

INQUIRY INTO AGISTMENT OF HORSES AT YARALLA ESTATE

Organisation: Save the Horses at Yaralla
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Partially Confidential

17th September 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: Health Ministers decision to alter Yaralla Estate to open parkland

Health Minister Jillian Skinner recently in a media release welcomed a decision by Sydney Local Health

District to convert paddocks on the Yaralla Estate at Concord to parkland for "Community enjoyment".

Sydney Local Health District have announced that the thirteen hectares of paddocks On the Yaralla Estate will be converted to public parkland, without the provision of agistment for community member owned horses in the future.

This most recent move, yet again pre-empts the findings of an upper house committee which had been reviewing SLHD culpable actions to date regarding the management of Yaralla and the eviction of community horses 31 May 2013. One of the plausible considerations of the select committee was to consider the possibility of allowing the land to be used by members of the public for the agistment of their horses.

Jillian Skinner's media release also cast aspersions in regards to the political alignment of the poorly managed situation at Yaralla and the Minister of health and SLHD in doing making these decisions and statements are showing absolute contempt to the parliamentary processes due to the fact that parliament have not even announced their findings and recommendations. They are acting in complete disregard of the voiced community interest and wants. It could be hypothesised that SLHD and the Minister for Health are attempting to avoid the likely adverse findings of the parliamentary inquiry in late September by ordaining such an unethical ruling.

SLHD continue to claim that the land at Yaralla is in poor condition and a risk to the public. The basis of this conclusion was unfounded as the conclusions were reached by a blue visions report in which the parliamentary committee ruled no confidence due to the improper methods employed by Blue Visions/SLHD and the questionable alliances with Liberal party lobbyist Michael Photias and American change management firm Conrad Capital.

Once again SLHD have claimed ownership and authority over Yaralla and the community that accesses the property by executing such an unfair and knee jerk reaction to changing the use of the land which was once bequest with best intentions for shared use and purpose of health services, public open space and agistment of local horses. Once again SLHD have back flipped and are withdrawing on their promise that "Horses would always be on the estate"(Media Release, SLHD 2013). Not only have they again, reneged on their promise they are also changing the long time use of the historical site and converting the jewel of the inner west to common parkland, very unlike the 70 years of constant horse agistment that made it a unique parkland unlike any other in the metropolis of Sydney. The Dame Eadith Walker and her Philanthropist family would be disappointed and disillusioned to have watched this bureaucratic affair.

It is charged that SLHD have shown contempt to the local community people and Parliamentary process in general by the following actions:

1 Signing a questionable deal with mounted police in the dead of night and then conceding to public pressure to subsequently terminated the Heads of agreement signed with the Mounted Police Unit.

2. With their intention of preparing a new lease with MPU as a result of a rigged public tender process to award MPU as the preferred tenders they were pressured to abandon this process by parliamentary inquiry recommendations. [REDACTED]

3 SLHD have elected to alter the historical land use without public consultation and without parliamentary inquiry direction. This knee jerk reaction is seen to be an admission of guilt, SLHD trying to yet again seal the deal for their longer term plans before parliament have reached their findings via the select committee's recommendation report due on 19th September. .

SLHD and the Minister of Health seem to act as if they have a level of immunity to local laws and regulations and ethical practice. Many community members have been concerned whether there was any consultation with local council or heritage prior to the recent erection of the ghastly silver external chain wire fencing? Most local residents are not permitted to even paint our house with a non heritage colour without being forced to comply with a myriad of approvals and forms.

The recent proposal of Yaralla becoming what the health Minister coined "the Centennial park of the inner west" will require significant investment of resources in order to convert the 13 hectares of horse paddocks and undulating grazing land to parkland. Ironically, Jillian Skinner seems to have neglected to remember that Centennial park is the only place remaining in the Sydney Metro (thanks to her beurocrats actions with removing horses from Yaralla) where horses today can still be found. Concerns have been raised by the community as to, how the health department and SLHD intend on paying for this parkland conversion of Yaralla? Additionally, what sustainable plan do they have to ensure the cost of maintenance that they have failed to uphold for the last 17years is completed in the future parkland area? Will Yaralla become a community burden with the raising of local council rates to balance the expenditure required or will valuable health dollars be spent on tasks involving the up keep of parkland? The reasonable and rational alternative is to have returned the community owned horses into the Yaralla paddocks as this would produce an income that could be re-invested into Yaralla as it should be. It would enable Yaralla to be protected and preserved for the future and intended use with horses and public open space for many generations to come.

The facts are daunting, SLHD have continually failed in their duty of care in so many areas but more recently discovered the 200 to 300 tons of contaminated asbestos fill allowed to be dumped on Yaralla estate.

A public hearing is imperative should SLHD contemplate and attempt to mandate a change in land use.

SLHD have not listened to the community, once again they have been found to be making decisions without community consultation that affect us the public. The sensory and psychosocial interaction with horses is an important part of what the local community is in Concord and we see it necessary to continue to defend and advocate that horses can be kept at Yaralla for us living in the now, for our children and many generations to come. This Estate as it has been for 70 years must remain as it was intended. Yaralla and its horses have always been in our blood, they are the saving grace, the little slice of the simple life as we all continue to slog and fight the urban life in the sprawling metropolis of the Inner West.

Concord is already known as the suburb of green spaces, it has enjoyed one of the largest parkland density areas compared to many neighbouring local council areas. It is questioned, although green is always good, do we really need more of the same? Is there the risk that in years or even months to come governments of the time or future will see this "double up" of green allocated space and turn it into housing? Who will fund the unnecessary - unwanted change? Yaralla as it was, did produce a positive income separate from any impacting negative drain on the tax payer dollar. The only change should be that future profits made as a result of horse agistment are to be returned and re-invested back into the estate to address some of the obvious improvements that would be required over time.

These most recent actions of SLHD and the Health Minister have been perceived as a direct and deliberate retaliation against the horse owners and the community's wishes. The issue of removing horses off the Yaralla estate indefinitely is an issue held dearly by local council, the local residents and community, local schools and local businesses. It is not just the view of a small group of horse owners or the agisters that these decisions affect - it is clearly affecting all the ensure community who have protested with veracity. There would be further and a rapidly growing allegiance of supporters as more and more individuals join the campaign to reinstate and return the horses back to Yaralla - the intensity of this situation will grow, we will intensely doorknock, petition, rally and attract major media to spread the alternate voice and word to that of the conflicted health bureaucrats.

A plight that we are passionate about is that the Yaralla Estate must remain sustainable in order for it to remain untouched by governments and development companies. It is a huge area and it would cost a small fortune to develop as parkland, however we fear it may be considered as a small cost by future governments if the capitalist driven economy decides that Yaralla should become the next episode of the urban sprawl along the Parramatta River. Concerns also exist regarding the never ending and unimaginable funds that would be required to maintain Yaralla as a proper Parkland and not a pseudo one where SLHD leave it as is, biding time for the highest offer to sell it off. Who does SLHD really think will pay for this, Health,? The Council,? Ratepayers,? Taxpayers of NSW?.

The money and effort provided by the local horse owners and agisters has the real potential of ensuring a well maintained property with the unique heritage value and land protected and preserved at no cost to community. Local horses in Yaralla paddocks do generate positive funds, and an option involving horses in the future would clearly be giving what the community want, Yaralla and its horses as it was for all of the public to enjoy.

We request the return of the Evicted horses back to Yaralla estate and seriously put an end to this infinite path of destruction. We invite and evoke SLHD to engage in real community

consultation where by sustainable and co- created solutions to the continued preservation and maintenance of Yaralla is achieved.

Below is a list of community comments left on our online petition. It is not just the horse owners who want to see horses remain on the estate. The message is loud and clear from hundreds of community members.

We look forward to receiving a response from the select committee the issues raised.

On Behalf of the Concord Local Community and the Save Yaralla Horses Group.

