

Statement of Environmental Effects

May 2020 Child Care Centre 84-90 Third Road Berkshire Park

Introduction

The Subject DA for modification is DA 180599 (**annexure a**) – 22 Place Child care centre at 84-90 Third Road, Berkshire Park (Lot 107) – The Child Care centre was approved and commenced operation in July 2019 under the business name of Meek's Day Care Pty Ltd. (**annexure b**)

The modification consent is:

- To increase the maximum number of children in attendance per day to 30.

Current position in Community

The Day Care centre has a recognised and well-known positive reputation in the community for providing high quality care and education (**annexure c**).

Regulatory Authority requirements

DA Modification consent is required to increase the maximum number of places from 22 to 30 children. The Department of Education have responded to our initial application to increase numbers (**annexure d**) and advised that this application will be treated with priority due to the current Covid-19 situation placing demand for more childcare spaces to be available to essential workers.

Enrolment age

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

Demand

The service is at full capacity and has been since shortly after opening in 2019. There is waiting list of many local families who require immediate childcare (**annexure e**).

Space Requirements

There is available indoor space to meet Regulation 107 (3.25m² / child). There is 97.71 m² of unencumbered space inside allowing for 30 children. The available indoor space is achieved by using the rooms originally allocated to 'Daycare storage' to become indoor play space (**annexure f**). By including this area the calculations equate to allowing for 30 children as advised by Licenced architect Plans and calculations (**annexure f, annexure l**).

The internal day-care storage space is calculated by the architect to equate 31.92m²

The dimensions of the storage space are as follows: 4m x 4m, 4.6m x 4.75m, 4m x 2.7m

Changes to be made / Costing

There is no changes to the structure of the building or the outdoor environment (which has more than enough space to accommodate 30 children at the one time under the regulations) There is no cost involved for this modification.

Required Resources / equipment

We have the available resources and furniture to meet the needs of the additional children (**annexure g**).

Staffing requirements

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

(b) for children over 24 months and less than 36 months of age--1 educator to 5 children;

(c) for children aged 36 months of age or over--1 educator to 10 children;

We have no more than 10 children enrolled on 1 day that are under 3 years of age, therefore we require a minimum of 4 staff to be working at all times. We have at least 6 staff working at all times (2 of which are residents of the property).

Parking / Noise

We have the required (and approved) carpark spaces to accommodate the additional children.

(DCP C10 – 1 space / 10 children plus 1 space for each of the 4 educators) We have 5 car parking spaces plus an additional disabled car parking space PLUS 5 dedicated and sign posted staff car parking spaces available at all times so there is adequate parking to accommodate 30 children and all of the educators. Please note the 2 staff that are also educators working full time who reside in the dwellings located on the property park in a garage attached to their dwelling and do not require a parking space associated with the day care centre. Arrival and departure times are staggered to ensure minimal noise emittance to the community. As per DA- 180599 (**annexure a**).

Hygiene Facilities

There is the adequate number of hygiene facilities for 30 children as per Regulation 109 – (2 age appropriate toilets pre-existing on plans – **annexure f**)

Policies, Procedures, Community services access

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.

Waste Management

The centre was increased the bin size to accommodate additional children and waste associated (**annexure k**)

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 30 children (**annexure i**)

Public Interest

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

Final

No other changes are proposed in accordance with the Service approval application (**annexure j**)

Conclusion

It is proposed to modify DA-180599 consent to allow for Meeks' Day care to cater for a maximum of 30 children per day. The centre is catering for working families in the local area. The centre is set back from the road and allows the property to maintain its rural frontage. There is sufficient indoor and outdoor space to accommodate the increase in numbers as per Regulations.

There is sufficient hygiene and parking facilities to accommodate the increase in numbers as per the regulations and DCP.

There has been no reportable incidences / breaches or complaints made for the day care centre.

Council's favourable and timely consideration of this Modification is requested as the impact of its delay will be felt by essential workers in the Penrith local community.