Delegation Report

Application No:	2016/238
Application Type:	Single Dwelling (New/Alteration/Outbuilding)
Received:	2 September 2016
The Applicant: Name: Address:	P Wilson 80 Restlee Drive Nyora VIC 3987
The Proposal: Proposal:	Use and development of Accommodation and development of Outbuildings (4 animal shelters) and a Boardwalk
The Land: Land Address: Land Description:	80 Restlee Drive Nyora VIC 3987 L6 LP212922K Parish of Lang Lang East
Assessment: By:	Tanya Cooper
Planning Scheme and	I/or Planning and Environment Act Definition

Land Use

Accommodation – land used to accommodate people

Note: The proposed accommodation is not considered to be a part of the existing dwelling, nor does it fit within definitions such as "Group Accommodation". Therefore it is considered to a type of Accommodation more generally. This interpretation is consistent with a number of VCAT decisions such as Stuckey v Yarra Rangers SC [2014] and Yoxon v Yarra Rangers SC [2009].

Development

Construct a building or construct or carry out works (existing accommodation building – retrospective; existing outbuildings (2 animal shelters) and boardwalk – retrospective; proposed buildings (extend boardwalk; and 2 new animal shelters)

Zone and Overlays:

Zone: Rural Living Overlays: Nil

Why is a Permit Required? Zone Use Clause 35.03-1 – A permit is required to use the land for Accommodation.

Development

Clause 35.03-4 – A permit is required for buildings in association with a section 2 use and for buildings within 100m of a waterway.

Overlav NA

Particular provisions NA

Particular provisions that are relevant but do not trigger a permit NA

Size of the Land (Square meters or hectares):

The land is approximately 4.66ha

Is there a registered restrictive covenant or a Section 173 Agreement on the title? If so, does the proposal comply with the restriction or Section 173 Agreement? No. There are no covenants or section 173 Agreements noted on the copy of title submitted with the application dated 25 August 2016.

Does the land abut a Road Zone Category 1 or a Public Acquisition Overlay if the purpose of acquisition is for a Category 1 road?

No. Restlee Drive is a sealed Council road.

Is there a designated waterway on the land?

Yes. There is a designated waterway running through the property. It is located to the south / west of the proposed building and runs in a northwest-south-east direction through the lot.

Is the land within a Special Water Supply Catchment Area listed in Schedule 5 of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994? No.

Does the application require car parking / bicycle facilities?

No car parking or bicycle facilities are required by Clauses 52.06 or 52.34 of the Planning Scheme.

Is an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan required?

No, a CHMP is not required because the proposed development is not in an area of cultural heritage sensitivity and it is an exempt activity (building and works ancillary to a dwelling) under Division 2 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007.

Was Further Information Requested under Section 54?

Further information was required regarding the following:

- Amended site plan showing the location of all crossovers to Restlee Drive.
- Amend application to include use of the building for accommodation

nspections: Date	Observations
	Observations
Inspected 12 January 2017	/ The site has frontage to Restlee Drive of approximately 140m. Vehicular access is from 3 existing crossovers to Restlee Drive.
	The land slopes from the road down towards the waterway in the centre of the lot. The land then rises away from the waterway towards the rear of the lot.
	There is a waterway running through the lot from northwest to south- east. The waterway includes a constructed dam in the northwest part of the lot.
	There is some native vegetation located along the waterway and along fence lines. There is planted vegetation on the south-west side of the waterway.
	There is an existing single storey weatherboard dwelling on the land.
	There are also two existing Colorbond sheds on the land that are currently used as storage for the dwelling and which do not require consent as part of this application – one is situated more than 100m from the waterway and the other is considered to have existing use rights.
	There are two existing skate ramps (mini-ramps) near the dwelling that are ancillary to the use of the land for a dwelling and do not require a planning permit.
	The proposed accommodation building that is the subject of this application is a single storey relocatable Colorbond structure on stumps that has already been constructed on the land, close to the waterway. The building has 3 bedrooms, a bathroom, toilet and a large open living area. There is also an outdoor deck adjacent the living area and a partially constructed elevated boardwalk extending from the building towards the proposed skate ramp. The building and boardwalk was constructed without a planning permit.
	There are three existing, partially open Zincalume sheds that are used as animal shelters for the landowners' horses and dog. The dog shelter is exempt from the need for a planning permit under the