*"I am 91 years old and the only thing I wanted to do for my 91st birthday was go and visit the horses at the home in Yaralla! They are a joy in my life and the lives of so many others and I for one, would be heartbroken if they were no longer allowed to live there. Please let my friends stay at Yaralla" - **Karola Grozdanovic***

*"My family has always loved being able to visit Yaralla and the horses. To take this away, is unnecessary and a removal of one of the last rural retreats in the inner west. Please reconsider and allow the horses to remain in their homes!" - **Alex Burjan***

*"As young child I often went to Yaralla to play and see the horses with my family and friends. I often remember patting and watching the horses, viewing the young foals and watching them grow into horses. Without these horses Yaralla is nothing but a lifeless property. It's only attractions would be the gardens and the houses, which holds no interest to young children who grow up recognising Yaralla as the place with the horses. This is why i believe the horses should definitely not be removed from Yaralla." - **Madeleine vatiliotis***

*"hi , my name is giulia and i am 9 years old i have been visiting Yaralla estate in concord since i was a baby . I have a 19 yr old brother and a 20 yr old sister .They also visited since they where babies . we have many memories of the estate. we are all very sad to hear about this , so we would like the horses and owners to stay .I am very upset and mum and i have been crying .As again i am very upset. :(" - **Giulia Delpopolo***

*"My daughter and I and friends visit these horses. We don't own any, nor know anyone who does, but we just love going there. It's so special to have this rather 'rural' setting at Yaralla Estate practically in the middle of Sydney! It's so unique and refreshing to have an expanse of land that is NOT developed. Please keep the horses there, so we can see them, pat them, enjoy them." - **Leesa Daniels***

"I would love for the horses to stay at Yaralla because it is a very nice and peaceful place. I wouldn't have any idea why anyone would want the horses to go. Yaralla is such a beautiful and natural place. With the Horses being gone it would definitely not have as many people visiting. If they take away the horses it is without a doubt, that eventually we will end up not being able to see the caves, the gardens, the fresh

water, climbing the trees, the pond and the big area space. Without the horses, that place we called Yaralla (the horse field) will not be called that. Without the horses it won't be called Yaralla to me because the horses made that word, without them it's nothing. Driving along that big driveway called 'The Drive' not seeing the horses will definitely be a disappointment to me and many others.

SAVE THE HORSES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" - Daisy Puckeridge

"The historical significance of the Walker estate must be protected. I grew up in Concord West and visited Dame Edith Walker Hospital often as a girl guide volunteer. Walking down the drive, saying hello to the horses was wonderful." - **Julie Solomon**

"Former Concord West resident who introduced her young family to horses at the estate. There are too few places in Sydney for kids to see and interact with animals in a natural setting so don't take it away." - **Jacqueline Colbran**

"I support horses staying at the Yaralla Concord. Its rare to still find a place in an urban environment to keep horses. Lets preserve this land." - **Anonymous**

"BRING BACK THE HORSES!!!!!! this has been my favourite place in the world for the last 5 years and now it's horse-less!!! WHY!!!!!!" - **Vanessa Palamara**

"It is a shame that this is happening. Please don't take away the horses. It is a small piece of paradise enjoyed by many." - **Julie Dasilva**

"Trust the council and local government not to use the land for redevelopment...I don't think so. The horses and open land keep us grounded and in touch with what is really important - the Earth, and should not be swallowed up by money driven greed. I wholeheartedly support this petition." - **Agnes Barna**

"Keep the horses - they are good for the community and give life to the space they occupy!" - **Chas McDevitt**

"Save our horses
We don't want govt horses to take over, we are happy with the way things are....." - **Rosa Pulvirenti**

"Those horses are on my route for work. They are the highlight of my day." - **Joanne Bonning**

"I love going to this wonderful place, it is a retreat and a natural wonder in the heart of the inner west, to take horses away would be taking away its essence, once the horses go, the next thing will be the housing development of the land. What will the land be used for if not for horses...?? unless its a plot to pour concrete on the land to build more??? This place is so beautiful and I/we enjoy every moment when we visit this place and the horses are just so beautiful to interact with.." - **Jessica Di Bartolo**

"These horses have been here since I was 10 years old. I have been in this area for 40 years. It makes me sad and it would be very upsetting to my new grandchildren, we go once a week to see them." - **Grace Lo Russo**

"I've lived in the area and have driven past this beautiful lush land, always with horses grassing on it, I have seen mum's & dad's bring their children just to see the horses: stop this madness of culling everything we love from the area we love to live in:" - **SANDRA SMITH**

"It would be such a shame to see the horses go. I have memories as a child coming to see the horses with my grandmother, and now I take my own children and it is such a treat for them. We have very few places like this in the city anymore. We are being swallowed up by apartments and sky rise buildings." - **Nicole Vitiello**

"Save this estate and the horses for all of Sydney to enjoy" - **Debbie McAndrew**

"Another covert display of friends with friends. Edith Walker would be truly disgusted." - **Michael Gregg**

"I love to see the horses at Yaralla whenever I go for a walk. Sometimes they walk over to the fence and I give them a pat with my neices and nephews. They are part of a lovely country view in an increasingly built up suburban environment. Dont know why its expected that they go" - **Cathy Delaney**

"It would be shameful to take away the beauty of horses running freely on the grounds of Yaralla site. Also, don't take them away, for the children's sake." - **Vince Scerri**

"I have great respect for the police and their needs but this area should be kept as a natural place for the community to relax and enjoy. The horses are an important part of this community relaxation and enjoyment." - **Douglas Smith**

"MY FAMILY HAS BEEN IN CONCORD FOR 63 YRS AND ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE HORSES AT YARALLA ESTATE. WHEN WAS THE DECISION MADE TO TO REMOVE THEM? WHY WASN'T IT MADE PUBLIC PREVIOUSLY - WHAT'S THE RUSH TO REMOVE THESE BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS? IT'S DISGUSTING, WHAT WILL STOP THE PADDOCKS AND THE WHOLE ESTATE BEING DEVELOPED WITH HORRIBLE HIGH RISE- LEAVE THESE HORSES WHERE THEY ARE !!!" - **LEONIE BALLANTYNE**

"SAVE OUR HORSES!" - **ANNA KOUNELIS**

"we love visiting the horses every weekend when we visit our grandparents, please dont disappoint us by taking them away we love them !" - **lourdes marie chedid**

"The horses are a wonderful asset to Concord. Removing them destroys the wonderful atmosphere we have here." - **Shannyn Warren**

"Children love this place very much"- **Yunona Fateeva**

"Please don't remove the horses from Concord West" - **Alina Timson**

"Yaralla grounds are a wonderful opportunity for the public to engage with horses with close proximity to the community and city living." - **Francesca Bull**

"The Yaralla estate is a beautiful, historical property. The horses of Yaralla and their owners have preserved and enhanced the environment and promoted its significance through their interaction with the community with the horses they love." - **Scott Kinneer**

"I grew up on The Drive in the 80s, visiting the estate and horses with many of the neighbourhood children and still love taking the next generation of children down to visit this special place. It makes me sad to think that the horses may become inaccessible to the community that has always adored them." - **Louise Kan**

"horses there are special" – **Miss Pirra White**

"The community must back the continued use of horse owners to have their horses on the paddocks as part of this unique environment of Concord . We must display our strongest voice to the Health Department ,we do care ,and will be watching!" - **Lorelle Kinsey**

"I used this space for time out, reflected on it's fabulous history and felt connected with my rural roots through the horses. This is a fantastic resource for people who have not had that ability. What a wonderful mix, town and country in a little bit of heaven. Why make it just the same as the rest of the city!!!" - **Terrill Riley-Gibson**

"Why would you feel the need to change something which does good for children and owners in the community?" - **Krystyna Yard**

"Please save this beautiful part of Concord. Leave the horses there so all can enjoy ." – **Anonymous**

"I grew up in Concord, spending 27 years there and much of it on this estate. The horses at Yaralla are very much a part of Concord, they should remain." – **Kathie Fisher**

"My family and I have lived in Concord West for 30 years. My 4 sons grew up here. We walked in Yaralla Estate, they played at Yaralla Estate and absolutely loved seeing the horses. We have often talked to the horse owners on our walks and really value their presence in such a wonderful, unique, green area in the heart of Sydney. It would be tragic to see the horses have to leave the area and the generations of children to come would really miss out on something special. I strongly object to the removal of these horses and would ask that you not go ahead with this proposal." - **Ruth Westerweller**

"One word - tranquility" - **Michael Coffey**

"A significant cause. Keep the horses!" - **Nicola Vozzo**

"Leave the horses there." – **John Kaane**

"I love looking at the horses" - **Belinda Pirrottina**

"When my daughters aged 2 and 3 found out that the horses at yaralla were leaving they said 'why do the horses have to leave? Where will they go? We will miss them!'" - **ivanka begley**

"Zmy children when they were little loved going to Yaralla Estate, just to look at the horses." – **Jo Santoro**

"Please let the horses stay. They bring much joy to people and my daughter used to pat them when she was little. The land was left for community use and it is the best place for the horses and for their owners to access them easily." - **Niki Thomson**

"The horse paddocks and horses are a historical part of the area and need to be retained for the use of locals" – **Valerie Roberts**

"The horse should remain as watching out for them is one of the reason I drive by this estate. They give a sense of country life in an otherwise urban environment." – **James Alexander**

"The horses are a touch of the country in the city for all residents in the area & are a beautiful addition to the landscape, if they are removed the paddocks could become overgrown with weeds & be a tempting place for "dumpers" to illegally dump unwanted waste." – **Sharon Gallen**

"I would hate for anything to stand in the way of having the horses at the end of my street. They have provided great solace to me and my family over 37 years and is one of the main reasons we have never moved." – **Lynne Greene**

"Why do they have to be removed when they are doing no harm ?

