

MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - YARALLA ESTATE: AGISTMENT OF HORSES

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

At the last meeting of Council, I provided an update on the termination of the current agistment arrangements on the Yaralla Estate by the Sydney Local Health District and the notice that had been issued to the horse agisters to vacate the paddocks of the Estate by 31 May 2013. At the meeting Council resolved to support a rally which was being organised for Sunday 25 May.

I attended the rally, along with the Deputy Mayor, which commenced in the grounds of the Estate and proceeded down to Majors Bay Reserve. Also in attendance were the Hon Luke Foley, MLC, the Hon John Murphy, Federal Member for Reid and John Sidoti, State Member for Drummoyne, along with most of the horse agisters and a large group of members of the public. All present were concerned at the actions of the Sydney Local Health District, and their requirement for the horse owners to vacate the Estate.

On Monday 27 May, I attended a further meeting at the Sydney Local Health District offices with the main spokesperson from the agisters and Council staff members. It was made clear during the meeting however, that the Sydney Local Health District would not be prepared to consider a deferral of the eviction notice to allow for further discussions to take place with the horse agisters to reach a more satisfactory arrangement in going forward.

The manner in which this issue has been handled by the Sydney Local Health District is disappointing to say the least. Council has in the past shared a good working relationship for many decades with Concord Hospital and the Area Health Services. It is of great concern that access to the Estate will be limited whilst the proposed rectification works are undertaken, and that a compromise position could not be reached to allow the horses to remain in the paddocks.

The one positive outcome that has come from the meetings held with the Sydney Local Health District is that written assurances have been given that once the rectification works on the Estate had been completed, public access will be restored and maintained into the future.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note the information contained in the Mayoral Minute.