarships awarded to underprivileged youth to attend the Joan Sutherland performing arts school.

In 2014, Q-dance made a donation towards a youth worker to support the important youth engagement activities at "The Mondo"

Defqon.1 Volunteer Day

Every year, Q-dance organises a Volunteer Day, where around 60 Defqon.1 fans and volunteers gather to spend a day completing good works for the community.

Previous volunteer days have been devoted to the Indigenous Muru Mittigar Centre, and last year the day was spent at Lee Park, Winmalee. A brief description of the day is provided in the following media release issued by Q-dance Australia:

1 August 2014

Media release

Winmalee benefits from volunteer bushfire recovery effort

In a tornado of teamwork, over 50 volunteers have addressed a lingering concern of Winmalee residents: the disrepair of one of the township's bushfire affected recreational parks.

"It is the equivalent of three years of parks maintenance in one day!" said a Blue Mountains City Council spokesperson.

With the support of Blue Mountains City Council and neighbours, the team of enthusiastic volunteers cleared all the dead branches and trees and created paths throughout the park.

They also levelled out the ground, so that it is now again safe for families and children to walk through the park.

The volunteers, all fans of the famous Defqon.1 music spectacular held annually at the Sydney International Regatta Centre, demonstrated the high energy levels and vigour that come in handy at the one-day festival which is known for its hard style, high energy music genres.

Lee Park, Tall Timbers Rd was attacked by flames during the September 2013 bushfire infernos that ravaged the lower Blue Mountains. Since then, owing to a shortage of resources for bushfire recovery, the park was suffering from very high levels of ground fuel cover and the remnants of burnt out trees.

The Blue Mountains Fire Watch Facebook page came alight with positive reports that the hard style music fans were at work.

"Defqon.1 organisers Q-dance Australia have a commitment to corporate social responsibility," said a Q-dance spokesperson. "Every year we invite Defqon.1 fans to spend a day on some community project. This year hundreds applied to be on the volunteer team. The response was a credit to them."

"Last year we had a terrifying brush with the bushfires ourselves, when Cranebrook was evacuated during our stage construction. We contacted fire authorities to see if the 2014 volunteer effort could be dedicated to bushfire recovery."

The effort contributed 300 person hours to the worldwide [10000HOURS](#) volunteer project, for which young hard style music followers donate their spare time to various initiatives supporting local communities.

Defqon.1 music spectacular will be held at the Sydney International Regatta Centre on Saturday, 20 September and tickets are now on sale.

Further information: Anna Christie, Q-dance Australia Community & Govt Relations, 0425 322 186

In 2015, the Defqon.1 volunteer day will be spent conducting a blitz of invasive plants from the curtilage of the historic Cox's Cottage, Mulgoa in conjunction with Mulgoa Landcare. This promises to be an immensely rewarding event for volunteers and a to reflect boost in resources to Mulgoa Landcare.

Defqon.1 as an incubator for artistic talent

Defqon.1 is also an incubator for artistic talent, and many DJs who received their big break at Defqon.1 Australia have gone on to enjoy successful international careers, some being based in Europe.

The overseas success stories are mounting, of Australian artists *specifically from western Sydney* achieving their "break" at Defqon.1 Australia:

- DJs based overseas from Defqon.1 would be Audiofreq
- DJs who play Europe are Toneshifters (were based in Netherlands for some time) Decipher and Shinra, Dillytek (western Sydney boys who were signed to Keep It Up Music record label last year)
- Top MC - MC D - who hosts MainStage with Villain he has a summer season of festival gigs lined up and is mc ing for some of the headliners on Defqon. 1 AU @ Defqon.1 NL this year.
- Atlas has recently been signed to Brennan Hearts Label, will be performing as part of this show case at the gathering so he is on his way.
- Other point of interest is a new act Q-dance is fostering now is the strangerz live they have been playing raw sets for some years however we are creating a new concept with them it is fusion between hard style and trap/hip hop they have their own female MC and have crazy costume.
- They will premiere at the Defqon.1 dj comp as special guest touring nationally, plus Auckland, NZ to go on to perform as a Defqon.1 Mainstage act this year they are in development stage (with completely new music and film clip to launch this concept) and sights set on NL for Nnext yea
- Defqon.1 fosters talent is through the producers comp and dj comp Kemikal is playing at defqon.1 NL as a result of this.
- We also have young producer Jaspar Zhou producing down under Radio Q-dances radio.

Penrith Music Festival Defqon.1 is an outlet for a lot of talent

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by Ian Paterson Penrith Press



Facebook image from the DEFOON.1 Festival at the Sydney International Regatta Centre.

DEFQON.1 is not just about the music: it also lets the people behind the music show their artistic talents.

Unique stage designs, outrageous laser shows, special effects and a fireworks display will all add to the spectacle on Saturday.

Much of the artistic talent that goes into these displays comes from Western Sydney with the festival's creative director, Matt Chromatic, calling the Blue Mountains home.



Defqon music festival set designer Matt Chromatic (centre) is pictured with Ben Cotwell and Kimberly Forbes of South Penrith. (Matthew Sullivan)

"Physically building the festival is my favourite part of the whole experience and seeing months of planning come in to fruition," Mr Chromatic said.

9.3 Economic benefits of Defqon.1

Attendance at Defqon.1 has grown from 14,500 in 2009 to nearly 25,000 more recently. It should be noted that this growth is occurring in the context of an unstable music festival market, in which iconic brands have exited totally (big day out, future music) or contracted (stereo sonic).

An economic benefits study was conducted in 2011 and is proposed to be updated for the benefit of Penrith City Council. The 2011 report found that event visitors spent an estimated \$2.406 million in 2011, with a multiplier impact for the Penrith area of \$4.194 million. The report further found that 5169 existing local jobs have some involvement in the event and a total of 21 new jobs were created in Penrith for the event. (Source: REMPLAN Tourism Impact Report - 2011 Defqon.1 Event. Full report available)

This study is currently being updated to account for recent growth of the event.

10. Stakeholder consultation

Q-dance routinely makes contact and keeps its key stakeholders informed of the progress of Defqon.1, including neighbours. They include:

Penrith Lakes Development Corporation
Office of Penrith Lakes
Whitewater stadium
Castlereagh Academy
Len Robinson Strata Management (managing Waterside Estate)
Mrs Norma Dal-Seno, 47-55 Old Castlereagh Rd, Castlereagh and family
Mr John Mardesiese, 39-45 Old Castlereagh Rd, Castlereagh and family

Public agencies who have been informed include:

Landcom
Penrith City Council
NSW Police
NSW Rural Fire Service
RailCorp

Business representatives who are consulted include:

Penrith Business Alliance, Mr Bijai Kumar
Penrith Chamber of Commerce, Ms Gina Field
Penrith CBD Corporation, Ms Gai Hawthorn and Ms Sue McNally

Several meetings have already occurred between Q-dance Australia, NSW Police and contractors.

Mullins Rd businesses will continue to be engaged, and businesses in Leland Street will be contacted to ensure they are aware of traffic arrangements on 19 September.

Further stakeholder consultation will be undertaken by Q-dance Australia.

11. Conclusion

The proposal for a 5 year DA to conduct Defqon.1 at the SIRC between 2015-2019 has been met with strong support from stakeholders, thanks to the demonstrated benefits that the festival offers to Penrith and to NSW.

Q-dance hopes that after considering all of the environmental, economic and social considerations (above), Penrith City Council the consent authority will resolve that the reputation, track record, and high standards of event management not to mention the direct economic benefits, direct and indirect jobs, merit approval of a further 5 years for Defqon.1

12 Q-dance Australia contact details

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