

Water Activities Management Plan

Strawberry Fields Festival

Lower River Road,

TOCUMWAL. New South Wales

(16th – 19th November 2017)



Prepared by FIRETAC (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Version 1.0 (DRAFT)

01.08.17

Water Activities Management Plan

INTRODUCTION:

This document seeks to provide an overview of the plans, strategies and processes being applied to the management of water based recreational activities undertaken by participants in the “Strawberry Fields Music Festival” to be held over the weekend of 16th – 19th November 2017.

It is not to be used as a detailed “Operations Order” - this will be prepared by the appointed specialist service provider closer to the event date.

The “Strawberry Fields Music and Lifestyle Festival” is a ticketed event, which will attract approximately 6000 patrons to the venue on private property idyllically situated along the banks of the Murray River approximately 11 kilometres east of Tocumwal (NSW) in the Shire of Berrigan.

Given the time of year, anticipated weather conditions, ready access and proximity to the riverfront, a high potential exists for some patrons to seek to realize opportunities to use the Murray River for aquatic recreational purposes.

In accordance with the principles of both Emergency and Risk Management, organizers have determined that (like Fire, Medical and Security disciplines) a professional, “specialized” resource is required to manage risks/hazards associated with the incidence of aquatic recreational pursuits as undertaken by participants at the event.

In collaboration with the appointed service provider, this document has been developed for the purposes of:-

- ***(a) identifying specific risks associated with aquatic activities***
- ***(b) ensuring an assessment of that risk (where identified) is undertaken and***
- ***(c) recommending/applying appropriate treatments (where practicable) to eliminate/reduce identified risk.***

Titled “Water Activities Management Plan”, this document relates solely to the management and response arrangements to be applied to those recreational activities undertaken by event patrons in/around the Murray River frontage with a view to mitigating the risk of drowning or other related aquatic incident.

Established arrangements for controlling (where possible) patron recreational use of the river and the planned response to (and management of) any incidents which might occur involving patron recreational use of the river, are also detailed within the plan.

It should be noted that this plan must be read in conjunction with the festival “Emergency Management Plan”.

Information relating to the management and response arrangements established for other “non-water” related incidents and emergencies including: Fire, Safety, Medical; Evacuation; Security & Public Order etc. are **NOT** covered in this document.

PROPOSED VENUE:

The proposed venue is situated on privately owned land situated on the southern side of Lower River Road, Tocumwal and extends in a southerly direction to the Murray River at the property’s southern most perimeter.



General satellite view of the proposed venue site.

The Murray River at this location runs east to west with a variable current determined by water release upstream initiated by the relevant statutory water authority as part of the Murray-Darling Water Catchment Management Scheme.

River levels are subject to variation over the months/weeks leading up to the festival event and as such, a further assessment of risk will be undertaken no later than 2 weeks prior to the event.

As evidence of fallen timber (trees/branches) has been observed in the water adjacent the northern (festival) side of the river bank – it is anticipated that there are also some timber “snags” submerged and difficult to see in the water in addition to that timber visibly protruding from the water.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that swimming and similar aquatic activities are undertaken at various locations in/around the festival venue by members of the general public (non-festival patrons) on a regular basis.

These locations include nearby “lagoons” (small off-shoots from the main river system); private water storage facilities (dams) and the Murray River itself.

A naturally formed sandy beach is situated directly opposite the festival venue (approximately 50 metres across the river) to the south and is subject to regular use (as a popular location) for this purpose by members of the public including adults and supervised children alike.

Road access to that beach from the festival site involves a road trip (via Tocumwal) of approximately 25 – 30 kilometres distance and is considered impractical/undesirable in the circumstances.

PROPOSED CONTROLS.

The ability for organizers to effectively prohibit participants from entering the waterway in pursuit of individual aquatic recreation, is considered impractical and unachievable, therefore the establishment of appropriate controls designed to mitigate risk, manage aquatic behaviour and delivered by appropriately qualified specialists in water safety has been adopted.

These controls include, *but are not limited to:*

- **“Re-appointment” of a suitably qualified/experienced “professional” lifeguard service to:-**
 - *Supervise access/behaviour within the designated swimming area.*
 - *Provide an effective/timely response capability to those persons requiring assistance.*
 - *Provide an effective/timely recovery capability where required.*
 - *Working in harmony with the Medical and other Emergency Service resources provide a high level of treatment and care as required.*
 - *Provide festival management (including the Event Emergency Management Group) with on-going risk management/assessment of aquatic recreational activities.*

- **Designation of a specific “controlled” swimming area.**
(to be visually delineated and access controlled “after-hours” using appropriate signage, physical barriers and other security resources).
- **Establishment of “controlled” access times. (Daylight hours only)**
- **Provision of appropriate resources (both human and equipment) to effectively aid in the delivery of effective management of aquatic recreational activities.**
(equipment shall include the provision of motorized water craft (via lifeguard service), rescue boards and other lifesaving apparatus as deemed appropriate)

LIFEGUARD SERVICE PROVIDER.

