

**Submission  
No 38**

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

**Name:** Mr Graeme Robinson

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My connection with Greater Sydney Parklands comes primarily through a long association with Centennial Park. Over recent years I have seen Centennial Park merged with the Royal Botanic Gardens, with a subsequent loss of staff and their long term expertise, and with an apparent eye to shifting finances from the previously self funding Park to the state government funded Gardens.

Now with the current move toward the Greater Sydney Parklands I feel more confident that some form of relationship between the parklands would be to the benefit of the greater Sydney community with a sharing of experience and initiatives, but that the value of these green spaces would be dangerously exposed to exploitation under the proposed legislation.

Sydney's green spaces from the Botanic Gardens, the Domain, and Hyde Park have been preserved since early colonial times and we now reap the benefit of them. Centennial Park is the same, preserved by forward thinking politicians supported by local communities, and dedicated as "peoples' parks". These parks have immense real estate value and I'm sure many avaricious eyes are directed toward them.

After more than 70 years I have had some experience of governments of various persuasions in New South Wales, and I have come to think that the old adage that "New South Wales has the best Government that money can buy" is not so very far from the truth. Without the protection of guaranteed social and environmental regulation controlled at the local level I am afraid that our parklands would be fatally exposed to the corruption that their commercial value would attract.

I ask that you reject this legislation and show the long term commitment so our city's social and environmental well being that our more statesmen like predecessors have done.