

**Submission  
No 6**

## **REVIEW OF THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST ACT 2022**

**Name:** Mr Wayne Olling

**Date Received:** 20 January 2025

# Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust

## Review of GSPT Act

### Submission of Wayne Olling

20 January 2025

#### **A Critical Necessity**

It is essential that the Review rejects any proposal to undermine or alter, in any way, the following clauses in the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act:

#### ***Part 3 Functions of Trust***

##### ***Division 1 General functions***

##### ***15 Functions—generally***

(1) *The Trust has the following functions—*

(a) *to conserve, restore, enhance and ensure no reduction in the extent of the net existing natural environment of the parklands estate,*

##### ***Division 2 Functions about land***

##### ***21 Leases, licences and easements***

(1) *The Trust may grant a lease, licence or easement over land within the GSPT estate if the lease, licence or easement—*

(a) *is consistent with the objects of this Act, and*

(b) *will not reduce the extent of the net existing natural environment of the GSPT estate.*

## **Background**

The largest extent of land holding and natural environment falling within the responsibility of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust is what has been called Western Sydney Parklands. Nonetheless, the natural environment of other parklands sitting within the responsibility of the Trust is also as important.

As Greater Sydney is targeted for development to accommodate a philosophy of "populate or perish" the risk of extinguishing the natural heritage of viable populations of the flora and fauna of that area is exacerbated.

The replacement of soil, vegetation and fauna by bitumen, brick, concrete and other manufactured substances is detrimental to the human condition. The long term health of humanity, physically and mentally, is dependent upon functioning ecosystems surrounding or being readily accessible to humanity.

The vision of former Premier Bob Carr and his ministry at the beginning of the current Millennium was correct when announcing, in December 2004, the concept of Western Sydney Parklands.

Premier Carr said *"It will really be the lungs of western Sydney, open space never to be developed, a great part of our environment,"* and *"By any measure it's going to be one of the world's great parks, it could be in fact the biggest and best urban park in the world."*

Planning Minister Knowles said *"the parkland would be within 20 minutes' drive from any part of Western Sydney, and the 'only growth' that would occur would be that of trees. "That's certainty that people want - where we can prevent land from generations to come, it's protected here,"*.

Sadly, that vision has been under assault in subsequent years. Western Sydney Parklands Trust sought and obtained approval to destroy 3% of the natural environment of Western Sydney Parklands through development leases. That 3% of the natural environment has since been lost.

## **Where to from There?**

The establishment of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act had potential for further losses of the natural environment not only in Western Sydney Parklands but in other well known and loved parklands which would become the responsibility of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust.

However, the aforementioned clauses, included in final negotiations within Parliament before the Passing of the Act, are a check against further losses of the existing natural environment of the GSPT estate.

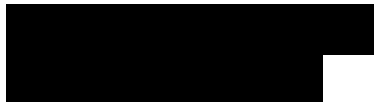
Please, please, Committee members, resist overtures to modify or deplete the effect of the aforementioned clauses of the GSPT Act.

With a likely burgeoning population of Greater Sydney there is a vital need for legislators today to stand firm and ensure the existing natural environment of the GSPT estate remains intact so that future generations can see and appreciate the benefits of our ecosystems.



Wayne Olling

(former resident of Western Sydney for over 60 years but now retired to):



Mob:

Email:

