



19 August 2013

Ms Teresa McMichael
Director
Select Committee on the Agistment of Horses at Yaralla Estate
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms McMichael,

**Inquiry into the Agistment of horses at Yaralla Estate –
questions taken on notice**

Thank you for your letter of 8 August 2013 including copy of the transcript of proceedings given Monday, 5 August. Please find, below and attached, response to the question taken on notice (page 41-42) regarding the presence of weeds on the Yaralla Estate property.

I can confirm that on 29 October 2009 Council's Bush Care Officer forwarded an email to Debbie Flood regarding the removal of noxious weeds from Yaralla Estate (see Attachment 1).

Also, Council officers met onsite with representatives from Sydney Weeds to discuss weed control on Yaralla Estate, in particular the identified species were Boneseed and African Olive (see Attachment 2).

In relation to the question asked by Mr Scot MacDonald regarding fireweed, I would confirm that it is not a declared noxious weed in the City of Canada Bay and therefore its management is not the responsibility of Council.

I would also like to draw your attention to the question from Dr John Kaye (on page 40) regarding the rally held at Arthur Reserve. Dr Kaye mentioned 29 March and I would like to confirm that the rally took place on 26 May and not 29 March as reflected in the transcript.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas
City of Canada Bay

Enc.

Antonia Muir

From: [redacted]
 Sent: Friday, 16 August 2013 3:32 PM
 To: Robert Stevenson
 Cc: Robert Stevenson
 Subject: FW: RE: Yaralla bush regeneration project- Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority Grant 2009-2011
 Attachments: green.gif; image001.gif; yaralla - map.pdf; western fence.BMP

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Stevenson [mailto:[redacted]]
 Sent: 29/10/2009 11:40:12 AM
 To: Debbie Flood [redacted]
 Subject: RE: Yaralla bush regeneration project- Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority Grant 2009-2011

Hi Debbie

As you know the recent caring for our country grant that Council applied for was not successful.

I would like to consider applying for this Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority Grant. I am told that we would be in with a good chance. It could tie in with our current NSW Environmental trust Grant that is due to be completed March 2010 on the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest site at Yaralla.

The project could consist of the following actions:

- Fencing of the western remnant from horses (allowing horses to access lower trotting track).
- Professional bush regeneration contractors removing Noxious and Environmental weeds, and maintaining current area that has been treated.
- 6-8 Bushcare volunteers removing Noxious and environmental weeds while supervised by Council staff.

The amount that I would like to apply for is \$20,000.

For the previous grant application you indicated that you where prepared to make a financial contribution towards this project of \$5,000.

This would greatly increase the likelihood of securing this grant.

- Volunteer in-kind labour @\$50 per hour \$24,000 2 years Bushcare Volunteers
- Bushcare volunteer supervision in-kind \$3,000 2 years Council
- SSWAHS commitment (2009-11) \$5,000 2 years
- SMCMA Grant (2009-11) \$20,000 2 years

TOTAL PROJECT \$52,000

I need to have this application submitted by the 13th of November (2.5 weeks time).

Two questions:

1. Would I have your permission to undertake this work (pending heritage approvals for fence)?
2. Would it be possible for SSWAHS to confirm the small financial contribution towards this project of **\$5,000?** This would be cheaper than if left untreated financial burden of controlling Class 3 and

Class 4 Noxious weeds found on site.

You mentioned last time that you would like to have a site meeting to confirm the location of the horse fence.
I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Rob Stevenson

Bushcare Coordinator
City of Canada Bay
15-17 Regatta Rd Five Dock NSW 2046

www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au



From: Debbie Flood [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2009 4:57 PM
To: Robert Stevenson
Subject: RE: Yaralla bush regeneration project- Caring for our Country Grant2009-2011

Robert,
The area is happy to contribute to the project.
Before you proceed can we arrange to meet on site to confirm the site of the fence in relation to the paddocks and the horses please.

Let me know some times and dates & will try to fit in with you

Regards,

Deborah Flood

Director Capital Works SSWAHS

Camperdown (Mon & Fri)

Liverpool (Tues,Wed,Thurs)

Mobile: (

Camperdown

Liverpool

email: .

lu

From: Robert Stevenson [r
Sent: Monday, 9 March 2009 3:54 PM
To: Debbie Flood
Cc: Mervyn Payne
Subject: Yaralla bush regeneration project- Caring for our Country Grant2009-2011

Hi Debbie / Merve,

Sorry new map attached- please disregard previous email.