A specialist, “professional” lifeguard service has been engaged to again provide appropriate aquatic management, supervision, response and recovery services to the festival community for the duration of the event.

Lifeguarding Services Australia P/Ltd. (a NSW company providing specialized aquatic and related emergency resources) under the direction of Stan Wall (*Chief Lifeguard*) has provided the required services with distinction in previous years and will again lead a team of highly experienced/qualified “professional” lifeguards and equipment (*including motorized watercraft*) for the 2017 Strawberry Fields Festival to monitor and assist patrons who seek to use the river for aquatic pursuits (ie: swimming etc.).



Example of the motorized watercraft to be utilized for the event.

With more than 25 years major event and safety experience Stan is one of the leaders in the Aquatic, Public Safety and Rescue industries in Australia and holds responsibility for over 300 lifeguards across 37 venues in 3 states.

His qualifications include:

- *Advanced Diploma Business*
- *Diploma of Quality Auditing*
- *Diploma of Management*
- *Diploma Vocational Training & Education*
- *Diploma of Training Development & Design*
- *Cert IV Public Safety (Aquatic Search & Rescue Management)*
- *Cert IV Health Care (Ambulance)*
- *Cert IV Rescue Medical Technician*
- *Cert IV Work Health and Safety*
- *Cert III Aviation (Rescue Crewman)*
- *Cert III Public Safety (SES Rescue)*

All "Lifeguards" deployed to the event will hold appropriate qualifications and experience with be Certificate III Public Safety (Aquatic Search & Rescue) a minimum in addition to various service and experiential awards. (*Levels 1 and 2 APOLA or similar*)

Motorized inflatable rescue boats or other similar watercraft will be operated/crewed only by personnel with appropriate NSW Maritime Boating licences and demonstrated national competency/qualifications for the operation of the craft.

Whilst it is yet to be confirmed as to the proposed increase in levels of equipment and personnel to be deployed to this years event, the deployment will include:

- *Fully equipped "Lifeguard vehicles.*
- *Motorized Inflatable Rescue Boat.*
- *Ancillary Aquatic Rescue Equipment/Aids.*

During "operating hours" the lifeguard service will ensure that there are at least 2 lifeguards "watching" those persons in the water.

These personnel will have available various life-saving "response" aids (rescue boards etc.) to facilitate an immediate response to any person requiring assistance. In addition to the 2 x "on-shore" lifeguards, additional lifeguard/s will be stationed with the motorized watercraft either on the river or immediately opposite to also render assistance and assist with retrieval as required.

All lifeguards will be in two-way radio contact with each other and the Emergency Co-ordination Centre all times.

Life guards will have access to/work collaboratively with other “on-site” emergency services and personnel if required including Security, Medical etc. with access being facilitated via a dedicated “Emergency Services” radio network.

Members of the Lifeguard Service will reside “on-site” for the duration of the event and will provide an “after-hours on-call” response capability which shall include the provision of motorized water-craft equipped for “night operations”.

ACCESS.

Swimming and recreational use of the river by festival participants will be restricted to specified times during **daylight hours only** (*nominally 1000 – 1800 hrs*) and will only be permitted within a clearly defined/designated area – this being subject to patrol and supervision by the “lifeguards”.

“Out-of-hours”, access to the aquatic area will be restricted by means of signage, physical barrier and the presence/activities of Security personnel.

MEDICAL SERVICES.

St Johns Ambulance (as the appointed Festival Medical Provider) will have established an “on-site” Festival Medical Centre which shall operate (24/7) for the duration of the festival event.

The siting of the Festival Medical Centre shall be < 50 metres from the proposed swimming area.

Staffing of the Medical Centre shall be as per the Medical providers “Operational Plan” and shall be sufficient to address any circumstance presented as a result of aquatic recreational pursuits undertaken by event participants.

(Refer to Medical Plan for details of resources to be available).

As an integral part of the Event Emergency Management Team, the Medical provider has been briefed in relation to the potential for aquatic activity and will incorporate provision of appropriate resources into the festival’s medical service plan and arrangements to cater for any injury etc. which may be the result from individual aquatic recreational pursuits.

