

# Free Range Gathering 2025

## Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE)



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## 1. Introduction

This Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) has been prepared in accordance with **Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)** to accompany a Development Application (DA) submitted to the local council by **Free Range Events Pty Ltd**. The DA relates to the temporary use of rural land for the purposes of hosting a community arts, music, and cultural event - **Free Range Gathering** - scheduled for the **5th to 7th September 2025** in the **Brindabella Valley, NSW**.

This SEE assesses the likely environmental and social impacts of the proposed development, with consideration of the following:

- The provisions of applicable environmental planning instruments;
- The likely environmental, social and economic impacts of the development;
- The suitability of the site for the proposed use;
- The public interest.

## 2. Event Overview

- **Name:** Free Range Gathering
- **Dates:** 5th – 7th September 2025
- **Location:** Private rural property, Brindabella Valley, NSW
- **Estimated Attendance:** 400–600 patrons (including crew, artists, and volunteers)
- **Key Activities:** Live music, arts and crafts, wellness workshops, food and market stalls, installations, and educational forums

## 3. Timings and Duration

- **Bump-In:** Begins Tuesday 2nd September 2025
- **Patron Access:** From 12:00pm Friday 5th September
- **Main Program:**
  - Friday: 12pm-3am
  - Saturday: 10am-5am

- Sunday: 11am-2am
- **Patron Exit:** By 1:00pm Monday 8th September
- **Bump-Out:** Completed by Thursday 11th September 2025

#### 4. Site Access and Traffic Management - refer to TMP

- **Access Route:** Via Brindabella Road, with a single controlled entry and exit point
- **Traffic Management:**
  - Detailed Traffic Management Plan (TMP) implemented
  - On-site traffic marshals and speed signage
  - Staggered arrival and exit times for patrons
- **Emergency Access:** Dedicated 4-metre-wide corridors for emergency vehicles maintained at all times
- **Parking:** Clearly marked on-site parking zones separated from camping and activity areas

#### 5. Site and Surrounding Area

- **Zoning:** Rural/agricultural
- **Site coverage:** Roughly 1.34%
  - The site total is roughly 80 hectares (80,000 sqm), total infrastructure will be roughly 1,073 sqm. This is the site area [80 hectares] divided by our infrastructure: workshop area (139sqm tipi), covered chill space (139sqm tipi), staging area (100sqm) sun shade sails next to staging area (400 sqm), art space (139 sqm tipi), front gate shade structure (25sqm mqrquee), front of house area (81sqm marquee) and waste management area (50sqm marquee).
  - Site coverage is low due to the small scale size of this community event and limited infrastructure being built on or brought to site.
- **Surrounding Land Use:** Predominantly agricultural land with sparse residential properties (nearest ~2.5km away)
- **Topography:** Cleared pastureland with low-lying native vegetation and seasonal watercourses

## 6. Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

(Prepared with regard to Section 4.15 matters, including the likely environmental impacts of the development)

### a) Noise

#### Potential Impacts:

- Amplified music and crowd noise may carry beyond site boundaries, especially during nighttime hours.
- Operation of **generators, power tools, and machinery** during bump-in and bump-out may cause temporary disturbance.
- Wildlife and nearby residents may be affected by unmitigated sound levels.

#### Mitigation:

- Use of power tools and machinery restricted to 7:00am–7:00pm during site setup and pack-down.
- All generators will be modern, silenced models and shielded acoustically where possible.
- Amplified music will be professionally managed
- Noise monitoring equipment will be used to ensure levels stay within EPA guidelines.
- Speaker orientation will be directed in a manner to reduce spread.
- A community contact line will be available for noise-related concerns during the event.

### b) Waste Management

Refer to Waste Management Plan for further details

#### Potential Impacts:

- Generation of solid waste from food vendors, camping, and general activity.
- Litter could impact adjacent bushland or enter nearby waterways if unmanaged.

**Mitigation:**

- “Leave No Trace” policy applied and promoted.
- Multiple waste separation stations (general, recyclable, compostable) located throughout the site.
- Post-event waste sweep by volunteers and organisational crew.
- Waste removal managed by event waste management teams.

### c) Water and Sanitation

**Potential Impacts:**

- Portable toilet use and greywater disposal may pose contamination risks.
- Uncontrolled water management may pose cross contamination of potable water (managed risk).

**Mitigation:**

- Serviced portable toilets and greywater units used and maintained throughout the event.
- All effluent and greywater removed from site.

### d) Flora and Fauna Disturbance

**Potential Impacts:**

- Trampling of vegetation due to foot and vehicle traffic.
- Potential disruption to local fauna, particularly nocturnal species.

**Mitigation:**

- Activities limited to cleared and pre-approved areas.
- Bushland and creek zones fenced off or marked as no-access.
- No open fires allowed
- Directional, low-impact lighting used at night to reduce animal disruption.

## e) Fire Risk

Refer to bushfire management plan

### Potential Impacts:

- Bushfire risk from dry seasonal conditions, human presence, or heat-generating equipment.

### Mitigation:

- Fire ban and no open flame policy enforced.
- Fire Safety Plan developed in consultation with the local RFS.
- Fire extinguishers and water sources positioned throughout the site.
- Staff trained in emergency response procedures.

## 7. Site infrastructure

All site infrastructure will comply with AS/NZS ISO 31000 and have engineering certification. The recommended checklists provided by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) for temporary structures will be utilised appropriately. Site infrastructure is temporary and will be removed after the event. It may include (but not be limited to):

- 3x TenTipi Stratus 72 tents
- 1x stage
- Marquees at various sizes
- Temporary waste management facility
- Temporary structures
- Portaloos
- Water tanks
- Generators
- Lighting towers
- Shade sails

## 8. Social and Economic Impacts

### Positive Contributions:

- Engagement of regional businesses (vendors, transport, waste)
- Promotion of the Brindabella Valley as a destination for responsible, eco-conscious tourism
- Cultural exchange and community education through workshops and forums
- Promotion of local artists and businesses

## 9. Suitability of Site

The chosen site offers sufficient space, topographical suitability, low population density, and rural zoning appropriate for a temporary event. The scale and duration of the event are proportionate to the available infrastructure and support a low-impact model, aligning with public interest objectives and relevant planning controls.

## 10. Conclusion

This Statement of Environmental Effects demonstrates that the **Free Range Gathering** is a temporary and low-impact cultural event, with proactive planning and mitigation measures in place to address all relevant matters under **Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)**.

Free Range Events Pty Ltd is committed to working collaboratively with Council, emergency services, and the local community to ensure the event proceeds safely, responsibly, and in harmony with the Brindabella Valley environment.