Leave them there !" – **Susan Younie**

"These horses have been a wonderful site in their current location to me for years. It is a rare site to see horses in the inner west and they have always looked appropriate and well cared for on that wonderful block of land. I would be very saddened to see them go." – **Adrienne Alexander**

"We love seeing the horses out and about every time we are around the estate we'll be very sad to see them go. We are extremely against the termination of Yaralla Estate, my family been going there for generations we love the estate the kids go there for bike ride just about every week. Yaralla Estate provides safe, peaceful and comfortable environment that everyone enjoys." – **Lina M**

"This area has a wonderful atmosphere with its parks, playing fields and the river so close and the horses at Yaralla are part of these very pleasant surroundings. They should stay." – **Irene Alexander**

"I grew up with horses and have been delighted to see such wonderful animals in open spaces in the urban area. What is the motive for removing them?" – **Ralph Rawlinson**

"It is great that there is a little country oasis in the middle of our great city. Please don't change it." – **Penny Rye**

"This park is an amazing centre that allows for the horses and the surrounding environment to become one with the community. Its a place that my family and i enjoy going to for picnics and petting the horses. It would be incredibly unfortunate and unjust if the horses were forced to leave." – **Vito Ginardi**

"Horses must stay" – **Dorothy Booth**

"I was born in Concord 60 years ago and have lived in the Concord area for 57 of those years always enjoying what Yaralla has to offer especially seeing the horses there. I beg you NOT to remove the horses

from Yaralla - this would be thoughtless crime and heart breaking not just for the owners of the horses, but the community as a whole. Think again!" – **Rhonda Tresnan**

"The last piece of old Concord" **William Wallbank**

"My 3 year old daughter would be heartbroken if she knew that the horses were to go. She loves going to visit the horses. I'm sure many other local children will be heartbroken too." - **Gina Adamantidis**

"I regularly take my grandchildren to see the horses, the only opportunity for city children apart from the Easter Show." – **Sally Jackson**

"I love going past the estate and seeing the horses in the paddocks. My children and my grandchildren want to keep it as it is. Surely repair work can be carried out without sending off the horses. We renovate our houses when needed but don't necessarily move out." - **SYLVIA DELIMITROS**

"Enjoy having the horses and rural aspect in the grounds of Yaralla which is part of the reason we chose to live in the area" – **Carol Stevens**

"i love horses and i want to do as much as i can to help them." – **amy li**

"our grandchildren simply loved to visit the horses. It's always so refreshing to open space and horses in a built up area. Please keep them at Yarrala." - **maureen ranie**

"I think it is delightful to have the horses and the lovely free land please allow it to stay that way." - **Ethnee Brooks**

"The idyllic Yarralla Estate and environs deserve to be preserved for the Sydney community. Visitors are stunned at the beautiful country atmosphere in the inner west of Sydney. A hidden gem and the horses are a big part of that. Leave them where they are for everyone to enjoy" - **Glenda Rogers**

"Yaralla is a little bit of country in the city. Please don't take the horses away." – **Glenda Dean**

"I grew up on a farm with horses, but cannot afford to keep one of my own in Sydney. Seeing a lovely open paddock with horses grazing in it is the next best thing. It would be a terrible shame not only for the horses and their owners if they must relocate, but also for animal lovers of all ages who look forward to seeing the horses at Yaralla. Everyone in this city needs a dose of nature to brighten up their day!" – **Christine Stalvies**

"The horses bring a little of rural life to the suburbs and are enjoyed by many,many littlies!" - **john Clarke**

"I regularly visit family in the area and feel so humble to see such a lovely rural scene so close to our beautiful City. To lose this unique situation would be devastating.
We can all stop and smell the roses at Yarralla Concord." - **Ron Pultar**

"I have grown up in concord west and loved walking to see the horses and now I take my 2 children to see them it is a hidden oasis in an area that is becoming over populated please let the horses stay" - **Renee Horsnell**

"I've grown up with this place and now I have kids I bring them here too. Don't you dare you people have a nerve" - **Lisa Giammaria**

"My Daughter and I go to this spot regularly and have relaxing afternoons just observing the animals and taking in the environment. Its one of the only places in the Inner west that homes such beautiful horses, all the the community adore them and this beautiful piece of land, it would be such a shame to see them go. For my Daughter and for the rest of the generation to come that live within this area." - **Iva Vuk**

"Having the horses adds a regality and lovely ambience in our area. Its one of the thibgs that makes Concord so beautiful to live in." - **Maralina Leaitua**

"Please leave the horses where they are." - **Victoria Hauke**

"I live in concord and I am constantly going past the Yaralla estate and I have always loved seeing the horses and it really brings a lovely setting in the modernised community that we already have and i think that many people feel this way too. I sincerely hope you do not terminate the paddocks as I am sure it is a loss for not only the community but also for a piece of concords history. PLEASE SAVE YARALLA AND ALL ITS HORSES!" - **clay Viera**

"These horse have been part of Concord and should not be removed.Children in the area have learnt an affiliation with them and how good is that for our future generation." - **diane dickson**

"Could not imagine the Estate without these horses there. They are doing no harm and it is devastating for the owners to have to find new homes for their loved creatures. Why change something that makes so many people happy and is so unique to Sydney!!!!" - **Veronique Peril**

"I cant see why personal horses cant stay along with mounted police horses. Surely there is enough room. Isn't that what Dame Edith Walker would want?" - Rosi Pillon

"Keep open spaces for horses." - Margaret Saunders

"My kids have been patting those horses for years. They are beautiful animals. This place is their home. Don't take it away from them and our children" - Frances Triulcio

"Why take away the beautiful horses from my grandchildren. It is lovely to see them grazing there so close to the city" - Anonymous

"Leave the horses at Yaralla Estate as has been the case for 30 years. Apart from being a wonderful facility for the horses and their owners, the whole ambiance of the wonderful Yaralla Estate is enhanced by their presence. It brings a bit of country into the inner west and allows us city folk and our children to gaze at these gorgeous creatures in a peaceful and beautiful open space." - Jan Wood

"I think that the horses should not move because they are fun to feed and pat." - Hugo Connolly

"Keep the horses because they have been there for longer than us." - Charlotte Connolly

"Please save our horses so that children in the area can experience a little bit of the country in an urban landscape." - Sharon Connolly

"My children often visit the horses and walk the estate at Yaralla. They will be devastated to be unable to do this as they have done this all their lives, being carried as babies in the earlier years. Please consider us the community!" - Tessa Riley

"Love the area, drive pass often and love seeing the horses in the paddocks. Please leave them there, its a lovely open space in sydney." - jenny farrell

"Yaralla Estate is a real gem. A piece of country in the city. For relaxation I often walk around the estate and absorb its mere beauty and tranquility. We have often taken friends and family there and they too fall in love with the place wanting to come back. The horses are part of the landscape, people bring their children from everywhere to feed them. Don't take something away, that belongs to the people." - Sonia Furnari

"save the horses, they are such a beautiful site and its so nice to have them so close to the city. And who will mow the grass ! It will be another unkept space." - Lisa Colwell

"Obviously the terms of the will allows aghistment of horses so why change the usage" - **Dianne Foster**

"The Yaralla Estate was left to the people and should remain a special place for horses and people alike." - **Patricia Harrington**

"Having horses of my own and visiting the site where the horses are aggisted it was lovely to see that people can have the availability of a safe and lovely place to enjoy their horses and give other people the joy of visiting this beautiful property don't take this away from them. Keep this open land for all to see." - **Robyne Parry**

"All our six grandchildren from any early age were taken to see the beautiful horses in the lovely natural surroundings of Yaralla. We have been thankful this pleasure is afforded to them as our grandchildren live in apartments. Our seveth grandchild is only 12 months old and we intended to show her the "horsies". There is very few pleasures that are free to be enjoyed by the children of to-day and this is one of them. We would be very sad if the horses are removed." - **CAROL NAPOLI**

"My family visit the "horseys" once a week .My daughter and her six cousins who all live in Concord area drive past daily to admire the horses-a piece of paradise!!!" - **Anonymous**

