

**MM-3                    MAYORAL MINUTE: YARALLA ESTATE PUBLIC ACCESS  
AGISTMENT OF HORSES**

**Department      Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

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**REPORT**

At the last meeting of Council, I presented a Mayoral Minute advising of the State Government's proposal to relocate the NSW Mounted Police horses to the Yaralla Estate, and, in so doing, the Sydney Local Health District Service (SLHD) had issued eviction notices to the more than 30 owners who currently agist their horses in the paddocks of the Estate.

At that meeting, Council resolved to support ongoing negotiations between the SLHD and the owners of the agisted horses at the Estate with a view to exploring options to reach a compromise which would result in public access being maintained. Council also requested that letters of concern be sent to a number of state politicians and a request be made for the Chief Executive of the SLHD, Dr Teresa Anderson, to honour her commitment that she would expedite a meeting between the parties.

In this regard, a meeting was arranged last week at the SLHD offices, and I was invited to attend. A number of the horse owners were also invited to the meeting, and they were given an opportunity to present their concerns. The Chief Executive advised the meeting that the Heads of Agreement document that had been signed between the SLHD and the Mounted Police had been terminated and that a tender process for an agistment operator on the Estate would be shortly commenced.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported on 20 May 2013: "the state government has backflipped on a 'secret deal' to move the NSW mounted police to a popular public estate, caving in to mounting community pressure."

The owners sought a deferral of the eviction so that a compromise position may be reached, but this was not agreed to by the SLHD.

The owners are now organising a rally to take place on Sunday, 26 May 2013 in order to raise public awareness of the issue. The rally will take place in the grounds of the Estate, commencing at 11am.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1.     **THAT** the information be noted and Council maintain its support for the owners of the horses in negotiating a satisfactory outcome with the Sydney Local Health District Service.
2.     **THAT** Council support the public rally taking place on Sunday, 26 May 2013.