

**Submission
No 18**

**INQUIRY INTO GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST
BILL 2021**

Name: Ms Maria Bradley
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Thank you for the opportunity to lodge an OBJECTION to the amended Greater Sydney Parklands Bill. The amendments fall short of protecting our public green open spaces, habitat and biodiversity and instead put public parklands at risk

While the Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP) says its primary role is to maintain and improve parklands and provide spaces for the public to use and enjoy, there is no reason the existing parks Trusts and Acts need to be removed. In fact, in the case of Centennial Parklands, the Trust and Acts have prevented the takeover of the Entertainment Quarter by commercial interests

Limiting leases at Centennial Park to 50 years and going to the “open market” will not stop corruption, loss of public land (and I note that government agencies are excluded from these terms) Given the dubious state of finances in NSW recently revealed, the parklands are at even greater risk

I note the EQ has been renamed The Moore Park East Entertainment Precinct- hardly a park focused initiative. Again, revitalising the EQ does not require new legislation, not unless you intended to put it into the hands of commercial body such as Carsingha Consortium

There is still no business case underpinning the economic rationale of the amended Bill and I would be very cautious putting the parklands into the control of the government of the day

Indeed the amended Bill still puts the control and decision making into the hands of the Minister of the day. The GSP say the Community will be consulted but again, the public have no trust in this statement given the community have no ultimate power in decision making

Alarming, the amended Bill will allow the disposal and surrender of parklands to other government agencies for them to lease, develop or sell. Hardly protection

I support the Federation Model and urge the Committee to REJECT this amended Bill in the interest of public land, good stewardship and the passing down of parklands to future generations who will live in a city double the population