"Save the horse park" - **Miss Karen Romero**

"I HAVE LIVED IN CONCORD FOR MANY YEARS AND i LOVE THE HORSES I TAKE MY KIDS FOR WALKS ON MANY OCCASIONS I DONT WANT THEM REMOVED .." - **WENDY KOUNELIS**

"i CANT believe the govenment wants to remove the horses shame on you, we love the horses I walk and pat them every day its agreat way to start the day. how dare you want to remove them.very angry" - **JOE GABKO**

"iM NOT HAPPY, LEAVE THE HORSES ALONE .WE LOVE THEM" - **PENNY KOLLIAS**

"I am shocked that the horses will be removed

*I always go for walks just to see the horses, I am outraged" - **ALEX BEBONIS***

"This is a unique area, it has had horses on it since its inception and should continue to so. As long as owners want to keep their horses there and allow the public to see them and even pet them they should be able to."
- Ian Tulley

*"We need some country left in the city!!" - **Jane Jones***

"I often visit this site at Yaralla and the area has not changed for many decades, this area should be saved for the horse owners and the beautiful animals, I thought this place would be heritage listed ??????????"
- malcolm rutherford

*"The horses and their owners have been a feature of my journey from early childhood to parenthood. It would be awful for Concord to lose this unique facility as it reminds us of our heritage. My child has already visited these paddocks and to think he might lose the future opportunity to ride his bmx around here is terrible" - **David Bolt***

*"Keep the AREA the way it is, its a beautiful place for families to go and enjoy the horses and and we don't want concord to become another concrete jungle.. there are enough units around the area already.." - **steve zalalas***

*"Areas of greenery are rare enough in or near built up areas, let alone one where the community actually gets together. Hold on to this unique estate for the sake of the horses, their owners and all the children and adults who visits it." - **Britta Sheil***

*"When my kids were younger we stopped there nearly every arvo to look at the horses and talk to them. Even though they are teens we still stop sometimes and look at them. They are doing no harm and add character and a place for people of any age to admire them. This is much better than redevelopment or just leaving it empty. Come on - do the right thing for both horses and people." - **Meg Riley***

*"These horses bring joy each time I drive by to work in Concord. Please keep them in their home there. The suburbs are devoid of any wildlife these horses remind us that it does exist!" - **Julie Reynolds***

"I grew up in Concord and love the fact that we have horses and paddocks in such a beautiful and historic site. I now have the opportunity to share this with my children. This site was left to the people, not the government. LEAVE YARALLA ALONE!" - Reis Adamson

"I grew up in Concord and my siblings, friends and I would walk to Yarala frequently just to take our fruit and vegetable leftovers to the horses, gradually building a trust and relationship. Please conserve this area forever" - Kate Grover

"Every morning I jog to the Yaralla Estate and admire the surroundings. Such an amazing part of Australian history to remove and destroy. We should try to protect and preserve our history for future generations. This new project to remove the horses is disgusting!" - KAYLA MIGRAS

"We love visiting the horses, please allow them to stay." - Amy Williams

"Why must they go. The paddocks are there to be used. It is lovely to see the horses when driving by." - Maureen Rose

"This Estate is unique to the Inner West and is a great way to take the children into a country style atmosphere where they can walk through the beautiful grounds and feed the horses. To my knowledge, this estate was bequested to the community, to be used as parkland and to be enjoyed by all!

It will be a very sad day if this Estate is taken away from the community or changed in any way." - Belinda BURNS

"I have lived in concord for over 30 years and I always use yaralla estate for my walks I even stop by and feed horses I love walking past for exercise and feeding the horses." - MATHEW LAKISS

"My husband & I moved to Concord 31 years ago! Our children & now grandchildren have always enjoyed a peaceful & energy boosting stroll to our beautiful Yaralla; especially for the children to see the wonderful horses. On our walk back home we'd always comment on how blessed we are to have this magnificence at our doorstep! We would all be devastated to lose this amazing gift." - Edi Matino

"I have lived in Concord for 16 years and don't particularly like living in a big city but having the paddocks and horses there is a beautiful oasis. I pass by nearly every day as I work at Concord Hospital and always love to see the horses and the open spaces. Many, many people I know in the area also love the horses and it would be a tragedy to see them go." - stephanie baldock

"Recently my sister and my cousins made a video star among the horses, the caves, the river and the Fairy Garden. It was super duper fun and Gods creation was so beautiful. my sister used to be able to feed the horses but now we can't, but I still get to look at them and see all the new ones and baby ones. driving along the huge driveway seeing the horses is my favourite thing to do. If they are gone what am i gonna look at? nothing, we wont even be able to go in. I will miss all those memories my family and friends did. Me and my friends will be so sad to see them go. :(

SAVE THE HORSES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" - Milly Puckeridge

"I lived in the area a number of years ago, I loved passing by and seeing the horses. I think it would be a cause for great sadness if they had to be moved. I don't agree that they should be moved.

Why all of a sudden after so many peaceful years?

Legitimate reason please?" - Zoe C

"we do not want the horses gone we walk with our family every day past the horses and enjoy them ." - **antonio scotto**

"Let other live the life they want! Horses are the most beautiful creatures in the world and gives unmeasured happiness." - **Jane Borovikova**

"This is a nice peaceful place to go walking where you can actually see horse in the city. Unspoilt leave it alone!" - **lisa wong**

"Yaralla Estate is an amazing estate which I visit on a regular basis with my children. So many local residents visit Yaralla Estate and would be devastated to see the horses taken away. It is a unique area in the middle of Sydney which should remain open to the public. the horses should stay put. I cannot tell you the amount of times I have heard a parent to say to their child "let's go down and see the horses". Everyone knows that the horses they are referring to are the horses at Yaralla Estate. Leave them where they are! PLEASE!!" - sally puckeridge

"Ever since my son was a baby we go and visit the horses! Every time we go walk down and pet every horse ready for some sticky kids or baby hands. The beautiful alley way makes the best muddy puddles in the whole world and we make sure we bring our gumboots. In fall we jump through the leaves and let them snow in us. We stop for a chat with the horse owners or other locals or hikers who either are already in love or are about to fall in love with this place. We then pass through the gates, see who can see the biggest spider web in the magical plants along the first stretch. Then we can't miss to play peek-a-boo in 'the tunnel' - the flower pergola in the right entrance to the rose garden. We then wonder paste he house

*an imagine what life was like. Sometimes we stop for a picnic on the lawn in front of the house. We then go down through the bamboo garden to the water, throw some stones in the water. Or we find a stick and play fishing for big fish. We then make our way past the cave, looking for pirates and treasure. Cross the rose garden. Farewell the horses until next time! And some pencil pushing government politician wants to take this unique heaven away from us? It's not ok!!" - **Melanie Carli***

*"Have been going to Dame Edith Walker Reserve to see the horses and have a walk since I was a little girl (40years). Would be a terrible shame if I can not continue to bring my daughter and son to see the horses just as I did." - **Elena Cole***

*"Great place to keep horses and show are children the wonders and beauty of these great animals. My parents took me here I have since taken my nieces and my own children to visit the horses at this location." - **Anna Lo Ricco***

*"Why?????? I love to pat the horses and have always thought how good it is to be so close to the city and still have country so close by" - **Robyn Walker***

*"It will be sad if families in the city can not enjoy horses in their community." - **Betty Kennard***

*"I was born and raised in Concord. The horses at Yaralla Estate are one of my fondest memories. Please do not turn this special area into another Hurstville or Wollli Creek! Just look what has happened there! A horror!" - **Peter Walker***

*"Yaralla is a heritage site and has housed the horses for decades. It would be dreadful to take away one of the attractions of the Yaralla site. Driving along the perimeters of the Yaralla property it is a pleasure to see the horses grazing or trotting on the meadow. Leave that bit of Australian "country" where it has been for decades for our children and descendants to enjoy ." - **Anneliese Scerri***

*"Those horses are a childhood memory for me and my children now love going to see them when they go to visit their Nanna and Pa in Wilga Street, where they still live after 45 years." - **Julianne Kennard***

*"Concord is one of the few inner western suburbs that has retained community 'green spaces'. These communal areas are essential for the on going quality of life & sustainability of Concord's future. These horse's are a life blood of the community, in fact providing Concord an opportunity to diversify! Council should be looking at creating greater awareness of these grounds, not displacing it's current inhabitants!" - **Danielle Morgan***

"Keep this little gem. It allows kids to bond with animals and keeps us aware of the bigger world and allows families to enjoy time together. Just perfect. In fact if anything it should be encouraged!!" - **Hazel Shaw**

"we often visit the estate with our children who adore being so close to the horses. Dame Edith Walker left this estate to the people of NSW. Let's keep it this way! Our children will be devastated as will we if this goes ahead." - **Jacob Chabo**

