

Statement of Environmental Effects

September 2020

Meeks Day Care – Berkshire Park

INTRODUCTION

The Subject DA for modification is DA 180599(1) – 30 Place Child care centre at 84 Third Road, Berkshire Park (Lot 107) – The Child Care centre was approved and commenced operation in July 2019 (for 22 children) under the business name of Meek's Day Care Pty Ltd. In June 2020 the centre was approved to increase to 30 places.

The Day Care centre has a recognised and well known positive reputation in the community for providing high quality care and education. In September 2020 The Department of Education rated the centre as **Exceeding the National Quality Standards.**

REQUIREMENTS

DA Modification consent is required to increase the maximum number of places from 30 to 42 children. The Department of Education will then need to approve a service approval application. If approved the expected start time to increase to 42 children is Monday 19th October 2020.

AGE OF CHILDREN

The age at which children are enrolled at this service will remain the same (2 years – 6 years).

The ages will be broken down (for educator ratio reasons) to;

- 15 children per day aged 2 – 3 years old
- 27 children per day ages 3 – 6 years old
- Total 42 children per day

SERVICE

The service is at full capacity and has been since July 2019. There is waiting list of many local families who require immediate childcare – this can be provided on request.

SPACE

There is available indoor space to meet Regulation 107 (3.25m² / child). This has been achieved by using the rooms originally allocated to 'storage' to become indoor play space. By including this area the calculations equate to allowing for 42 children.

STRUCTURAL CHANGES

There is no changes to the structure of the building or the outdoor environment (which has more than enough space to accommodate 42 children at the one time under the regulations)

EFFLUENT WASTE

As per the Waste Water Management Report a small absorption bed will be installed by a plumber at the rear of the premises to accommodate in effluent waste dispersal for the increase in children and the current staff.

RESOURCES / FURNITURE

The centre has the available resources and furniture to meet the needs of the additional children – images of the rooms set up can be proved on request.

STAFFING REQ.

We have existing educators employed by the service which will enable us to meet child to staff ratio requirements (Regulation 123).

We have 8 staff employed by Meek's Day care.

Only 6 staff work at the one time. (2 of these are residents of the dwelling)

The other 2 staff are on-call staff who will work if a staff member is unable to come in or needs to leave suddenly. Due to regulation requirements with child to staff ratio we need to have staff ready to come at a moment's notice and they are on our payroll, they are not here at the same time, only in replacement of staff who are away. A breakdown of the required educators per children is below:

- 15 children per day aged 2 – 3 years old – Requires 3 Educators
- 27 children per day ages 3 – 6 years old - Requires 3 Educators

Total 6 educators / day.

CAR PARKING

We have the required (and approved) off street carpark spaces to accommodate the additional families and current staff. Arrival and departure times will continue to be staggered to ensure minimal noise emittance to the community – there has been no issues or complaints with any noise emitted from the centre by any neighbours.

NOISE MITIGATION PLAN

It is identified that there will be an increase in noise emitted into the environment due to the increase in children.

It is planned to execute a staggered outdoor play time roster which will include the following procedure;

- 2 – 3 years olds have outdoor play time 9.30am 10.30am and 1.30pm – 2.30 pm
- 3 – 6 year olds have outdoor play time 10.30am – 12pm and 2.30 – 4.30pm

The majority of children attend between 9am and 4pm Monday - Friday. As children are arriving and leaving for the day we will monitor numbers to ensure the total children outside playing is not more than 25 at one time. This will minimize the noise impact on the surrounding neighbours. Also educators are trained in managing children behaviour to avoid playing / crying loudly. If a child cannot be calmed in 30 seconds, they are taken inside.

HYGIENE FACILITIES

There is the adequate number of hygiene facilities for 42 children as per Regulation 109 – (3 toilets pre-existing on plans – The toilet in the proposed childcare space can be swapped over to a smaller toilet, **however** we are submitting to the department that the older, larger children (aged 5 and above) find the children's toilets too small for them and much prefer to use the larger toilet. Some of the children here have been independently toileting for 3 or more years, this is above the recommendation for junior toilets.

POLICIES, PROCEDURES, COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

The Policies, Procedures and access to community supports such as health care, early intervention and transition to school programs will continue unchanged and are able to support the increase of children.

No other changes are proposed in accordance with the Service approval application to the Dept of Education.

SIGNAGE & STREET IMPACT

There is no change or application to increase the very minimal on-street signage – the property will retain its rural frontage and no impact is made on the natural environment for advertising.

OWNERS CONSENT

The owners of the property (James Read and Bruce Read) agree to the modification application and are aware of the proposal to increase the maximum numbers to 42 children.

PUBLIC INTEREST

In the public interest, an increase in number of available childcare places will cater to the demand of the local community.

CONCLUSION

It is proposed to increase the number of children at the centre each day from 30 to 42.

This centre will cater for families in the local area who are requiring childcare. The centre is rated to be Exceeding the National Quality Standard in childcare.

The centre will remain low key, and will features outdoor play areas that are significantly larger than the requirement for licensing.

Parking will be in line with requirements.

This Statement of Environmental Effects has considered all natural and built constraints and hazards and found the site to be suitable for the proposed development. Potential constraints relating to noise has been satisfactorily addressed and will be appropriately managed by ways explained above in 'Noise Mitigation Plan'.

Additionally, it has been found that the proposed development will have minimal and acceptable impacts on the natural or built environment.

Council's favourable consideration of the application is requested.