provisions of Clause 62.02-2 of the Planning Scheme. The two horse shelters need a planning permit as they are within 100m of the waterway.
There are remains of the previously constructed skate ramp on the site, and the owner is currently in the process of completing earthworks for a new skate ramp in the location previously approved by planning permit 2014/243 that allows use and development of the land for Outdoor Recreation (Skate Ramp).
The site appears to have access to reticulated power, telecommunications. There is no reticulated water and sewer.

Was notice of the application given under Section 52(1), 52(1AA), 52(3) or 57B?

The original application was notified to adjoining/adjacent owners and occupiers.

The application was amended after notification and the amended application was readvertised to adjoining/adjacent owners and occupiers and to all parties who made a submission in relation to the original application, under the provisions of section 57B

Were there any objections received?

Twelve people responded with objections to the proposal. A large number of issues were raised in their submissions and are summarised below:

- Concern that the proposed use of the land for accommodation will result in the loss of rural residential amenity
- Concern about the impacts of the buildings on the soil and water quality
- Concern about the lack of detail in the application and poor quality of plans
- Concern that multiple dwellings are not permitted or necessary on the land
- Concern about the illegal nature of the buildings and the applicant's history of noncompliance
- Concern that the accommodation will be used commercially in association with the proposed Skate Ramp
- Concern about how the use of the buildings will be enforced
- Concern about the suitability of the structures for their intended use
- Concerns arising from conflicts between this application and current planning permit for Outdoor Recreation (skate ramp)

- Concern the proposal for accommodation buildings will set a precedent
- Concern the applicant is seeking donations and is not a charity

Was the application referred under Section 55 or 57C?

The application was not required to be referred under the provisions of section 55 or 57C.

Were there any non-statutory or internal referrals?

Authority	Which Clause / Overlay / Why?	Date received and response
SGSC Waste Water	To determine if waste water can be treated and retained on-site in accordance with the SEPP (Waters of Victoria) under the Environment Protection Act 1970.	15/3/17 – Conditional consent
Melbourne Water	Retrospective development of buildings within 100m of a waterway	1/5/17 – Conditional consent

Planning Scheme Requirements and policies:

<u>SPPF</u>

The following SPPF clauses are considered relevant to the assessment of this application:

11 SETTLEMENT

- 11.01 Victoria
 - 11.01-1 Settlement networks
- 11.07 Regional Victoria
 - 11.07-1 Regional Planning
 - o 11.07-2 Peri-urban areas

14 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- 14.02 Water
 - 14.02-1 Catchment planning and management
 - o 14.02-2 Water quality
 - 14.02-3 Water conservation
- 16 HOUSING
 - 16.02 Housing form
 - 16.02-1 Rural residential development

19 INFRASTRUCTURE

- 19.03 Development infrastructure
 - 19.03-2 Water supply, sewerage and drainage
 - o 19.03-3 Stormwater
 - o 19.03-4 Telecommunications

<u>LPPF</u>

The following LPPF clauses are considered relevant to the assessment of this application:

21.03 KEY ISSUES

- 21.03-3 Environmental risks
- 21.03-6 Housing
- 21.03-9 Infrastructure

21.04 VISION

- 21.04-1 South Gippsland Shire Council Council Plan 2010 2014
- 21.04-2 Vision

21.07 ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

• 21.07-2 Land and catchment management

21.10 HOUSING

• 21.10-3 Rural residential development

21.13 INFRASTRUCTURE

• 21.13-1 Waste management and stormwater drainage

Clause 22 policies

There are no Clause 22 policies considered relevant to the assessment of this application.

General Assessment:

State Planning Policy Framework

The proposal is consistent with the relevant objectives and strategies of the SPPF clauses listed above.