"What a shame to take away yet another inner suburban sanctuary. Please leave the horses there for everyone to enjoy." - **Giselle Condos**

"These grounds have been left for the enjoyment of residents and the preservation of our natural heritage please leave the horses there - they are part of the unique beauty not to be found anywhere else in Sydney" - **Sydnee Sullivan**

"This is such a beautiful spot and so rare in the city to find a place where you feel like you are a million miles away in the country. My children love it, we visit the horses each week, PLEASE do not take them away!!" - **Monika Plag**

"I have been visiting the horses since i was a little girl, don't take that experience away from further generations and the community." - **Brooke Sutton**

"The horses should remain, they are so much part of the local community." - **Ken Crosse**

"Please hold on to this wonderful, unique estate. Horses are spirited and inspiring animals and to find them here, in a Sydney suburb not 20 mins from the city, is a sanctuary. Surely the police can find somewhere else to train. And didn't Dame Edith bequeath this land to all NSW's?" - **Viviana Delgado**

"I grew up and went to school and worked in this area for many years! We spent a lot of time in the thomas walker estate & Yarralla. Horses on your doorstep, so rare in suburbia! It would be a shame for the community to lose access to such a calming & country like area in suburbia! So much has being built up in our urban jungle over the years, creating less space, more traffic into the inner west and more stress. People need access to a patch of green! This community needs access for future generations to have space to escape to. The community loses so much when these type of proposed changes occur. Please don't open the door to Yarralla falling victim to development. It's just not right. Concord west is unique in the inner west. Let's preserve that." - **Carolyn Miller**

"Concord would not be Concord without horses! The fields should continue to be home." - **Sarah Irvine**

"these horses are therapuetic for myself and many others. i love to visit and just observe their strong nature" - **Jack Isaksen**

"The horses are a great part of the community. It would be a shame to lose them" - **kylie boyd**

"Have lived in concord all my life it will be so sad to see such a big part of yaralla change. Please let the horses stay." - **Teresa Del monte**

"This IS FOR THE COMMUNITY we all want the horses to remain there forever..." - **Marco Paparatti**

"The horses at Yaralla as part of the heritage of the Concord area and should not be removed." - **James Hegarty**

"Please keep the horses as they are a great attraction and enhance the experience of walking in this lovely area. Please do not let the developers in to the detriment of the community once more." - **Anonymous**

"I drive past the horses every day going to university and they make the day so much nicer. Dont take them away!!" - **Lauren Bunnell Bunnell**

"Those horses are a significant part of the peace and tranquility of the area." - **Marina Lobastov**

"Having lived in the area for my entire life, I feel that the horses should be kept at Yaralla. My family and I have enjoyed the estate over many years and the horses have been an important part of my and my familys upbringing." - **Donna Maxfield**

"It's Such a blessing and a community justice to see the horses and watch these people, it creates a sense of peace, nature and humility. - **Sarah Reedy**

"Everytime i drive by this beautiful Yaralla site, i feel peaceful and i have to say when i see the horses either relaxed, eating or walking etc it puts a smile on my face, and the children always comment to make sure we look at the horses as i drive extra slow. God Bless hope u get to keep it as it has been left to be, by the original owners..xxx" - **Antonella Franze**

"Leave the horses. My daughter loves visiting them!" - **Melissa Valente Watkins**

"Concord resident for 27 Years, foundation President of Concord Junior Baseball Club & Life Member. The horses have been a huge part of the Concord area for the time I have lived in Concord, my children and their friends often visited the paddocks to feed the horses and talk to the owners. The Horses Must Stay!!"
- **Ross Bennett**

"The horses at Yaralla are one of the things that make Concord West unique, providing joy to young children in the area and offering a beautiful snapshot of the countryside in the city. Destroying this eco-habitat would not raise environmental concerns and upset the local community, but would also be another example of a strong-arm Government putting its interests before that of the people that it represents, and would certainly ensure that my vote goes elsewhere at the next election" - **Mark Coward**

"I have loved this place as a child growing up and now that I am starting a family I look forward to my kids being able to enjoy it as much as me. Our daughter loves visiting the horses." **Richard Hobbs-**

"born in concord ,spent many weekends and school holidays visiting the horses at yaralla.there were no horses anywhere else to see them ,and i was a horse mad young girl." - **julie robinson**

"Please do not move the horses from Yaralla. This is what makes Concord so special and it is wonderful for people of all ages to go and touch base with the horses and nature" - **Cyndy Mundy**

"I have witnessed the joy the horses bring to the community and have experience the peace and tranquility of Yaralla often." - **Helena Kinnear**

"These horses have been here since before I was born in Concord. It will be a shame for this lovely Historical area to be over populated...cause that's where this is heading. Please leave our beautiful Concord Yaralla estate as it is so future generations can enjoy this beautiful land. Such stories have come out of this wonderful area and the horses are so special that other people visiting Concord are envious and shocked that we have such a lovely lush green area that resembles the country side right here in suburbia. I feel this will be such a sad loss and nothing can replace this part of nature." - **mary talarico**

"My family enjoys walking through the Yaralla estate including bringing friends and visitors through, including the enjoyment of the horses' presence in the grounds. Please keep it that way." - **Gaetano Dinatale**

"We love the horses and have grown up with them around the paddock. They should not be removed. That is their home.

Visiting them brings us closer to nature." - **Peggy Braganza**

"The horses currently at Yaralla are a lovely sight when walking on the river foreshore. It is great to see some wildlife in the inner city. They are at home here and should stay." - **Julie Rudnicka**

"Community land is for the community and this community wants horses left there." - **Teresa Russell**

"Why destroy something that works so well?" - **Anne Davison**

"My children and I regularly visit the horses, usually each week. My children have grown up with access to this beautiful place in the middle of urban Sydney and we would all miss it so much. Walking through the grounds is a chance to get outside and exercise and I would like other children to have this experience. Community access to these kinds of sites is really important. It is consistent with the original bequest and also gives the community a chance to experience this heritage site as a living place as it used to be. It would not be the same if the horses go to make way for police occupation of the site and would be particularly sad if the public no longer have access to the site at all." - **Alexandra O'Mara**

"The presence of the horses benefits our community in so many ways. If nothing else, it is one of the few things to see that excites our young children in our Council area." - **Helen Yellowlees**

"I remember as a kid going to see the horses, I want to be able to take my son for a walk to see the horse too. It's such a shame. It's so cool to have all those paddocks in the middle of suburbia. It has to stay the way it is" - **Anne-Louise van den Nieuwenhof**

"They are part of Concord's history. Leave them there. They are so beautiful to watch when driving or walking past. The kids love to see them" - **Angela Pezzano**

"The Horses at Yaralla are a Concord Institution; Their removal and subsequent changes to the running of Yaralla estate can only hurt the suburb." - **Anonymous**

"Yaralla Estate is a magnificent reminder of our local heritage and MUST be preserved as Dame Edith Walker intended. The horses provide welcome relief from the suburban streetscape and add an invaluable dimension to community life here in Concord. Save the horses and save Yaralla!" - **Dianne Croker**

"I have many fond memories of visiting those horses growing up, right through from when I was a young child to a teen. It saddens me immensely to think they might no longer exist, because although I'm not a Concord resident, they were some of my first encounters with horses and I always anticipated visiting them eagerly." - **Anonymous**

"my wife and I regularly walk down the road between the paddocks through the estate. We have often remarked how beautiful it is to have this 'rural' community virtually in our backyard. We have often

wondered how long it would be before it was to be used for some other purpose which would destroy the current amenity the precinct adds to living here in Concord West. Now we know!!" - **Nat Brancatisano**

"This is devastating! Please save the horses!!!! They have been a part of my childhood and I absolutely love visiting them!" - **Emily Dinale**

"This is devastating ..Please do not allow this to happen .we appreciate those horses so much and so do the majority of the locals. Whenever you visit you actually forget that you live so close to the city and this is what makes concord so unique." - **Janet Stavrou**

"We must save these precious horses as they are most valued to the community!" -**Rianna Bernal**

"DO NOT MOVE THE HORSES

All the locals love having the animals here. We love walking down to the river through the horses who come up to say hello.

Where else do kids in the city have such access to animals and such a wonderful, open space

We are losing too many green spaces in Sydney and this is one of the best. Leave it for the people.

