



# ELM COTTAGE CASE STUDY

## INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Elm Cottage, in Tumut NSW, comprises five cottages. Elm Cottage is a rural retreat rated at four and half stars. Before building Yellow Box cottage, shower seats, a walker and a toilet (biobidet) were purchased, to retrofit the current system, for people with a mobility disability. Entry to four cottages are on a level surface with minimal door entry step. Three cottages offer wheel chair access.

Yellow Box Cottage however was designed to exceed Snowy Valley Council's requirements for accessible tourism:

- A 9x6 metre concrete car park pad (exceeding the standard requirements for a 6x4.5 metre concrete pad) was constructed to allow easy access around the full perimeter of a vehicle with concrete pad aligning with a metre-wide ramp for wheelchair or walker access to cottage
- A 3 metre wide balcony was constructed for accessible ease
- Entry to the cottage has two joining sliding doors each a metre-wide for easy access
- Bedroom and bathroom doors were altered to meet requirements
- The accessible bathroom meets all standards
- The drainage/waste in the bathroom was designed so that a shower curtain is not required
- In accessible bathrooms, there is often no place for visitor toiletries so Elm Cottage installed a wall mounted cabinet to assist their guests
- The extra large lounge/dining and kitchen areas were designed for easy manouvability for wheel chairs and for those with limited mobility
- A large dining table is accessible for wheelchair users
- Cultery, crockery and glassware are stored for accessibly.





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## Outcomes/commercial success

Since 2009, Elm Cottage has been progressively making improvements to become an accessible tourism destination. In the beginning, the owners were told 'why bother'. However, the owners thought differently and believe this has had, and will have, a positive impact on visitor numbers and experiences.

Elm Cottage has been awarded three Trip Adviser best holiday rental awards and Lux Holiday and Spa's International unique rural retreat in 2016.

Two recent guests of Elm Cottage have said:

*"Best place ever and thankyou so much for such a wonderful peaceful place to be."  
Stojinovski Family, Sydney, June 2017*

*"This place holds a special place in my heart. A magical stay. Five star stay at a three star price. Thankyou Deb and David, Love it."  
Dorian and Lydia Mode NRMA Open Road Magazine, June 2017*



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## Contact

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LGNSW acknowledges and thanks Elm Cottage for contributing this case study.

