

Nyora Property Remains Refractory

South Gippsland Shire Council's Regulatory Services department has undertaken investigations at a property in Nyora and found the land owners in breach of Council's Planning Scheme, Local Laws and a provision of the *Impounding of Livestock Act*.

During the investigation the officers found several hundred chickens, ducks, pheasants, turkeys, pigeons and other birds in cages, pens and roaming on the land. Some of the birds were located on the property of an adjoining neighbour and were able to pass through the strand wire fencing at will.

Prior to the investigation both the owner and tenants had been previously served a directions letter requiring that this behaviour cease and that the property be made compliant.

The tenants failed to appear to answer the charges at the Korumburra Magistrates Court yesterday. In their absence they were fined a total of \$9,000 and ordered to pay the prosecution's costs of \$376.

These fines were in addition to other charges served at the Korumburra Magistrates Court in February 2016.

Council's Manager of Regulatory Services Matthew Patterson said it was a continued process for a property that had received a number of complaints.

"The property is situated in a Rural Living Zone and the number of birds they have on the property is a major breach of local laws and legislation.

"Intensive animal husbandry is prohibited in this zone but a permit is necessary for any residents living in the area with more than two animals on their land.

"Council will continue to work to ensure the residents bring the property in compliance," said Mr Patterson.

Individuals wanting more information on the issue or animal management can contact Council's Local Laws team on 5662 9200. Council's Planning Department is also available for more information on the Planning Scheme.

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