

**Submission
No 44**

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

Name: Mr William Adam

Date received: 31/07/2013

30 July 2013

The Director,

Select Committee on the Agistment of Horses at Yaralla Estate Legislative Council.

Parliament House

Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000

To The Hon Robert Borsak MLC Committee Chair,

RE: CURRENT AND FUTURE AGISTMENT OF HORSES ON THE YARALLA ESTATE

By Teresa Anderson's admission the deal for the NSW mounted police to take over the lease at Yaralla estate has been in the "pipeline" since 2010 (which coincides with the set up of a Property Asset Utilisation Taskforce for streamlining the states property assets which includes identifying surplus under utilized properties). So WHY did SLHD fabricate the charade of the Blue Visions report by Ron Turner and then the risk assessment, to forcefully evict privately owned horses and to justify alleged remediation works. That were a thin camouflage of their intention to spend tax payers dollars to make alterations to accommodate the NSW mounted police. Why did Teresa Anderson further embellish this deceptive blame transfer to horse owners, by inferring that money was being diverted from a cancer ward to pay for the "remediation" (really alteration) that SLHD attempts to blame on horse owners.

Teresa Anderson stated that SLHD was acting under the advice of "an independent equestrian expert" (Ron Turner is in no way an equestrian expert, He is a development consultant and he was not independent as Blue Visions is likely to manage the development of Yaralla) This was DISHONEST.

WHY did SLHD commission a development consultant to comment on pasture and horse management issues? (Why wasn't a qualified and independent person actually engaged to comment on pasture and horse management issues?) Was Ron Turner engaged because his opinion could be influenced by SLHD to provide their desired outcome?

Another actual independent audit of the Yaralla paddocks was completed by Peter McMaugh B.Sc Agr FAIAST who is a decorated and qualified leader in the field of Agronomy (exactly the person with the competence to give qualified opinion on the condition of the Yaralla paddocks)

Attached Document: Mr Peter McMaugh's qualified Findings

Unsurprisingly his opinion differs from Ron Turner's unqualified opinion and did not provide the outcomes for SLHD to justify their eviction of privately owned horses from the Yaralla estate.

What was the capacity and instructions of Ron Turners engagement by SLHD. (What was he actually hired to do? Was part of his portfolio specifically to facilitate the removal of privately owned horses and to free up half the paddock area so as to render it as a surplus government asset that will appear under utilised?)

Why did SLHD then make further attempts to hide their nefarious conduct with misleading propaganda, paid for with tax payer's dollars?

Why does SLHD avoid acknowledging that the Walker Trust Act 1938 provides for the land to be used as public open space for the agistment of horses and for public health purposes, all as equal objects? This is a far cry from SLHD's claim of outright ownership.

At what time did SLHD and the NSW mounted police first correspond regarding a lease at Yaralla? Did this predate the Blue Visions report by Ron Turner?

How much influence did the NSWMP have with assisting Ron Turner with his audit report on Yaralla and his "risk assessment"? What was the degree of collusion between SLHD and NSWMP in forcing the eviction of private horses from Yaralla? (esp: considering that a substantial number of staff and management from the NSWMP campaigned the claims made by Ron Turner's report and SLHD media releases before they had been publically released).

When Ron Turner claimed to have carried out a "risk assessment" by a panel of independent experts, all the panel members had connections either to SLHD or NSWMP. This was dishonest. This risk assessment was done the day before a stake holders meeting hosted by SLHD (that was supposed to explore alternatives to evicting private horses.) instead it was an intimidating ambush using the "risk assessment" to evict private horses, as the blue visions audit report was exposed to public scrutiny.

Was Heath Harris included on the "risk assessment" panel because of his bias towards the NSWMP (as described in police culture terms as being "On Side") (he has had a fair degree of commercial history with the NSWMP. He has been involved with training some NSW police horses and riders. He has also jointly trained AFP horses and riders with NSWMP personnel as well as selling a large number of saddles to the NSWMP). He is also an odd choice for such a panel as his expertise is primarily with showmanship and not pasture and horse management.

SLHD knew of their intentions to have the NSWMP take over occupancy of the Yaralla estate since 2010. WHY did they not give the horse owners timely notification? (This would have been

more humane to the owners and horses to find alternative arrangements to transition, something not easily done).

Why did SLHD then show complete disregard when a small number of horse owners pleaded for an extension on the eviction date due to hardship. This caused real distress and physical trauma to several of the horses and owners. An extension would have in no way delayed any work on the estate as it was several months before any work was to commence.

Attached:1: Request for an extension on eviction date. 2: SLHD response 3: Further request information.

SLHD and the NSWMP made claims that the Yaralla paddocks were overstocked despite the then current ratio being within government regulations and Ron Turners opinion being unqualified. (The new upgrade plans to accommodate the NSWMP show that the land use will cause a greater ratio density, utilizing half the paddock area leaving two large paddocks that will be left open). Are SLHD attempting to leave these paddocks alienated to render them as a surplus and an underutilized government asset, so that they can make moves to develop or sell them at some stage in the future?

Can Debra Flood explain how in December 2007 she gave permission for Bob Jones of the Yaralla historical society, to use 200 to 300 tons of asbestos contaminated building waste to remedy erosion issues on the Yaralla estate? (Without keeping a record of the builder supplying the waste or requiring the waste to have certification as being clean fill).

Why when allegedly "recently" discovered, did SLHD hide the nature and extent of contamination at Yaralla? Why was the public not cautioned about the asbestos so that they could avoid further exposure and contamination?

Many people have been exposed to this asbestos contamination. Will SLHD set up a register so that anybody unfortunate enough to suffer health consequences can trace the origin of contamination? Myself, my family and friends were exposed daily since 2007 as the asbestos contaminated waste is on the ground at the entry point to the paddock that I agisted my horses in.

You have advised us of at least a six month delay for the parliamentary findings in order to instruct a decision. Would the panel recommend that the evicted privately owned horses be returned to the estate in the interim for community reassurance, and to alleviate the extreme hardship and distress on horse owners and the community?

The conduct of SLHD is unacceptable. This has included deliberate public deception, bullying, defamation of the defenceless, failure to follow due process and misuse of due process. (not to mention SLHD's general neglect towards maintaining Yaralla) I am also disappointed that SLHD managed to collude the NSWMP into campaigning much of their fabricated misinformation and deception (which is outlined in the complaint regarding facebook bullying by police) Both these government agencies should be better than this.

Yours Faithfully,

William Adam