Local Planning Policy Framework and Local policies

The proposal is consistent with the relevant objectives and strategies of the LPPF clauses and Local policies listed above.

Clause 35.03-5 Rural Living Zone Decision Guidelines

General Issues	Response
The State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.	The proposal is considered consistent with state and local planning policies to protect the natural environment and allow for appropriate development within existing settlements.
Any Regional Catchment Strategy and associated plan applying to the land.	NA

The capability of the lead to	The land has sufficient area to contain all of the buildings
The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development.	The land has sufficient area to contain all of the buildings and works wholly within the subject land. The land has been assessed has having sufficient area to treat and dispose of wastewater generated by the accommodation building and the existing dwelling in accordance with relevant standards. The site is considered suitable for use of the land for accommodation (not being a dwelling).
Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.	The proposed buildings are ancillary to the use of the land for rural living purposes and do not change the existing use of the land.
	The site is considered suitable for the proposed buildings, having sufficient area for their development.
	The site is considered suitable for use of the land for accommodation (not being a dwelling). The zone clearly anticipates that other forms of "accommodation" other than a dwelling are permissible and appropriate in the zone, otherwise it would be a prohibited land use.
	The use of the land for accommodation is considered compatible with surrounding residential use and with the use of the subject land for a dwelling and outdoor recreation in accordance with the previous planning permit.
	The land has access to a public road and is able to be connected to existing power and telecommunications networks. There is sufficient area on the site for on-site water storage. The land has sufficient area to treat and dispose of effluent and to provide on-site car parking.
Environmental issues	
The impact on the natural physical features and resources of the area and in particular any impact caused by the proposal on soil and water quality and by the emission of noise, dust and odours.	The proposed development of the land is not expected to impact on the natural physical features of the land provided proposed construction works are undertaken in a manner to prevent erosion and sediment run-off into the waterway and provided on-site waste water treatment is designed and installed in accordance with relevant standards.
	No native vegetation needs to be removed to construct the proposed buildings or the boardwalk.
	The accommodation building is proposed to have a minimum setback of 5m to the waterway which is considered an adequate buffer in the circumstances and the proposal is not considered to affect quality in the waterway if works are carried out in accordance with the proposed conditions.

	The proposed use and development of the land for accommodation and ancillary buildings will not produce emissions of noise, dust or odour that will affect adjoining land.
The impact of the use or development on the flora, fauna and landscape features of the	There are no environmental significance overlays or significant landscape overlays that affect the land.
locality.	The land contains some remnant native vegetation that has biodiversity values for both flora and fauna, however no native vegetation is proposed to be removed as part of this application and the proposal is not expected to impact flora and fauna on the land.
	The landscape features of the area comprise an elevated, hilly landform, patches of remnant native vegetation within otherwise open paddocks, scattered dwellings and outbuildings, and some distant views from elevated positions to Westernport Bay to the south-west and the mountainous land to the north-east. The proposed buildings are set low in a gully, in a previously cleared area, with some remnant vegetation and the landform providing screening from most directions. No significant earthworks are proposed that will modify the landform. The propose buildings have no impact on the landscape features of the local area.
The need to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area, including the need to retain vegetation and faunal habitat and the need to revegetate land including riparian buffers along	The proposed development will not impact on the biodiversity values of the land. The accommodation building and two existing animal shelters are existing on the land and do not affect vegetation. No native vegetation needs to be removed to construct the proposed animal shelters or the boardwalk.
waterways, gullies, ridgelines, property boundaries and saline discharge and recharge area.	As no native vegetation is being removed it is not considered necessary to require any replanting of vegetation in the waterway as part of this planning permit application.
The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.	There is sufficient area on the land to provide on-site effluent disposal for the existing and proposed development in accordance with relevant standards.
Design and siting issues	
The impact of the siting, design, height, bulk, colours and materials to be used, on the natural	There are no major roads near the site. There are no significant vistas from public land across the subject site.
environment, major roads, vistas and water features and the	All the buildings are more than 100m from neighbouring dwellings.

