

**MM-2 MAYORAL MINUTE YARALLA ESTATE: PUBLIC ACCESS -
AGISTMENT OF HORSES**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I was invited by representatives of the owners of the horses' agisted on Yaralla Estate to attend the public meeting held at Concord RSL last Monday night. Also in attendance were the Member for Drummoyne, Deputy Mayor Pauline Tyrrell and Councillors Megna, Cestar and McCaffrey.

Most Councillor would be aware that the Sydney Local Health District, who have the responsibility of management of the Yaralla Estate, have issued eviction notices, effect from 31 May 2013, to over 30 owners who agist horses in the paddocks of the Estate.

More than 400 people attended the meeting and many spoke emotionally about loss of public access to the Estate, without consultation, following the signing of an agreement with the Mounted Police who would take over the use of the paddocks from the current horse owners.

Current horse owners on the Yaralla Estate, and the broader community, are extremely suspicious to any change to public access, as a previous State Government had initiated action to dispose of, by sale or lease, this valuable community asset in 1988. This resulted in an action committee being formed and hundreds of local residents marching to the main gate leading into the Estate to confirm their commitment in keeping Yaralla Estate for the people of New South Wales. The community were successful in their efforts.

In addressing the community last Monday, I pledged council's commitment to keep Yaralla open for use by our community, and stated that I would support further negotiations that sought to achieve a compromise, that would maintain access to the current horse owners whilst accommodating the needs of the Mounted Police.

To date the Sydney Local Health District have been reluctant to seek a compromise, so it is critical that Council continue to support our community in its efforts to maintain public access.

I seek Council's support to that position.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council support the ongoing negotiation between the Sydney District Local Health Area and the owners of the horses agisted at Yaralla Estate to enable the parties to explore options to reach a compromise that results in public access being maintained.
2. THAT council write to the Hon Barry O'Farrell, Premier of NSW, Ms Jillian Skinner MP, Minister of Health, Member for Drummoyne, Mr John Sidoti MP and Mr John Robertson, Leader of the Opposition, expressing our concerns, over the eviction of horses agisted on Yaralla, and seek his support in maintaining public access and horses owned by members of the community at Yaralla.