This was left as crown land for the people. It was left for the community to enjoy. Leave it that way!!!!" -

Livia McRobert

"I have 7 grandchildren which i regularly take to enjoy seeing horses that otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience" - **Anonymous**

"I believe Yaralla is a beautiful place and my family goes bike riding there all the time. It is in a beautiful location and it's the horses homes. Please be considerate of these beautiful and majestic creatures and the locals who love spending time there." - **Ashley McSpadden**

"A little bit of countryside in the city is a necessity. I've spent many hours here." - **Catherine Evans**

"The horses must be allowed to stay. They bring a bit of country to an overcrowded city." - **Brett Geary**

"My friends and myself often go for walks through this lovely estate. It always brings such tranquility as we chat and observe the beautiful nature that surrounds the grounds. It is also lovely to see the horses and their owners taking care of their precious animals. seeing the horses within this vacinty area in the Sydney metropolitan parks is always such a pleasure to walk through and it always brings thoughts how it was established once upon a time. There is also a lovely spot, just to sit and look at the water view - so peaceful and such great nature to enjoy your tranquility and take time out in a relaxing atomsphere." -

Beate Ellen Favorito

"I would like the horses to stay at yaralla, I think they contribute a great deal to the community of concord." - **Benjamin Middleton**

"I have always believed that this site was left to the community. We take daily walks to this site just to visit the horses and this beautiful and historic site. it is literally our backyard. What right has anyone to stop the activities that have shaped this site or deny its use to the public without any consultation" - **Yolla Jackson**

"our children need to understand and appreciate the history of this area, leaving the horses as they are provides an insight to families and the nature around them. Do we really need to so more development....." – **Anonymous**

"It is a beautiful area as long as I can remember when growing up as a kid mum and dad used to take down and visit the horses. It is lovely to have nature of this kind so close to the city and would be a shame to have this vanished for the sake of developed and money making projects." - **Maryann Verdugo**

"Disgraceful leave our Horses and Heritage Alone" - **Maria Vecchio**

"We strongly support the petition And will actively participate in the Support of the horses staying at yaralla. They are the reason we bought in Iandra Street 6 years ago." - **Catherine Whitting**

"when driving my interstate friends around concord passing the horses grazing on the yaralla paddocks they comment on how picturesque it is to see this sight within a city" - **Raymond McNeilly**

"We love to take our grandchildren to visit the horses and we also love to walk our 2 dogs through the Estate. We also take our visitors for a walk to show them the Estate" - **Lorraine McDougall**

"I love the horses. people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities come to escape the rush of city living" - **kat DLux**

"Yaralla Estate is for the community and the horses should stay" - **Elizabeth Collins**

"Keep this area forever green and public and available for horses and walkers and families and bike riders" - **Inez Maurer**

"One of the best things about living around Concord is driving past the horses. It reminds us about the free open spaces with nature combined. We don't need to be like all the other suburbs. It is unique for an inner suburban area." – **Anonymous**

"The horses at Yaralla Estate are an important part of Concord history and bring a feeling of country to the city - great for young and old." - **Peta Torkington**

"my four children have enjoyed interacting with these horses for over 15 years. I cannot see why they have to be removed from Concord, hope it's not the start of some greater plan by the govt to redevelop the area. It's a little bit of the country in the city. I have even taken people from overseas to see the horses and they cannot believe that they are there in such an otherwise urban environment" – **Anonymous**

"The presence of the horses are treasured by my family and everyone I know in the area" - **Edward Leschke**

"My 2 kids are always so enthralled by the horses at Yaralla. The tree-lined Drive is one of our favourite walks as a family, with the horses on either side. Don't take that away from us!" - **Amber Chandler**

"It is beautiful to drive out here to see the horses in the paddocks. This little bit of country living so close to the city makes you forget the hustle & bustle of life & the dense buildings we are now surrounded by day to day. To take the horses out, takes away humanity bit by bit it's already being taken from us now. The horses have been there for years, don't take them away now!!" - **Kass Quaid**

"Please don't deprive us of the unique beauty of these magnificent creatures in such a truly beautiful environment. Yaralla allows all of us, and especially our children, the amazing opportunity to experience a small but glorious taste of rural life amidst a distinctly urban suburb. Yaralla is an oasis for many, myself included, and it is somewhere that my children have ALWAYS loved to visit - and still do! The horses form an integral part of this most precious refuge, and are loved by SO many - both within the area and beyond! Please DO NOT destroy this last vestige of beauty by removing these magnificent animals from Yaralla! Please allow all of us to continue to enjoy such a remarkably special place and allow future generations the same unique opportunity in an ever-changing urban landscape!" - **Lydia Grozdanovic**

"It's a little bit of country in the city suburbs, My children have not patted the horses on the grounds. Used to make them smile, a precious little thing in a child's life." - **Lauraene Edmundson**

"I absolutely oppose the removal of the horses at Yaralla. My family walk in this area daily, when we have guests we walk there to show them the horses it is incredibly special having horses in the city. I can't imagine why consideration would be given to changing this unique, beautiful area. I am passionately against any change to Yaralla." - **Jennifer Mcgrigor**

"I have spent many happy times introducing my kids to these very horses. The city needs pockets like this not just urban sprawl" – **Anonymous**

"What makes a city special are the historic buildings, parks and land sitting side by side with the new. To take away such a one of a kind experience of horses roaming freely and being welcomed by the community would take away something that makes Concord a really special suburb." - **Georgina Jurcevic**

"Keep the horses, the kids love to go and look at them!" - **Kate Mumford**

*"My family and I have lived in the street that leads to Yaralla Estate for 19 years. We've enjoyed the public access to the grounds of Yaralla and the foreshore access it gives us to Majors Bay. Our kids grew up walking our dogs and riding their bikes in this beautiful open space. The first contact they had with a horse was at Yaralla. This unique piece of 'country life' is a part of our local history. It must be preserved as Dame Edith Walker intended it to be. The Estate is for all to enjoy the feeling of being on a country property, right in the middle of Sydney. With a farm comes horses, and I for one would be mortified, if to look onto those paddocks along Nullawarra and not see the farm that is "Yaralla Estate" – **Anonymous***

"I love the horses it's like living in the country but it's the city" - **Jayne Fischbeck**

"I grew up seeing those horses in the paddocks at Yaralla and agree that the original mandate should be upheld" - **Dee White**

"My nephews LOVE the horses and we love the space of such beauty!" - **majella bendeich**

"I regularly walk there with my two boys, aged 11 months and 2 1/2 years. They love the free space, the ponies and horses, and yes there is no other place like it. It is just down the end of my street and it is beautiful in the morning (we walk that way every day). Please don't take this valuable space away, for the horses sake and ours!" - **Louise Calleja**

"Please don't remove these horses from Concord. It is a little bit of country close to the city." – **Deborah Davis**

"That property along with its horses is one of the Special parts of Concord that make it unique. Generally I embrace change for the better but this proposal is not a good idea." - **Paul Falzon**

"During weekends and holiday times I take my kids to pad and feed the horses. Horses owners are always friendly. Please keep them there" - **Manuel de Leon**

"This rare and magnificent horse precinct belongs to all Australians as part of a national heritage estate. It must remain in tact and available to all citizens. The horses's paddock belong are especially precious to the local community and must not be sold off to vested monied interests." -

Therese Kutis

"yaralla shouldn't be touched and the horses should remain." - **Roz Miller**

"Please let the horses stay at Yaralla. They are beautiful and encourage people to walk through the estate which keeps them fit and the horses add an ambience to our lovely suburb. Horses stress when moved to new surroundings, it's their home. Please let them stay." - **Anna Laios**

"The horses are representative of the heritage of the Yaralla estate, and the manner in which the Walker family wanted it preserved for the community. The entire estate is a rare and important historical site in Sydney, and the horses and stables are part of this." - **Erin Noordeloos**

"I was born and grew up in concord and I visited the horses many times when I was younger now I am lucky enough to live on a farm with horses but when I go to Sydney I still love driving past the horses and I know many families with young kids that visit it as well." - **Anonymous**

"Please do not destroy one of the special places that make the inner west what it is. Leave the horses at Yaralla!" - **KERRY WARNER**

"What a lovely chance for people to have horses close to the city, both to own & to look at. Keep the green space!" - **Suzy Roe**

"Kids need more in life then TV, Internet and Computer games. Horses are a responsibility and respect. It keeps them occupied and focused so hopefully they stay away from other influences and trouble." - **Darren Reedy**

"We need to keep the horses there for our children and there children just like there is heritage listed homes well that's the horses home don't take away a part of history." - **Cristina Petruzzella**

"Having somewhere to interact with horses is extremely beneficial to all children , in particular those in cities ,where the opportunity is rare." - **pam peters**

