

**Submission  
No 19**

**INQUIRY INTO AGISTMENT OF HORSES AT YARALLA  
ESTATE**

**Name:** Ms Carolyn Hartley

**Date received:** 29/07/2013

---

## Carolyn Hartley

---

**From:** Carolyn Hartley  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 July 2013 5:04 PM  
**To:** 'yarallaestateinquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au'  
**Subject:** FW: Yaralla Estate Concord

---

**From:** Carolyn Hartley [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 July 2013 4:56 PM  
**To:** 'yarallaestateinquiry@parliamentnsw.gov.au'  
**Subject:** Yaralla Estate Concord

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Carolyn Hartley, and I have lived in Concord all my life, 50 years. I have also had the privilege and pleasure of agisting my horses at Dame Edith Walker Estate for 31 years, I am the longest standing agister there. My love for horses started at an early age, drawing stick figures of horses and pretending to gallop around the backyard when I was about 4 years of age. It grew from there, a passion that probably should have been more suited to someone who resided in a Rural area, but I lived in Concord, this was my home, my community where I grew up. I owned my first horse when I was 14, agisted him at the Homebush Abattoirs for a few years before finally a vacant spot was available at Yaralla.

My life really began there, the local horse community there were supportive and friendly, everyone worked together and shared a love of horses, we were all community members and shared our knowledge and conversation with other local community members that would also come to the Estate to walk their dogs, bring their children or grandchildren etc etc. Over the years I have developed many long standing friendships that still continue to this day with people I have met at Yaralla.

My parents used to help me with my horse and were also extremely supportive as Equestrian was my chosen sport and I competed for many years in Dressage and Hacking competitions. Sadly my father passed away in 1997 on Yaralla Estate after suffering a major heart attack whilst helping me with my horse, as said at his funeral in his eulogy, if he had a choice of where he wanted to pass away...it would have been at Yaralla Estate his "little bit of Country".

My mother has since passed away too, suffering from a long standing Kidney Disease that saw her on Dialysis 4 times a week, she also for a period of time had her Dialysis treatment at Yaralla House when it was a Kidney Unit. She loved the Estate, and enjoyed her time there even if it was for Dialysis Treatment, she also would tell me she felt close to Dad there which helped her through her illness.

I married, had three children, all of which have learnt to ride, be with horses, have them in their life and get horse dirty!! I loved the fact my kids were all happy and healthy, being outdoors and being active riding our horse Murphy. I have since in the last 6 years become a single mother of my 3 children, their life, and mine went through so many changes in the last 6 years, but I was comforted to feel that their routine of caring, riding and socialising with our horse at Yaralla did not change. Until now.

I feel the way SLHD treated the Yaralla Horse agisters and the wider local community is unforgivable, they have used us as scapegoats and hidden the real agenda of their actions. We all paid agistment fees, which we were under the assumption was going back into this wonderful Estate, as "caretakers" of this unique place in Concord as SLHD profess to be, I feel they have failed.

Failed in the overseeing of Yaralla, failed as caretakers of Yaralla, failed the community, including us.

The agenda of secretly signing a deal with the Mounted Police is disgraceful, all we wanted really was to share, co-habitate. But of course it's a Government Dept put there by another Government Dept with development in their sights.

Now it is going to Tender, we have already been told, "we have to come up to Mounted Police Standard" to be anywhere near successful. The Tender process will be bias aswell, their panel of so called experts nothing but people associated with MPU/SLHD benefitting by slingbacks and lies to accommodate their process.

I wish for the local community horses to be reinstated, I wish for the local community to still use the Estate like they have for many many years, open to everyone.

More than anything I would like Mr O'Farrell and his government to realise that communities do have a voice. We, the people vote you in, communities.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Hartley