

Department **Executive Services**

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REPORT

The Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) has worked with the Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee to develop a draft Management Plan for the Estate.

The draft Management Plan sets out a new direction for the Yaralla Estate after years of little direction. The draft sets out the:

- Vision
- Objectives
- Principles
- Work priorities for the management of the Estate
- Criteria to assess public applications for activities on the Estate.

As highlighted in the draft Plan, the Estate is one of the most significant cultural and natural landscapes in Australia and that 'given the significant and growing popularity of the Yaralla Estate, the Trustee is faced with many competing and changing demands for the use and enjoyment of the Estate'.

Unfortunately Council did not receive advice on the opportunity to comment on this draft in time to allow for a submission to be made on behalf of our community. Given the significance of the estate not only to our growing community but to the broader region, Council's General Manager has written to the CEO to request that Council be provided until 3 December to provide a submission. This will enable sufficient time to provide a considered submission that draws on the significant community consultation already undertaken and demographic and statistical research contained in the various Council strategic planning documents as well as feedback from interested stakeholders in relation to the current and projected needs of our community.

We have a unique opportunity to help shape the future direction of the Estate as a place that respects the past and its special heritage but also ensures that the future needs of our community and the broader region are reflected. The draft Plan contains some commendable initiatives, such as strategies to maintain the heritage infrastructure, utilising the grounds to promote health and wellbeing and investigating revenue generation to support the ongoing work at the Estate.

The draft Plan for Yaralla Estate, needs to maintain Dame Eadith Walker's vision for its use that, in the past, included public access, horse agistment and public health.

The Yaralla Estate is a valuable community asset with many similarities to Centennial Park in Sydney and even elements comparable to those of Central Park New York. In forming a long term master plan for the Estate it is vital that the final document is visionary and reflective of our communities needs as well as respectful of its unique heritage.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council prepare a submission to the Sydney Local Health District in response to the draft Yaralla Estate Dame Eadith Walker Estate Management Plan 2014 – 2016.
2. THAT a report be provided to Council prior to the response being submitted to the Sydney Local Health District and the Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee on 3 December 2014.