

**MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - YARALLA ESTATE PADDOCKS TO BE
CONVERTED TO PUBLIC PARKLAND**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

On Thursday, 22 August 2013, Health Minister Jillian Skinner announced the decision by Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) to convert the thirteen hectares of paddocks at Yaralla Estate to public parkland.

Upon reading this release, it appears that horse agistment at Yaralla Estate will not continue. This is a definite blow to our local horse agisters and our community who enjoyed visiting the horses living at this great Estate.

According to the release, the SLHD are working within the confines of the Walker Trust Act 1938:

“Sydney Local Health District’s decision is consistent with the Walker Trusts Act 1938 (Section 19b), which stipulates the land can be used for the purposes of public open space.

In keeping with the Walker Trusts Act 1938, the Yaralla Estate will continue to be a base for health service in HIV-related dementia and aged care.”

Drummoyne Member, John Sidoti is quoted in the release stating: *“I understand the Local Health District will now establish a community advisory committee and I encourage all interested local residents to be involved in how best to use the parkland.”*

Given the past few months of instability and confusion over the future of Yaralla, the opportunity for our community to have greater access to the Estate is a positive outcome. However, I believe it is important Council find out more information from the State Government and work with both the Government and the SLHD to fully understand the implications, if any, of this change and how it may potentially impact Council and our community.

Further, I believe it would be of direct benefit to Council to have a representative on the new *“community advisory committee”* to, among other functions, ascertain future opportunities for reinstatement of some form of local horse agistment at Yaralla.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note the media release from Health Minister Jillian Skinner.

THAT Council write to Health Minister Jillian Skinner requesting information regarding membership of the community advisory committee and establish any Government expectations relating to Council’s role in the maintenance of Yaralla’s expanded public parkland.