I am currently considering applying for a grant through the 'Caring for Country' Program to facilitate works for Yaralla bush regeneration over the 2009-11 period.

The project would consist of the following actions

- Fencing of the western remnant from horses (allowing horses to access lower trotting track).
- Professional bush regeneration contractors removing Noxious and Environmental weeds.
- 6-8 Bushcare volunteers removing Noxious and environmental weeds while supervised by Council staff.

The total value of this project is **\$25,000**.

The vast majority of this would come from the 'Caring for our Country' grant (**\$20,000**).

Two questions:

1. Would I have your permission to undertake this work (pending heritage approvals for fence)?
2. Would it be possible for SSWAHS to make a small financial contribution towards this project of **\$5,000**? **Such a contribution from the land owners** would greatly increase the likelihood of securing this grant.

You will be saving money in the long term as the Noxious weeds need to be dealt with and the cost of engaging a contractor in the future would exceed the \$ 5000 suggested.

As you know the Department of Health as a state agency not permitted to spread any noxious weeds from their property. My role as a Noxious weeds officer for the City of Canada bay Council is to advise you of weeds present on your land at Yaralla:

Bitou bush	(W3)
Blackberry	(W4)
Castor oil plant	(W4)
Green Cestrum	(W3)
Lantana	(W4)
Privet	(W4)

(W3) The weed must be prevented from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced.

(W4) The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed and any existing weed must be prevented from flowering and fruiting.

I hope you will consider my suggestion and of course please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Rob Stevenson
Bushcare Coordinator
City of Canada Bay

15-17 Reagatta Rd Five Dock NSW 2046

x

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Antonia Mulr

From: Rosanna Luca [projects@sydneyweeds.org.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 May 2013 3:22 PM
To: Stevenson; Robert
Subject: Follow up from Yaralla site meeting - 7th May
Attachments: Macarthur article_April2013.jpeg; ATT00001..htm; Yaralla _Boneseed locations2013.bmp; ATT00002..htm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Deborah, Deborah & Rob,

Thanks again for meeting at Yaralla estate last week. I'm pleased to hear there are some NSW Health funds available for weed control in this very special area.

Follow up actions as discussed,

Weed control in the horse paddocks

Department of Health will engage contractors to remove weeds from the paddocks.

Requested to particularly target woody weeds such as Boneseed and African Olive.

Suggested use of contractors with skill and expertise in weed management (ie using practice techniques and minimising future maintenance of the weed control sites).

Refer to www.aabr.org.au under "Professional Services/Contractors" for a list of experienced contractor companies who may be interested in providing a quote.

Contract will need to go out to tender if above a certain amount.

Weed control in surrounding bushland/Endangered Ecological Communities

Rob Stevenson is looking into seeking some HNCMA grant funding, liaison and getting permission from Deborah at NSW Health - for some follow up weed control in previous work areas in EECs.

If this grant is successful, the practicalities of getting this work done, arranging contractors etc to be discussed between Rob and Deborah.

Targeted Boneseed on edges, outside the paddocks

If funds are still required for target weeding of the Boneseed in outer edges and bushland areas, an application can be made the Sydney Weeds Action Project (WAP) grant - through the Sydney Weeds Project Officer, by the end of this calendar year - Email:

This would be a relatively small cost (estimated up to \$5k) and availability of WAP grant funds is likely, as Boneseed eradication is a high priority in our regional project.

If there are any more funds available from NSW Health to target the Boneseed shrubs on outer edges as well, that would be great too. This would be considered as a valuable contribution to our Boneseed regional eradication program across all of Sydney (involving local councils, NSW govt agencies, private landholders etc). This would be a nice local news story. See our recent example from Macarthur Chronicle. It's always good to hear when government organisations are working together and co-operating.

Hope that covers everything. Rob's map is also attached.
 Please let me know if I can help in any other way,

Rosanna.

Rosanna Luca

Project Officer
Sydney Weeds Action Project
Phone
On behalf of the Sydney Weeds Committees
Email: ;