

**Submission
No 42**

REVIEW OF THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST ACT 2022

Organisation: Randwick City Council

Date Received: 13 February 2025



The Hon Peter Primrose MLC
Committee Chair
Joint Select Committee
Greater Sydney Parklands Trust
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

13 February 2025

Ref No:D05613179

Submission via email GreaterSydneyParklandsTrust@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Joint Select Committee Review of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 –
Randwick City Council Submission**

Randwick City Council (RCC) appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Select Committee on the Review of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022. This submission focusses on one of the parklands under the care of the Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP) covered by the Act, being Centennial Park and Moore Park situated within the northern part of the Randwick Local Government Area (LGA).

As an overarching comment, the expansive open spaces of Centennial Park and Moore Park which adjoin the suburbs of Kensington and Randwick are highly valued and serve as vital environmental and recreational assets for our community. Many of our residents overlook and utilise the attractive park landscape for a variety of recreational activities, including formal and organised sport, various forms of active and passive exercise, and for socialising. Our residents seek out the restorative and health benefits of outdoor green spaces from walking and cycling, to picnicking and birdwatching.

Access to well maintained and high-quality parkland is essential for growing communities particularly in light of current State Government housing reforms which will result in higher densities and more households living in apartments, including in areas adjoining the Parklands. The GSP as custodian of the Parklands, has a responsibility to maintain and care for these assets to ensure they meet community needs. This includes enhancing liveability and access, supporting well-being, promoting environmentally sustainable practices, incorporating cultural and educational features including interpretive signage, and contributing to building a sense of community. It is crucial that the GSP prioritises the upkeep and improvement of these green spaces to accommodate the increasing demand and to provide a sanctuary for residents seeking respite from urban density.

Council officers have reviewed the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 (GSPT Act) considering the Outcomes and Strategic Approaches outlined in Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy. The three key outcomes of Council's Strategy together will help achieve Council's vision for our City and these are also considered relevant to planning for the future of Centennial and Moore Park as follows:

1. Open Space grows and changes with the community

The review of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act highlights the need to continually adapt the parklands to better serve the evolving needs of the community. Planning Proposals and major developments that result in population increases around Moore Park and Centennial Park, should be required to consult with the Trust and demonstrate how access to, and the quality of open space is maintained or can be improved. Furthermore, the GSP should consider seeking funding from the Housing and Productivity Contributions Fund to assist with future upgrades to the Parklands to meet the increased demand from increased population densities.

2. Our community is healthy and active

Both the Review of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act and Randwick Council's Open Space strategy prioritise promoting physical and mental well-being through access to high-quality open spaces. The Trust's focus on sustainable environmental practices and community engagement further strengthens this objective. As such, Randwick Council's open space objectives, such as expanding open spaces with community input; promoting a healthy and active lifestyle; and providing equitable opportunities for sport and recreation, should be reinforced by broader regional initiatives that should be included in the Review. This synergy enhances the effectiveness of local strategies and supports a unified vision for open space management across Greater Sydney.

3. Everyone has the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation.

The Review seeks to make parklands more accessible and inclusive, offering diverse recreational opportunities for all community members. This aligns with Randwick Council's goal of expanding and diversifying recreational facilities and ensuring equitable access to open spaces. It is noted that the aims and provisions of the Act as drafted, address the need for the Parklands to meet the diversity of community needs. This should include consideration of equitable pricing of facilities and experiences in the Parklands.

Part 1 Preliminary, 3 Objects

Council supports the seven objectives of the GSPT Act, that include the aspiration for a world-class and ecologically sustainable parklands for the public, facilitating connection to Country for First Nations peoples, the recognition and conservation of cultural heritage and values, connectivity of green corridors and public access to open space, responding to the diverse needs of the community, and encouraging the public use and enjoyment of the parklands estate. In reviewing the current objectives, it is suggested that additional objectives be included to address:

- Engagement and collaboration with local councils to ensure effective management of the parklands and feedback on proposals within the parklands
- Consideration of adjoining residential amenity and environmental impacts of any development carried out within the Parklands
- Ensuring any new development within the parklands demonstrates best practice sustainability initiatives

In relation to First Nations people, there are several key initiatives worthy of consideration:

Recognising and Conserving Cultural Heritage: The GSPT Act 2022 emphasises the importance of recognising and conserving First Nations peoples' cultural heritage and values through the use of the parklands estate. This should include acknowledging the ancient cultural routes and significant sites within the parklands that were used by the ancestors of Aboriginal people now living in Randwick City.

Establishing Partnerships: The GSPT Act should prioritise the establishment of long-term and mutually beneficial partnerships with First Nations communities beyond representation on the Board. This should involve working closely with local Aboriginal groups, such as the La Perouse

Local Aboriginal Land Council, to ensure their cultural practices and connections to the land are respected and integrated into park management.

Promoting Awareness and Education: The Trust can facilitate educational programs and initiatives that promote awareness and knowledge of local Aboriginal culture. This includes incorporating Aboriginal cultural protocols into official events, recognising significant cultural ceremonies, and providing information about the history and cultural significance of the parklands.

Historical Acknowledgment: Acknowledging the history of the parklands as ancient cultural routes used by the ancestors of Aboriginal people is crucial. Before European colonisation, Aboriginal people in the Randwick area lived a nomadic existence, deeply connected to the land through their spiritual beliefs and practices. This history can be highlighted through interpretive signage, artwork, cultural tours, and storytelling events within the parklands.

Part 3 Functions of Trust, Division 3 Planning

Council officers have maintained successful collaboration and regular discussions with the Greater Sydney Parklands to address issues common to both our respective organisations. These include improved access to the parklands, addressing pedestrian safety, integration of surrounding cycling routes to the parklands, managing user conflicts and protecting biodiversity. community representation on the Trustee Board and providing feedback on proposed major events. This proactive approach ensures that both entities can effectively manage and mitigate these concerns, fostering a safer and more accessible environment for all park users. Whist s.25 references government sector agencies consulting with the Trust about planning matters, it would be useful for the Act to also be explicit about the Trust consulting with adjoining councils in relation to proposals and changes within the parklands that could have an impact on the adjoining area or environment.

The recent preparation and enactment of the Act, means that the objectives and provisions are generally sound and well written for purpose. As the Act has been in operation for two years, this review provides an opportunity to refine the Act clauses, including objectives and provisions to ensure the day-to-day operation is effective and aligns with community expectations.

Council welcomes the ongoing opportunity to work collaboratively with the Greater Sydney Parklands, on current and upcoming projects.

If you have any further questions regarding Council's submission please contact David Appleby, Coordinator Strategic Planning on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

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Meryl Bishop
Director City Planning

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