measures to be undertaken to minimise any adverse impacts.	Some neighbouring dwellings have existing views across the subject land and the accommodation building and animal shelters will be visible from those dwellings.
	However, it is considered that the relatively small size of the buildings, their location low on the hill-side, close to the waterway and the presence of existing and proposed vegetation will minimise the impact of the buildings when viewed from neighbouring dwellings.
	The accommodation building is an existing, single storey structure, in green Colourbond, located in a low part of the site adjacent the waterway. The building is similar in appearance to other domestic outbuildings in the local area.
	The existing animal shelters are small metal sheds of similar design and construction to animal shelters in the local area.
	The land includes a dam and waterway. The waterway has been previously modified within the site by damming, construction of the original skate ramp and the proposed accommodation building. The waterway has also recently been modified by the earth works undertaken by the applicant in accordance with the Outdoor Recreation (skate ramp) permit and by removal of vegetation without a planning permit.
	The existing buildings and existing section of boardwalk will not have additional impact on the waterway by retrospective approval through the grant of a planning permit provided the accommodation building is connected to a suitable on-site effluent disposal system.
	The proposed outbuildings are setback more than 10m from the edge of the waterway however the extended boardwalk will crossover the waterway and some footings will be constructed close to the waterway. Provided works are undertaken in accordance with relevant construction standards to minimise erosion, the proposed building works are not expected to affect the waterway.
	Melbourne Water, the responsible authority for the catchment has raised no objection to the proposal, subject to a Site Environmental Management Plan addressing erosion control works to be prepared and implemented on the site.

The impact on the character and appearance of the area or features of architectural, historic or	There are no features of architectural, historic or scientific significance associated with the land.
scientific significance or of natural scenic beauty or importance.	The proposed use and development of the land is considered consistent with the character and appearance of the surrounding rural residential area, which includes dwellings and a wide variety of outbuildings.
	The location of the buildings on the site is below the level of Restlee Drive and the buildings are screened from view of the road by existing vegetation and buildings in the property. The buildings are not visible from any other public land.
	The buildings are visible to a number of nearby dwellings, however the buildings are setback from dwellings at least 160m and their relatively small size, and location low in the landscape minimises the visual impact of the buildings from those dwellings.
	The submitted plans demonstrate proposed planting on the hill slope to the south-west of the accommodation building and this will further reduce the visual appearance of the buildings when viewed from neighbouring dwellings.
The location and design of existing and proposed infrastructure including roads, gas, water, drainage, telecommunications and sewerage facilities.	The proposed buildings are expected to be able to utilise the existing driveways, electricity and telecommunications services available to the land. There is sufficient area on the site for additional water storage and effluent disposal and to manage stormwater run-off from the buildings.
Whether the use or development will require traffic management measures.	The proposed out-buildings are animal shelters that are ancillary to the existing use of the land for a dwelling and so will not generate additional traffic.
	The proposed accommodation is not expected to generate significant additional traffic in its own right, as its use will either be in association with the dwelling (friends and family of the resident) or the outdoor recreation facility (skate ramp users).
	Under the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009, the number of people who can occupy the building at any time will be limited to 10 people. A condition of the permit will also limit its occupation to 10 people.
	The submitted plans demonstrates there is on-site parking for up to 14 cars, that was required to be provided in support of the use of the land for an Outdoor Recreation Facility (Skate Ramp). This is considered sufficient

parking for both the proposed accommodation and previously approved skate ramp use, as in some instances the accommodation will be used by people using the skate ramp.
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Public Submissions

Submission: Concern that the proposal will result in the loss of the peaceful rural residential amenity enjoyed by neighbouring residents resulting from: loss of peace, loss of seclusion and loss of privacy arising from increased traffic and increased noise from rowdy use of the accommodation building and by additional lighting and the hours of operation of the accommodation

Response: Use of the building for accommodation will not automatically result in loss of residential amenity. Accommodation is a residential use of the land and is not expected to be any more detrimental to the surroundings than the existing residential uses. The proposed accommodation building is well setback from neighbouring dwellings (approximately 160m to the closest dwelling) and is situated in a part of the site that is screened from view from most neighbouring dwellings, so neighbours will not necessarily be affected by lighting or loss of privacy. The proposed use of the land for accommodation will generate some additional traffic to the area, however the additional traffic is not expected to be of a volume that would detract from the residential character or amenity of the area.