"Please don't kick the horses out of this important area." - **Jess Maney**

*"The Yaralla Estate is the one place that children can be taken to enjoy the horses..!
Seriously, which overpaid, underworking politician came up with such a stupid idea?
Leave the Horse, Leave the Nature, and leave our Suburb ALONE....!!!!!!"* - **Teresa Zappia**

"Concord is the park land suburb and horses can share they pose no impact but peaceful for anyone to share..... Priceless....!!" - **ross patamia**

"People won't stop till all the beautiful things in this country are gone! These grounds are historic to the people of conord and broader community the horses belong there and many families enjoy this relaxing piece of country within a busy city and it gives the younger ones the opportunity to see the beauty of this that they wouldn't normally see in a city setting. No wonder people are so depressed these days. I love to take my daughter there and it would be spoiled without the horses." - **kelly caldwell**

"There have been horses kept in the area since I was a kid riding in the area over 50 years ago leave a little bit of history in place" - **Suzie MacDougall**

"For a child or an adult to not have the experience of meeting a horse . In the environment of this property would be taking away one of the best experiences there is. Its well know a horse can calm those who are distressed and teach those who have been irresponsible to be responsible" - **Laura McCausland**

"Would hate to lose this unique attraction to a suburban area, the only place around here you can feel like you step back in time with horses and a great estate." - **Daniel Morrissey**

"I've visited here and a friend is a long-term agistee at the property. It's a rare gem of a place where people can see some open space and horses in a very urban environment - and valuable simply for that reason. How many places can you take the kids for a walk to the park and see horses being ridden in inner Sydney? Not every one is a horse lover - but to have something like that visible to kids is a wonderful thing in the age of internet and video games." - **Jill McLean**

"It would be a great pity to lose the chance for children to enjoy the horses in a city, as there is often little opportunity for them to do so otherwise." - **Catherine Shanley**

"For local and other inner west residents who visit the area for recreational activities, the horses who call Yaralla home are a much valued part of the experience of walks in the grounds. It is important for city dwellers without pets to experience natural and casual engagements with animals of all kinds. The Yaralla horses make an important contribution to the fabric of city and suburban life, helping build a sense of community and social cohesion from the casual conversations with the horse owners and increasing awareness and knowledge of how to safely interact with horses. Local and state governments actively support this kind of experience, for example through city farms and leash-free areas for dogs. Allowing the horses to stay at Yaralla also furthers the State Government's aim of increased participation in recreational activity, by encouraging more people to walk through the grounds." - **Jennifer Berryman**

"SAVE THE HORSES NOW

I have lived In this area for many years

I go running along the pathway of yaralla

I love seeing the horses with their owners and I love taking my friends down for a picnic. SAVE THE HORSES AND YARALLA NOW." - **nicholas fiocco**

"I grew up in Concord West; I wasn't allowed to have a horse but spent many afternoons here "livin' the dream" and learning to ride. Future kids in the area deserve to experience the same joy I did!" - **Mary O'Riley**

"Please don't get rid of the horses, that would be a real loss for the community" - **Lauren Castle**

"The area at the Yaralla Estate belongs to the Horses, people and pets. We all share the beauty of this place and are forever thankful to Eadith Walker for granting us access.

This Heritage Estate has to remain accessible to the community and a home for the horses." - **Tania Romano**

"Since I was a child I have loved this peaceful and tranquil area, so beautiful and just a lovely escape. I will be shattered, as will many others, if this was to change." - **Anonymous**

"I spent half of my childhood at the Yaralla Estate, riding bikes and visiting the horses. My friends and I called Yaralla 'The Horsey Park'. It wouldn't be the horsey park without the horses! These horses are part of what makes Yaralla even more special. We don't want any new developments. Leave the horses where they are!" - **Merinda Puz**

"Save the horses and all my childhood memories!" - **Ashlee Drew**

"Please don't get rid of the horses. When i was younger, i loved the horses and always went there to feed/pet them. I would really like for it to continue for future children who love horses." – **Anonymous**

"Such beauty shouldn't be tainted!! It's the best part of our suburban area, horses & all." - **Kaitlin Carter**

"I live close to the horses, and have lived here almost my whole life. It is the best thing about concord" - **Maddy Castle**

"What a charmless, soulless place this world would be without the beauty of encountering unexpected gems like the horses at Yaralla. I can't think of a single other reason to be removing them except someone stands to make an obscene amount of money from developing it." - **Carolyn Diamond**

"The visits to the horses formed an important part and visits to the grounds formed a large part of my childhood. Everyone who grew up in concord west has had an experience there." - **David Wilson**

"My children and I have spent time at Yaralla enjoying watching the horses and enjoying the atmosphere. Even driving by each day going to work gives me a feeling of tranquility. I believe the estate is bequeathed to the people of NSW and an oasis like this near the city should be preserved, horses and all." - **Noel Mancuso**

"We don't want to lose the country feel in Concord West. Where else so close to the city can you see horses roaming around.The country feeling is just great when driving Towards the hospital" - **Kathleen Bruce**

"My children adore these animals, please don't move them on, there is nothing else like it nearby!" - **Karen Chestney**

"Yaralla and it's horse community is a very important part of Concord's history and current profile- Every day it brings joy, and health benefits to so many people young and old across Sydney. It would be such a shame for it to all end." – **Bianca Kinnear**

"Horses have been at Yaralla for as long as I can remember. Why are the owners of the horses now , after so many years , being asked to leave ?" - **Daniel Tynan**

"These horses are an important aspect to the concord community and should NOT be taken away." - **Natalie Antoniou**

"When driving my sister to and from cancer treatment at concord hospital. seeing the horses on the way home was always a comforting and peaceful end to a very painful and emotional day" - **Jacqueline Cowled**

"I have watched these horses for many years and have thought how wonderful it was to see in an inner suburb, what can the reason behind removing them? I find it all very sad." - **Georgina Howard**

"I grew up visiting friends horses at concord and it would be a real shame to change this beautiful part of concords history." - **Jane marshall**

"the horses at yaralla are a unique part of concord,its our little piece of the country in our hectic city.Politicians stop being donkeys." - **margaret molloy**

"Please do not remove the horses from Yaralla. My children spent many hours watching them and feeding them carrots all within the inner west. This should not happen and is in line with the original use of the estate. Why remove the horses unless government has a plan to sell off the estate which is against the terms of the bequest made by the original owner" - **Helen Sutton**

"As an ex-Concord resident now residing in Canada - it would be a great shame if the lovely horses were not at Yaralla Estate when i visit!" - **Anonymous**

"It would be a horrible thing if this was to happen. I have been taking my kids to see the horses there for many years. It is one of the only places in the area to see horses. I grew up being able to enjoy these horses and the property they are on. I feel that councils should listen to the people for a change. DAME EDITH WALKER MUST STAY" - **Rebecca McLean**

"How ridiculous to order these horses out of the area. It is part, a big part of what makes Concord unique! We have enough parks and enough homes. Sounds like someone in council is trying to justify their job and look busy." - **David Gillett**

"We love the tranquility of the horses on the beautiful grounds of Yaralla Estate. A place to go and enjoy the peaceful surroundings away from the everyday hustle. A joy for the children!" - **Carmen Pedrazzoli**

"Horses rule, and they should'nt be moved , i love going to the horses petting the horses and watching them run majestically through the grass , please don't destroy the horses habitat or move them" - **Chris Kok**

"Please keep the horses! I travel from five dock to see them every week!" - **Alexandra Devlin**

"This estate and visiting the horses as a child is one of the treasured memories I have of growing up in Concord. Why take something special like this out of such a special suburb? It's one of the best spots in the suburb and it's been these horses home for years... It'd be a shame to want to take that away?" - **Brittany Hindmarsh**

"This is a great little local service. Don 't make everything about money and bureaucracy. Let the horses remain there as they have been for decades and as Dame Edith Walker would have wanted." - **Jacqueline Wall**

"It gives me and my family great joy to visit the horses. It would be such a shame to lose such a tranquil place." - **Leesa De Freitas**

"We are very fortunante to have this little taste of the countryside in what is fast becoming an over-built area. The horses have been part of Concord area for many years and I have personally enjoyed admiring them and taking my children for walks to see them as they grew up in the area.

