

**Submission
No 34**

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

Name: Mr Garry McIlwaine

Date received: 31/07/2013

SUBMISSION TO SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE AGISTMENT OF HORSES AT YARALLA ESTATE

Please see attachments re: Thomas and Dame Eadith Walker Estates, I have highlighted in red, important information from the listing details.

The late Hon. Eric Bedford was the responsible Minister when my representations as the Member for Yaralla for Permanent Conservation Orders were agreed to in 1981.

The basis for those representations are set out in the listing : " **1970 - 80 - Demolition of various buildings and structures, including: Norwegian Cottage, Indian Room, Gate lodge (Camelia) & Dahlia, Fuschia, Gardenia and Lavender cottages, the swimming pool filled in (Howard & White 1995: 6-7, 27) "** The important factor to note, is that the then unfettered authority and lack of supervision of the Health Authorities has led to the irreplaceable loss of these most important European Cultural Heritage Items.

Over the years, the Department of Health, in whatever form, has had a less than satisfactory performance in the way the **Dame Eadith Walker and Thomas Walker Estates, and indeed Concord Hospital**, have been managed.

There has been a total failure of consultation; major decisions have often been made which impacted not only the local residents but the general community as well. I am of the firm belief that the Health Authorities, for whatever reasons, have never applied the best practice in regard to the management and conservation of the estates.

Over the years a number of suggestions have been made to rectify the situation including the transfer of the management of the curtilage and surrounding lands, other than the physical structures, to the control of the National Parks & Wildlife Service or some other similar organisation. It was envisioned that the areas would be added to the Parramatta River Regional Park. During the time of Mr John Murray MP he, through the then Minister, arranged for the Health Department to establish a local consultative committee for Thomas Walker Estate in particular. The Department of Health never made any effort to introduce this initiative. It is clear to me that had either of these proposals been adopted, then there would be readily available conservation management plans, landscaping plans and the like, which would have both ensured maximum supervision of the agistment of horses and would have allowed that practice to continue in a sustainable way for the benefit of the whole community.

It is my suggestion that the Committee considers making recommendations that a Memorandum of Understanding be developed between the Department of Health and the National Parks & Wildlife Service, or equivalent organisation, which would see the physical, but not the legal title of the land given to such organisation which is

much better placed to properly administer these historic lands in the interests of the State, rather than the Department of Health.

The available time has not permitted me to complete a manual search of the Hansard written record, (a computer search is not feasible), as I am certain that similar issues have been raised previously in the Parliament. I would be prepared to assist the Committee by undertaking this task if it is thought to be of benefit to its deliberations.

I regret that I am unable to attend the public hearing on Tuesday 6 August 2013 due to a compulsory training commitment. However, I would appreciate the opportunity to amplify my remarks by way of evidence before the Committee, if the Committee so desires.

Please let me know if you need me to provide more information for the Committee.

Garry McILWAINE
1 August 2013

Garry McILWAINE

**For Identification purposes:
Member for Yaralla 1978 to 1981
Member for Ryde 1981 to 1988
GARRY McILWAINE
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NATIONALLY ACCREDITED MEDIATOR**