

**Submission
No 51**

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

Name: Ms Juliet Mazzone

Date received: 4/08/2013

To whomsoever it may concern

I should like to submit the following to the inquiry:

I have lived in the municipality for 34 years. One of the great attractions of this area is the Yaralla Estate. On that estate anyone until very recently could see animals grazing contentedly. Many people have been able to learn to ride because the horses are so close to the centre of the city. Likewise many horse owners have been able to have their horses within easy reach of their homes. It is a rare and special place where families can go and see what remains of a working farm with live animals. It is a place of peace and tranquillity in such a big and successful city like Sydney. Most city children and adults see very few animals and see little of fields and simple undeveloped green space. The property is a priceless treasure with great historical significance for the local area, the state and indeed the country as a whole. I believe that learning about and caring for real animals is the first step to caring about our environment and the many species of our planet.

When I rang Mr Sidoti's office I was informed, rather contemptuously, that the land was being used by a small number of horse owners. That is a typically economic rationalist point of view. I would rather say that the horse owners are paying for their agistment needs but we, the community, are gaining the benefits free of charge. Almost every time I have been into the estate to walk, I have found parents and grandparents showing small children the animals – much to the delighted giggles of the children. It was a child who told me that the name of the dark and shaggy Shetland pony was Stormy. He would come to the fence if you called him by name. Since the horses were forced to remove from the site, I have felt too sad even to go to the estate – now empty of my wonderful 4 legged friends. Over the decades, I have watched them in the early morning frosts, on bright spring mornings, on the late afternoon summer days and in golden time of autumn. I have seen the new foals grow into fine young horses. I have seen others grow old. They were a living heritage for me, my children and my friends.

Please, please let them come home.

With best wishes to all involved in the inquiry.