

**Submission
No 15**

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

Name: Ms Diana Irving

Date received: 27/07/2013

To the Director of the Select Committee on the Agistment of Horses at Yaralla Estate
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

27th July 2013

To the Select Committee,

My concern regarding the Dame Edith Walker's Yaralla Estate is that the public will be prevented from walking and using the grounds and garden of the estate. Like many local residents we have no garden only a small courtyard and the Walker Estate provided a valuable play area for my children as they were growing up. In Dame Edith's beautiful garden my children were free to climb trees, fossick for shells, run, hide, explore, observe wildlife, horses and river traffic and memorably jump in puddles right up to their middles. The estate is a safe place free from cars and noise and allowed them to play freely. The lack of toilets and other amenities means that it continues to be used as a local recreation area only, preserving the quiet nature of the estate and avoiding overcrowding and large amounts of litter. Most parks in the Concord area are ringed with busy roads and are heavily used by organized sports. It is the last place for quiet, contemplative recreation in Concord.

I strongly oppose any move that may impede public access to the gardens and grounds of the Dame Edith Walker Estate. This means community access via the Yarralla drive way and the walking track via the Ron Routledge oval and the walk that links the Walker Estate with Concord Hospital through to Rivendell. It includes the rose Garden, old swimming pool and tennis court, grotto, little beach, giant bamboo stand and old boat landing and sunken garden as well as other grassy areas leading to the horse paddocks. I beg the commission to explore and reject any changes that may limit public access in any way in the short or long term.

I remind the commission that Dame Edith Walker intended for the grounds to be used and enjoyed by the people of Concord. I believe that I have used the Yaralla Estate exactly as Dame Edith Walker wished intended, as a spot for community interaction, play and discovery while being respectful of other users and the horses.

Yours sincerely

Diana Irving