

**Centennial Park Residents' Association response to questions on notice from NSW
Parliament Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust**

**A Transfer of funds between associated trusts and how should financial needs of
respective trusts be determined?**

Current Act and operation of the Act re GSP Trust Special Deposits Fund

Pursuant to s 44 of the GSP Act (**the Act**), all money received by or on account of the Trust, is to be paid into the GSP Trust Special Deposits Fund (**the Fund**), with s 45 providing that amounts required to meet expenditure incurred by the Trust in the exercise of its functions may be paid from the Fund.

Sections 44(3) and (4) of the Act provide that money received by an associated Trust is to be paid into a separate account within the Fund for the associated Trust, with money received by the Trust as a result of a lease granted over land in the Entertainment Quarter to be paid into the separate account within the Fund established for the Entertainment Quarter.

Under s 46(4)(b) of the Act, should the Trust propose to allocate from a separate account to an associated Trust or park, then the community trustee board for that park must be given written notice of the proposal to allocate money in that way and if the community trustee board has within 14 days of receiving this notice, objected to allocation of the money in that way, then under section 46(5) of the Act, the Trust must not allocate the money in that way.

There has been no transparency in this regard, with the Centennial Park & Moore Park Community Trustee Board not having received any written notice of any proposal to allocate any money to another trust or park.

How financial needs of respective trusts should be determined?

We consider the GSP, in consultation with the community trustee boards and in accordance with the current objects set out in s 3 of the Act, should transparently determine the financial needs of the respective trusts. Once the financial needs have been determined, we consider that the NSW Government has an obligation to fund the parks both for capital works and maintenance of the parks. Like schools and health, in an increasingly dense Sydney, parks are essential infrastructure. We do not consider funds raised within Centennial Park and Moore Park should be transferred to other parks and the Government should not in determining the current EQ tender, consider the EQ site as a cash cow. The only transfer of funds should be from the GSP off park business hubs, as has been established at Western Sydney Parklands.

B What changes to the Act to improve the operation of the Community

Trustee Boards (CTBs)

- i) Election of chairperson - CTBs should elect their own chairperson, rather than the chairperson being appointed by GSP.
- ii) Meeting times of CTBs should be increased so that the CTBs play the role and functions envisaged by s 39 of the Act – suggest every 6 weeks or even bimonthly (currently 4 times per year) and two hours in length (currently 1.5 hours). This would result in CTBs meeting for 12 or 16 hours per year rather than the current 6 hours per year.
- iii) CTB's should set their own agendas in consultation with the GSP.
- iv) First nations representation with support for such representative including transport and other assistance is essential.
- v) Change of roles and information flow between GST and CTBs. Currently the GSP briefs the CTBs with information which the GSP then expects the CTBs to disseminate to the community. CTB members usually have longstanding and deep knowledge of their parks and their particular heritage, which can assist and guide the GSP in the GSP management, maintenance, priorities and development of the parks. The role of the CTBs should be central to the decision making of the GSP, rather than subsequent to the decision making, as is currently the case. The functions of the CTBs are set out at paragraph 39 of the current Act [Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 No 9 - NSW Legislation](#), however the GST has not taken advice about the proposed Nature Discovery Centre or the tender of EQ with the CTB being informed rather than consulted.
- vi) CTB meetings should be open to the public, subject to commercial in confidence discussions.
- vii) Full financial information, including the cost of maintenance and new developments, the receipts and income received, should be provided to CTBs so that the CTBs can:
 - provide advice and assistance to the Trust in the development and review of the plan of management for the relevant parkland and approve the plan of management for the relevant parkland (see of s 39(a)) [Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 No 9 - NSW Legislation](#)
 - provide advice to the Trust about new or modified service and facilities for the relevant parkland, including priorities for investment (s 39(b)) [Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 No 9 - NSW Legislation](#)

In the absence of such information, CTB's are unable to fulfill their legislative obligations, as required by ss 39(a) and (b) of the Act.

viii) Information should be provided to the CTBs so that the CTBs can function as a consultative body, as required by s 39(d)(ii) of the Act, as to matters of local relevance to the relevant parkland including the business, leasing and other activities carried out on or to be carried on the relevant parkland [Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 No 9 - NSW Legislation](#). In this regard we note the GSP should be transparent with the Centennial Park & Moore Park CTB as to the information it, as the lessor of the EQ site, has as to the current tender and potential long-term leasing of the EQ site within the Centennial Park & Moore Park parklands.

Please contact Ross Nicholas [REDACTED] to clarify any aspect of the above.