RISK MINIMIZATION.

As prevention is a key component to the Water Activities Management Plan, a number of preventative strategies are planned as an aide to minimizing the risk presented by individuals/groups participating in aquatic recreational activities or a related incident.

In assessing risk, a number of factors have been taken into consideration including, (but not limited to):

- *River access.*
- *Anticipated river levels, flow and characteristics at the time of the festival event.*
- *Presence of “snags” or other objects (including those submerged) along the river bank.*
- *Familiarity of users with aquatic characteristics of location.*
- *Individual aquatic capabilities of users.*
- *Availability, response and intervention capabilities of local services.*

The table below details some of the Risks identified and the actions and strategies currently being proposed or taken to mitigate those risks.
They include (but are not limited to.....)

<u>Risk Analysis</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Comment</u>
<u>Potential for drowning.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establishment of designated "Swimming area" to be clearly identified by signage and appropriate markers in the water. -Restriction on usage times – daylight hours only. - Appointment of professional "Lifeguards" to monitor/patrol swimming area during operating hours. - Provision of appropriate patrol, response and recovery watercraft for duration of event. -Provision of nearby Medical Services (St Johns Ambulance) -Provision of "on-call" after hours response capability. -Utilization of Security personnel to monitor swimming area "out of hours". 	Further details available from <u>Lifeguarding Services Aust.</u>
<u>Potential for other injury as result of aquatic activities/pastimes.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establishment of designated "swimming area" which is (where practicable) clear of risks (submerged trees etc.) - Clear identification of risks by signage or other visual indication (bunting etc.) - Supervision by lifeguards of patron behaviour – enforcement of zero tolerance to dangerous behaviours. 	Further details available from <u>Lifeguarding Services Aust.</u>
<u>Potential for impact and/or associated injuries as result of swimmers being hit by watercraft (boats).</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish and enforce use of designated "swimming area" at all times. -Lifeguards monitor swimmers locations. 	

**** Note:**

This list is not exhaustive and may be subject to amendment based on changes to conditions or circumstances or as a result of further consultation with relevant stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON.

Lifeguarding Australia P/Ltd. will operate within its own “Operations Orders/Guidelines” but will form part of the festival “Emergency Management” Group under the co-ordination of the “Event Emergency Co-ordinator”.

Liaison with other services including external statutory emergency services shall be in accordance with the protocols established in “Event Emergency Management Plan” and will be co-ordinated by the “Event Emergency Co-ordinator”

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.

In the event of an incident occurring which requires resource assistance beyond the capability of the appointed “Lifeguard” service, such assistance will be requested via the Event Emergency Co-ordinator from the NSW Police in the first instance.

Such requests will be made via the national “000” telephone service and may involve the Tocumwal/Cobram State Emergency Service units.

REPORTS/DE-BRIEFS.

Any incidents arising from the pursuit of aquatic leisure activities will be subject to a report in accordance with Lifeguarding Australia’s established protocols/processes.

A formal de-brief will be conducted within two (2) hours of any incident (unless emergency operations determine otherwise) and will involve those stakeholders with “statutory responsibility” (ie: Police, Ambulance, SES etc. and members of the festival Emergency Management Group as determined by the Event Emergency Co-ordinator.

OPERATIONS ORDER.

The preparation and development of a specific “Operations Order” for the performance of “lifeguard” duties shall be the responsibility of the appointed “service provider” who shall ensure that a copy of the “Operations Order” is provided to the event organizers not less than 14 days prior to the commencement of the event.

Author's Note:

This document forms part of the suite of documents which collectively form the "Strawberry Fields Music & Lifestyle Festival (2017) - Emergency Management Plan" and as such must be read in conjunction with the other Management Plans (and Operations Orders) which have been prepared and developed for the event.

These shall include (but not be limited to) the following sub-plans:

- FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN (Strawberry Fields Festival 2017)
- FIRST AID and MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN (Strawberry Fields 2017)
- SECURITY and PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN (Strawberry Fields 2017)

Total reliance on the information contained in this plan (in isolation) is not recommended or supported.

Signed:



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Bob Barks.

*Senior Advisor & Director (Operations)
Fire, Safety & Emergency Management.*

FIRETAC (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Date: 30/ 07 / 2017

DISTRIBUTION

- Bill Staughton (Festival Director)
- Jeff Moss (Event Manager) – Strawberry Fields 2017.
- Stan Wall (Chief Lifeguard) - Lifeguarding Services Australia