The nearest dwelling to the site overlooks the site and currently has a clear view of both the proposed accommodation and the existing dwelling. The proposed planting shown on the submitted plan is expected to provide privacy to both parties as the planting matures.

Submission: Concern about the environmental impacts of the building on the soil and water quality. In particular, impacts on the flow of the spring-fed waterway, pollution of the waterway through run-off from the effluent system and stormwater and from sediment; and on increased soil erosion

Response: The land has been assessed as having sufficient area for on-site effluent disposal in accordance with relevant standards and provided the accommodation building is connected to a suitable system, the use of the accommodation building is not expected to impact water quality in the waterway. No earthworks are required in relation to the existing buildings, and retrospective consent for those buildings will not impact water or soil quality. The proposed animal shelters and extended boardwalk require earthworks and have the potential to result in sedimentation of the waterway and soil erosion. The proposed buildings are relatively small and do not require any vegetation removal or extensive depth of excavation, however it is recommended it be a condition of any planning permit to require site works be undertaken in accordance with appropriate building standards to reduce the risk of erosion and sedimentation.

The application was referred to Melbourne Water. Melbourne Water has raised no objection to the proposed use and development of the land, however has raised concern that the proposal has the potential to affect downstream water quality through sedimentation. They have recommended that a Site Environmental Management Plan be prepared and implemented, showing what sediment reduction techniques will be used during construction. It is recommended it be a condition of any planning permit for a Site Environmental Management Plan be prepared in accordance with Melbourne Water guidelines, for endorsement by Melbourne Water, prior to any works commencing on the site.

Submission: Concern about the lack of detail about how the accommodation will be used (the number of people staying in the building and how often it will be used) and the poor quality of plans submitted. In particular, the plans do not include the setback dimension for buildings to the waterway and do not accurately show the planting on the land.

Response: It is considered there is sufficient information to enable the application to be assessed. The plans are generally to scale. It is considered that in order to ensure ongoing compliance with the permit conditions a revised plan that clearly shows the setback of the buildings to the waterway would be appropriate and it is recommended it be a condition of any planning permit to require a revised site plan to be submitted that includes a notation about the setback to the waterway of all buildings and works.

Submission: Concern that the Accommodation building is a Dwelling and that multiple dwellings are not permitted or necessary, as there are other options for family and friend accommodation.

Response: A dwelling is defined in the planning scheme as "a building used as a selfcontained residence which must include a kitchen sink; food preparation facilities, a bath or shower and a closet pan (toilet) and wash basin". The proposed accommodation building is not self-contained, as it does not include a kitchen sink or food preparation facilities. It is therefore not considered a dwelling and the proposal is not for an additional dwelling on the land. Accommodation is defined as "land used to accommodate persons". As the building includes bedrooms, a living room, a bathroom and gym it is considered to be a form of accommodation. Accommodation is not prohibited in the Rural Living Zone and the application can be considered by Council. It should be noted that more than one dwelling is not prohibited in the Rural Living Zone in any event and a second dwelling would also be a section 2 use. The question of whether or not there is a need for additional accommodation is not a relevant consideration in the planning scheme. Council must assess the application against the relevant decision guidelines.

Submission: Concern about how Council can consider the application, given the illegal nature of works undertaken by the applicant. In particular, there is a concern that the applicant has a history of constructing works without planning or building permits and it appears that instead of being punished for non-compliance, the applicant is being rewarded by having the opportunity to legalise the works.

Response: Council has undertaken separate enforcement action in relation to the illegal works on the land and has also required the applicant to seek relevant permits in order to bring the current use of the land into compliance with the planning scheme. The applicant is entitled to apply for planning permits and Council is obliged to consider them.

