

**Submission
No 16**

REVIEW OF THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST ACT 2022

Organisation: Australian Garden History Society Sydney & Northern NSW Branch
Date Received: 29 January 2025

I wish to make a submission on behalf of the Sydney branch of the Australian Garden History Society. I welcome this review, and encourage a focus on the following aspects of the Act with regard to its policy objectives and terms::

- a) (re s.21) not extending the terms of leases;
- b) retaining the requirement (s.21) for any lease of 10 years + to go out to open tender;
- c) retaining the requirement (s.21) for any lease of over 25 years to require Ministerial approval.
- d) adding a requirement to s.24 that all plans of management must be informed by prior and current heritage studies and conservation management plans identifying and advising on conservation and management of heritage items in each parkland (which may in some cases be the entire parkland as a landscape: e.g.: Fernhill; Parramatta Park and Callan Park as state or national or world heritage items);
- e) adding a requirement that heritage studies and conservation management plans be reviewed and updated as part of review or update of every plan of management;
- f) ensuring that the Trust's annual reporting (s.24) includes an annual audit of all heritage assets in each parkland; their condition and works undertaken that year to conserve or bolster their values (e.g.: new plantings to replace aging/dying trees; bush regeneration or related actions such as fencing, erosion or pest control);
- g) removing (from s.24(5)) the option of the Minister to approve with changes, a plan of management submitted to them under s/s (4), i.e.: requiring changes recommended be made.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this inquiry.

With kind regards

Stuart Read
Chair, Sydney Branch
Australian Garden History Society