

# **SHOWGROUND STATION PRECINCT PROPOSAL**

## **Cattle Committee of the Castle Hill Show Society**

### **Submission**

The Cattle Section is an important part of the Castle Hill Show. The main reason for continuing this section is to ensure Sydney School Students have the opportunity to show school animals, enter parader's competitions and enter Young Judges Competitions for beef and dairy cattle. The winners from these events qualify to enter the State Finals at the Royal Easter Show representing the Cumberland Area.

The Show provides an excellent opportunity for the City to meet the Country. Also for school students within the Sydney Metropolitan area to undertake agricultural activities and to show their cattle.

The school steers exhibited at the Castle Hill Show all go on to the Sydney Royal Show. Previous School champion steers at Castle Hill Show have won Champion School steers at the Royal. In addition, student competitors have successfully judged Cattle at Castle Hill, gone on to win at the State Final at the Easter Show and then competed at the Nationals and placed in the top three candidates on a number of occasions. Recent Castle Hill shows have exhibited over one hundred head of beef cattle. An average of one hundred and forty school students have competed in the Parader's Competition over the last ten years.

The existing infrastructure on the Showground provides undercover facilities for over one hundred head of cattle and tie-ups for another fifty head. Three tiered grass judging rings form an important part of the existing open space on the Showground. The preliminary concept plan for the Showground has eliminated this area. It is recommended that open space should be maintained for the Show and other events and also for passive use by the local community as exists at the moment.

The Cattle Committee values its education program of promoting excellence in cattle competition, parading and junior judging competitions. This is achieved through a continuum of learning beginning at the primary school age competitors, through to secondary school, and tertiary aged students. Teachers have reported that as a consequence of these programs, there has been an uptake of careers in the agricultural sector by many of their past students.

The above education program supports Food and Agriculture week as announced in School Biz (NSW Department of Education magazine distributed in DEC 2015 to all Department of Education School Principals Statewide-approximately 4,500 in number). The Cattle committee believes the Castle Hill Show is critical in enabling teachers to deliver this initiative in the greater western Sydney area.

Teachers engage in pre- and post-work in the classroom to support the learning experiences which occur at the Castle Hill Show. The educational importance of the Castle Hill Show is evidenced by the increasing number of schools entering the show, i.e. from 3 schools in 1972 to 18 schools in 2015. This is due to the development of curriculum-linked resources in relation to showing steers at the Castle Hill Show.

Many teachers use the Castle Hill Show (Group 4 final) as a training ground for students to prepare cattle for the Sydney Royal Easter Show State finals a few weeks later.

Education in the Castle Hill show program is in part addressing the core mandate to assist Australian agriculture to remain profitable and sustainable by training the future agricultural leaders of tomorrow.

Due to the changing demography of metropolitan Sydney, it is critical that the Castle Hill Show be a conduit in the learning experiences of students, competitors and the general public in being aware of the importance of the cattle industry to the Australian diet.

### **Summary**

- The Showground open space and infrastructure should be retained to allow the annual show to continue;
- In respect to the Cattle Section, it is essential that the open space be maintained to allow exhibition of cattle;
- The future infrastructure upgrades should allow for housing of animals as currently exists, and
- The Showground's existence is paramount to the continuation of the education program in agricultural fields for Metropolitan students.