Submission: Concern that the accommodation will be used commercially and in association with the Skate Ramp

Response: Use of the land for a commercial purpose, including "group accommodation" and "camping and caravan park", is not prohibited in the Rural Living zone. A range of commercial activities are permitted and could be granted a planning permit if appropriate. This was previously dealt with at VCAT regarding the Skate Ramp. The applicant has obtained a separate planning permit for use of the land for Outdoor Recreation (Skate Ramp) and use of the accommodation in association with that use is permissible.

Submission: How will the use of the building be policed?

Response: In the event the use of the accommodation building is not in accordance with the South Gippsland Planning Scheme or the conditions of any planning permit issued, Council as the responsible authority under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 may take action to ensure compliance with the Planning Scheme or conditions of the planning permit. The use of the building will be policed in exactly the same way as every other permit that Council grants.

Submission: Concern about the suitability of the structures for their intended use – that the accommodation building is not suitable for accommodation, with only one entry/exit point; and that the dog sheds are not suitable for dogs.

Response: The suitability of buildings for their purpose is not a relevant matter for consideration under the Planning Scheme.

- A separate building permit is required before the accommodation building can be used for accommodation. If it is found the building does not comply with the building regulations for an accommodation building, the building will either need to be modified to ensure it complies or be used for a different purpose for which it is suitable. This may require an amendment to the planning permit, which would need to be assessed at the time. The number of entry/exit points to a building such as this is not regulated by the Planning Scheme.
- The use of the land for the private keeping of pets does not require a planning permit because it is exempted by Clause 62.02-2 of the Planning Scheme and the suitability of the structures for animal keeping has not been assessed. Keeping of animals is subject to separate laws and regulations. Any concerns in relation to animal welfare needs to be raised with the relevant authority.

Submission: Concerns arising from conflicts between this application and current planning permit for Outdoor Recreation (skate ramp) - in particular:

- That the accommodation building was shown on the Skate Ramp application as Store/Change room and was then removed from that application why is it now being applied for?
- Concern that the 400mm diameter pipe in the waterway is in breach of the existing skate ramp permit condition that prevents emission of waste products, and requires stormwater to be contained within the site;
- Skate ramp plans show different layout of the waterway
- Should the current application be an amendment to the skate ramp permit;
- Mess on the site from removal of the old skate ramp has still not been cleaned up.

Response: The current application is separate to the previous planning permit for Outdoor Recreation. If granted, the applicant will have the benefit of two permits, each permitting different land uses and development. If acted on, both permits will need to be complied with. Where there is a difference in the plans, the most recently approved permit would generally be considered to supersede the previously granted permit in relation to that "inconsistency". However, additional works approved on any site by a subsequent permit should not necessary to considered "inconsistent" with a previous permit just because they authorise something new/additional.

The current application could have been considered either as an amendment to the original permit or as a new application. Officers considered that as the proposed uses sought by each permit are different, a new permit application for the proposed use of the land for accommodation was preferable to amending the existing permit for Outdoor Recreation.

The grant of the current permit does not mean the applicant does not have to continue with other enforcement requirements or with the conditions of the previously issued planning permit in relation to removal of the old skate ramp.

Submission: Concern that the proposal for accommodation buildings will set a precedent and everyone will want one

Response: The Rural Living Zone currently allows people to apply to use their land for accommodation. A planning permit is needed and each application needs to be assessed on its merits. The current application will therefore not set an undesirable precedent and not everyone will want one (for various reasons) just like not everyone wants to build units in a General Residential Zone even if they are permitted.

Submission: Concern that the applicant is seeking donations and is not a charity

Response: How the applicant obtains funding for the proposal is not a relevant matter for consideration under the Planning Scheme. Any concerns in relation to fundraising need to be raised with the relevant authority.

Conclusion and Recommendation:

Council has considered the matters under Section 60 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987. It considers that the proposed use and development is appropriate having regard to the relevant matters and can be managed through appropriate conditions.

That a Notice of Decision be issued for use and development of Accommodation and development of Outbuildings (4 animal shelters) and Boardwalk in accordance with the endorsed plans.

Signed.

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Planning Officer Date:

Planning Co-ordinator Date: