

**MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
AGISTMENT OF HORSES AT YARALLA ESTATE**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

Last night I attended a public meeting at Concord RSL Club where the Hon. Robert Borsak MLC and the Hon. Luke Foley MLC, as members of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Agistment of Horses at Yaralla Estate, addressed 130 members of our community on the outcomes of their investigations into the decisions made by the Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) about the future of the Yaralla Estate.

A copy of the report is tabled for the information of Councillors and it is also accessible on <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/Parlment/committee.nsf/0/5402D7002C1323EBCA257C0D007C919E>.

I would encourage all Councillors to read this report and familiarise themselves with the findings and recommendations.

It is obvious from the report that the SLHD mishandled the entire process, completely underestimating the strong community connection to the site and failing to undertake genuine community consultation before making decisions on the future of the estate.

The report contains recommendations that provide the NSW Government with an opportunity to maintain this excellent Estate with continued public access and agistment of horses, and also ensuring the community get a voice in future plans for Yaralla Estate.

In essence the key recommendations seek to: -

- Provide for the continued maintenance of public access to the Yaralla Estate.
- Engage the local community well in advance in the future planning for the Yaralla Estate, and seek to have the Government abandon the current plans and structure as announced by the Minister for Health on 22 August 2013.
- Have a full and comprehensive Heritage report undertaken of the Yaralla Estate and this report be made public.
- Provide for a change in management for the Yaralla Estate, ensuring that SLHD still has use of the buildings for health services, however a more appropriate authority (eg Centennial Parklands Trust) be responsible for the heritage preservation of parklands and ideally equestrian services.
- Re-establish the agistment of horses on the estate at commercial rates.

The implementation of the recommendations would ensure that the community would be fully engaged in the planning for the future use of the Yaralla Parklands, and the ongoing management through involvement in an advisory body similar to the Centennial Parklands Community Consultative Committee.

The NSW State Government has been given a strong and clear message from our community. It is essential that the voice of our community is heard and the Government adopts and implements the key recommendations in the Select Committee's report immediately, so all stakeholders can be provided with a clear direction on the future of the Yaralla Estate and begin to work together to deliver ongoing public access and horse agistment, while maintaining and supporting the first class health services that currently exist on the site.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Mayor writes to the Premier, Minister for Health, the Member for Drummoyne and the Opposition Leader, urging them to implement the key recommendations contained in the report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the agistment of horses at Yaralla Estate.