

**Submission
No 4**

REVIEW OF THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST ACT 2022

Name: Mr Alan Bottle

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ALAN BOTTLE

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To
Committee Reviewing the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act

The establishment of the GSPT Act was with a 50 Year Government Vision for Parklands and Open Spaces and within the first two years of operation this Act is Non-compliant, with PART 5 Finance not meeting the requirements of the GSPT Act.

GSPT is not recording finances according to the Act nor preparing Annual Financial Reports but combining some information relating to GSPT in the Annual Financial Reports of Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, Parramatta Park Trust and Western Sydney Parklands Trust.

This is providing unnecessary information and confusion to parts and sections of the other Parklands Annual Financial Reports and should not be continued for the next 48 odd years.

Now is the time to make the GSPT Act compliant or re-evaluated.

My thinking supporting my comments:
Applicable information taken from the GSPT Act

The Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 No9 details
Part 5 FINANCE (please read for details)
Clause 43. -Greater Sydney Parkland Trust Special Deposit Fund
Clause 44. - Payments into Fund
Clause 45. - Payments from Fund

Supported by information taken from the Explanatory Notes for the GSPT Act
"Clause 40 establishes a Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Fund (the FUND) in the Special Deposit Account, within the Fund, there is to be a separate account for each associated Trust and each other park owned or managed by the Trust."

This Part of the Act has not been enforced and operational and thus is non-compliant.
This is supporting my concerns.

Additional re-enforcing information for my concerns are:
Further misleading comments in the Annual Financial Reports of the other Trusts, referencing Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022.

Parramatta Park Trust 30 June 2023
Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust 30 June 2023
Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust 30 June 2024
Western Sydney Parklands Trust 30 June 23
Western Sydney Parklands Trust 30 June 24

All state the following quotation.

“Whilst GSPT has significant influence over the underlying Trusts and would disclose this in **ITS** Financial Statements, GSPT would not apply equity accounting as it has no equity interest in the underlying Trust’s.”

My comment

There is no Financial Report for GSPT apart from quoting an Annual Revenue Figure.

If all the other Parklands Trust Acts are still fully operational should the GSPT Act exist in its existing format.

My three other points of concern are

Firstly, Built Heritage should be an inclusion in the Heritage Object see 3 Object (c) “To ensure the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage valued of the parklands estate and protection of the environment within the parklands estate.”

My comment:

The GSPT Act makes no mention of Built Heritage and considering Parramatta Park, Callan Park and Fernhill Estate have Built Heritage therefore Built Heritage must be included in 3 Object (c).

Secondly, Community Trustee Boards.

My comment:

In neither the GSPT Act – Division 2 Community Trustee Boards and the Consultation and Engagement Framework 2023, there is no established direct communication Framework between the Community Trustee Boards and the general public community members “to stay informed about current visitor and local community issues relating to the relevant parkland and provide advice to the Board about the issue.”

A Consultation and Engagement Framework must be established.

There is a Framework between GSPT and the CTB but no direct Framework between the general public and the CTB of each Parkland.

Thirdly, Business Hubs

Although the GSPT Act does not include Business Hubs in the Objects, GSPT has control input through the WSPT Act. Should an object be included in the GSPT Act?

My thinking

The benefit of Business Hubs is leasing income goes straight back into the parkland to maintain and improve the parkland. As noted, WSPT has quoted exact figurework for Capital Investment, Jobs Created and Economic Activity. In establishing this figurework the leasing revenue would have been known but the leasing revenue has not been quoted. Why not? (See WSP- Parkland Business Hubs)

Sydney population growth and increased demand and supply of housing will generate a need for more Parklands and Open Spaces in the future. The GSPT should limit the area Business Hubs take from the Parkland’s land holdings.

Further noted, Off -Park Business Hubs are not covered by any of the Parklands Trust Acts.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to make a submission on whether the policy objectives of the Greater Sydney Parkland Trust Act are valid, and whether its terms are appropriate for securing its objectives.

Regards,
Alan Bottle.