

**Submission
No 26**

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

Organisation: Penrith City Council

Date Received: 22 December 2021



Our reference: ECM 9842681 & 9821138, Infostore
Contact: Carlie Ryan
Telephone:

22 December 2021

The Director
Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Sent by email: parklands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission to the Inquiry into the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021

Thank you for your email invitations dated 1 December 2021 and 6 December 2021, to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021.

Council endorsed a submission to the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021 at its Ordinary Meeting on 25 October 2021 in response to the public exhibition of the Bill. I attach a copy of the submission for consideration by the Select Committee as part of the Inquiry.

If you have any questions about this matter,

Yours sincerely

Carlie Ryan
City Strategy Manager

Attachment



SUBMISSION

Draft Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021 (the Bill). A review of the Bill and supporting Guide to the Bill has been undertaken and the following comments are made:

- **Green-Blue Grid Committee**

The Bill allows for the establishment of a Blue-Green Grid Committee ‘to advocate for a long-term vision and outcome of quality parklands across Greater Sydney, particularly connectivity of green corridors and public access to open space’. Council supports the establishment of this Committee. As you are aware Council is working to finalise the Penrith Green Grid Strategy that can provide valuable insight to the work of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust (GSPT).

Council also supports the ability of the GSPT to expand its portfolio of parklands in the future. The NSW Government’s *50-year Vision for Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands* identifies opportunities within the Penrith LGA such as a link from Fernhill Estate to Penrith Lakes. Council is happy to work with Greater Sydney Parklands to implement outcomes of our strategic work and deliver great outcomes for our community.

- **Consultation and Engagement Framework**

Council supports the preparation of the consultation and engagement framework described in the Bill including its development in consultation with the community within the first 2 years of operation.

- **Community Trustee Boards**

The previously exhibited *White Paper – Parklands for People* outlined the establishment of Community Trustee Boards noting that there would be a separate board for each parkland area. Council is supportive of this approach however the draft Bill does not require the establishment of Community Trustee Boards and does not require separate boards for each parkland. It is Council’s view that it is critical for a Community Trustee Board specific to Fernhill Estate be established. In addition, we request the appointment of a local Council representative to the Board as allowed for by the draft Bill.

- **Legislative Framework for Fernhill Estate**

We note from the previously exhibited *White Paper – Parklands for People* that Fernhill Estate was vested into the Western Sydney Parklands Trust in December 2020 resulting in its management being governed by the Western Sydney Parklands Trust under the *Western Sydney Parklands Act 2006*. Council is concerned that Fernhill Estate’s inclusion under the Western Sydney Parklands Trust may compromise the management of its unique qualities and attributes. The legislative framework governing Fernhill Estate should reflect its unique nature.

We note that Greater Sydney Parklands are preparing a Plan of Management and Landscape Master Plan for Fernhill Estate that will provide further detail on future use and management of the site, but at the time of writing the latest versions of these documents have not been seen by Council.



SUBMISSION

Draft Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021

- **Planning Framework for Fernhill Estate**

Council seeks clarity on whether the NSW Government intends to change the existing planning framework or consent authority for Fernhill Estate. It is noted that the other areas of parkland managed under the *Western Sydney Parklands Act 2006* are governed by a State Environmental Planning Policy and that the relevant local environmental plans do not apply.

Council would be concerned if the operation of the *Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010* (Penrith LEP) was removed for Fernhill Estate as it includes specific controls to protect the unique scenic and landscape attributes of the Mulgoa Valley of which Fernhill Estate is a part. It is critical that the matters covered by the Penrith LEP are retained and implemented into the future.