

**MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
YARALLA ESTATE**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

On the 22 August 2013, the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner announced the decision to convert the 13 hectares of paddocks at Yaralla Estate to public parkland.

As Councillors would be aware this matter has been a highly contentious issue within our community. The matter has been the subject of two public meetings attracting over 400 residents, and been the focus of a NSW Parliamentary Inquiry, at which I attended and raised many issues that were of a concern for Council and our community.

Following that decision by the Minister for Health I placed before Council a Mayoral Minute and sought to have more clarity on the full implications of the announcement, in particular what it would mean for the locals who have been utilising the paddocks for the agistment of horses for many years previous to the announcement.

Council also wanted further information on the membership of a Community Advisory Committee that was to be established and more detail on the expectations of Council's role in the maintenance of the Yaralla expanded public parkland.

The response from the Minister for Health has been received. The response is quite clear in stating that horse agistment at Yaralla is to be discontinued. The letter also invites the City of Canada Bay onto the committee, nominating the General Manager as that representative. There is no mention of any expectation that the City of Canada Bay will be involved in the future maintenance of the Yaralla Parkland.

I understand that the findings of the Parliamentary Inquiry will be released within the next month. It would seem premature to me that the Sydney Local Area Health Service is moving ahead to establish a Community Advisory Committee, develop its objectives and commence planning for the future of the Yaralla Estate before the outcome of the Parliamentary Inquiry is known.

Therefore I would recommend that Council write to the Minister for Health requesting that the establishment of the Community Advisory Committee be delayed until the outcome of the Parliamentary Inquiry is released so as to ensure that any recommendations that relate to the future use of the Yaralla Parklands can be included in the objectives being developed by the Sydney Local Health District for the future use of Yaralla Estate.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council write to the Minister for Health requesting that the establishment of the Community Advisory Committee be delayed until the outcome of the Parliamentary Inquiry is released so as to ensure that any recommendations that relate to the future use of the Yaralla Parklands can be included in the objectives being developed by the Sydney Local Health District for the future use of Yaralla Estate.
2. THAT Council pursue opportunities to re-establish an area at Yaralla for the agistment of horses, in the future planning for the public open space at Yaralla.

3. THAT Council delay nominating a representative for the Community Advisory Committee until the outcome of the Parliamentary Inquiry is released.