It will obvioulsy cause great distress and inconvenience to the horses and their owners if they are made to relocate them as there is obviously no place like this for some distance from Concord." -wendy brown

"This place is so great. We take walks around there every week. Dont take the horses away my 2 year old loves the horses." - **Michael Cooper**

"I often drive past and show my young children the horses at that estate. It provides a sense of tranquility and is something that children living in the Sydney inner suburbs rarely get to see. It would be a great shame to see them go." - **Rochelle Ziino**

"This estate is unique and beautiful with horses.the community benefits greatly. Please don't take this away. I don't own a horse, but I love walking down the drive to see them, it's like a country estate still even though it is in the inner west." - **Julie Piesse**

"We regularly use the park for walking, exercising and enjoy the relaxed, friendly environment. The horses are very much part of it! Our children, grandchildren also enjoy the benefit of this beautiful park, which was left for the Concord residents by the original owner Dame Edith Walker. We hope that there will be no change taking the horses away and keep this unique park as it is for our future generation. Thank you for your consideration and understanding regarding the park's future." - **Martha Roka**

"The presence of horses enhances community life in so many ways. Even if you don't ride, just seeing them brings smiles and conversation. This is especially important in an urban area. Horses have been part of the Australian way for decades and give pleasure and activity to an enormous range of age groups, from 6 to 80+ Once gone they will never return. Think very very carefully and broadly on your decision. " - **Melissa Guest**

"Children have less access to animals in the city, please let these horses stay" - **Amanda Kettlestring**

"do not move these horses out. they are not a health issue they are needed in this community" - **Ruth Davey**

"Please don't do this....how do city kids learn about horses if they aren't there? The horses don't hurt anyone." - **Sam Merritt**

"I grew up down the road from this beautiful place. The horses are part of what makes this so special in urban Sydney - it's so rare. Please don't ruin it!" - **Briony Stevenson**

"Having horses at Yaralla is a fantastic resource, not only for horse owners, but for the whole community. An asset for a community that prides itself on it's parklands, Yaralla estate should remain so that future generations can enjoy visiting the horses as well." - **Nick Boerma**

"Will horses have be seen in museums next?! Don't you know how they help people with disabilities? WHY should they move?!!" - **Jan Tribe**

"It would be a great loss to the community if this was to go ahead." - **Cara Loren**

"I remember there always being horses at Yaralla, especially from a young age - they were always a something special to keep an eye out for!" - **Michelle Roper**

"Do not take these horses away from us! We bring our kids there to see them!" – **Anonymous**

"Our kids have been to see the horses on multiple occasions. It is a great opportunity for Children to see and interact with horses." - **Sharon Morrison**

"WE HAVE FAMILY IN THE AREA AND MY SON LOVES TO SEE THE HORSES WHEN WE COME DOWN, MY MUM DID THIS WITH ME AND IM NOW DOING THIS WITH MY SON" - **SHELLEY THOMPSON**

"I have grown up visiting the horse driveway with my mum and friends and it would be a shame to lose it." - **Timothy Sheridan**

"It's one of the highlights of the Concord Community. My kids love walking past the horses." - **Marisa Wallace**

"Was it not possible to keep horses in the city any more? They are a reminder of our rural past, and bring good health and well being to all who come into contact with them. More contact with animals means less depression which is less cost to the public. Win win!" **tracey fraser-swatton**

"We brought our children up in that area and it was so wonderful for them to visit the horses. Later I walked with my girlfriends there 3 mornings a week. What a wonderful asset it is to inner west living." - **Kerry May**

"This place is absolutely beautiful and means a great deal to not only the people of Concord but the wider community of Sydney who come here to enjoy the horses and peacefulness" - **Ashleigh Terry**

"They provide invaluable amounts of entertainment for the community. This is unfair to the people and to the horses. Consider the repercussions of your actions." - **Anonymous**

"A huge part of Concord's history and a great place to visit. A juxtaposition to the growing number of apartment buildings and modern houses which allows it to look more suburban rather than city like. Don't destroy it and don't send the horses away." - **Liz Kilazoglou**

"This place in Concord is so beautiful, untouched and such a rarity to see in suburbs today. Yaralla state should be kept as it is with its horses. It's something Concord should be proud of and should stay that way." - **Xiao Yuan Ma**

"City children need the availability of animals of all kinds to learn from and to form friendships with, please don't take these horses away from the children or the adults of the community in which they live." - **Kay Jones**

"Save the horses. Save the community. And save this rare piece of mid-city sanctuary" - **Arabella Bradley**

"I have grown up in Concord all my life and the horses have always been a part of it. Where will this end? They have caused nothing but happiness for myself and my family for many years. To get rid of them would be a huge mistake" - **Alana Colombo**

"The removal of horses from this unique setting would be a great loss to the community- the effects would be not only extremely detrimental to the horse owners and local residents, but the character of the area itself" - **Sylvia Bozym**

"I have visited this beautiful site and also saw some lovely horses while I was there. It would be such a tragedy to have these gorgeous horses removed." - **Sandra Brock**

"These horses are integral to the well-being of the residents at Thomas Walker Hospital, Rivendell, who view the horses as 'friends', also it is one of the major open spaces in the area that can be used by residents. The space if kept clean, the horses manicure the lawns and all are happy - Maybe this move is about re-development. If so EVERYONE should fight this." - **Sandra SUE**

"I also have horses within the city confines and my experience is that the general community love the opportunity to meet and touch horses in their natural environment and have somewhere to walk with grandchildren and dogs to see some open space. Horses have played a huge part in human history - and seeing them at rest grazing and relating with humans in a general way is a small glimpse back into that past - riding at riding schools - visiting the races or competitions or Equitana is specialized and doesn't have the same appeal to those who just want to spend a few personal moments saying Hi to a strange and wonderful creature." - **Susan Johnson**

"Enjoy the horses and the touch of country that they bring to Concord !!" - **janelle murray**

"I am proud to have the uniqueness of Yarall Estate complete with horses in the paddocks in my local area of Canada Bay. The horses bring so much pleasure to the community, they must stay." - **Helen Erken**

"children love them, it's not as if there is a plethora of places for inner city children to react with animals" - **rae morris**

"The horses at Yarrala are fantastic! They add an old world charm to the inner west, and it is a fantastic experience for children to be able to get up close with animals they would otherwise never see in the city."
- **Kate Stevis**

"This is a unique location that is enjoyed by many people across Concord. It is part of the local fabric with a very rich and special history. A little bit of paradise in the inner west - can it just be left as it is PLEASE?"
- **Fiona Brandt**

"My grand daughter, 6 months of age was recently introduced to the beautiful horses at Concord Feeding them, with her mothers help, some grass. She was mesmerised by them. They have been there for as long as I can remember. What a refreshing sight it has been for me as I have driven to and from Concord Hospital for various reasons. What memories there are for me, whether it has been bringing my aged mother home or taking my son back to rehab. When my children were young they always looked out for the horses. To this day I am refreshed to see them there." - **Anonymous**

"Love to drive past the horses every to and work" - **Mark Pendergast**

"This land should be maintained as an open area where the horse Agistment is allowed. It gives an inner city suburb a little of that country feel. What are the reasons given for moving them off?" - **Debra Smith**

"The Yaralla Estate is a beautiful place to visit in Concord. People go to visit the horses as well as find out about the history from the place. We need to keep and maintain the history of Yaralla." - **Joanne Morris**

"These horses are iconic to the area and I have loved to see them whilst visiting friends in the local area for many years. Leave them be." - **Karen Tappenden**

"We love Yaralla as it is. Keep the horses!" - **Susan Bennett**

"Concord will not be the same if the horses are kicked out." - **Kelsey Bennett**

"the horses are part of this land for decades children visit them regularly , its good to see these horses in the area ." - **TERESITA RYMAN**

"I used to live in the area and delighted in the fact that these beautiful fields and horses were on my doorstep. It would be too sad to see them go." - **Julie Smyth**

"I grew up in the Concord area, and shared the fondest memories with my family at Yaralla. Although we never owned a horse there, we loved watching them and having the freedom to stroll in its grounds. It would be a disservice to community to take such a unique strip of nature away from the Concord area, as there is not a place like it so close to home." - **Andrea Limbo**

"these horse are a benefit to the community and a reminder that there can be a small piece of the country in the middle of a concrete jungle. parents and grandparents can bring small children down to experience how wonderful these animals are at no cost to them, a wonderful thing for a small child" - **joanne morgan**

"It's so important for city children to have this opportunity to interact with horses in a beautiful, peaceful, green environment. Don't deprive them of this." - **Sanja Herrmann**

"Im disgusted that they could ever think on removing these beautiful animals from there.... They are enjoyed by both young and old" - **Liliana Nardo**

"As recent newcomers to the area I was delighted today to 'discover' the treasure that is the yarralla estate foreshore trail (kokoda trail), and absolutely thrilled to find paddocks and horses on the north western shore.

My 18 month old son fed his first horse today, he was in awe of the big friendly horse that stood next to the fence.

I feel the horses and paddocks give the area and added uniqueness and should remain part of the area." - **Jason Donnellan**