

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

## Public Inquiry into Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill

Dear NSW Parliament Inquiry Members,

I write out of concern for the future of all parkland in Sydney due to the proposed bill to allow various commercial enterprises to operate on community land. This is a particularly important topic due to increased use of all public parkland since the covid pandemic. The parks need to be maximally available to our community, especially all those of us without the luxury of our own garden.

From a health perspective, it is important to maximise the amount of green space in Sydney, however the bill does not adequately protect or allow for this.

Aspects of this bill which are problematic, and against community interests are:

- The potential that too much power will be concentrated into the hands of any Minister, leaving parks vulnerable to lobby groups and developers. These are not groups who have the best interests of the community in mind.
- That this Bill that gives the GSP Board the power to compulsorily acquire public and private land.
- Rendering communities powerless to stop over-commercialisation. Whilst the new legislation promises it “may” set up community consultation committees within a year, the truth is that such decisions may be overridden by the GSP Board and the Minister. Additionally, the GSP Board will also be able to dismiss the community panel without accountability.
- This Bill allows up to 25-year leases to commercial developments, without ministerial oversight, including high-rise hotels and business hubs. These have no place in Sydney parkland. Also, a 25-year lease is a liability if a development is not in the interests of the park and the community.
- The Disposal and surrender of Parklands to other government departments (to allow sale and development). This means that the Minister can give any of the parklands to another government department to develop.

Given the climate crisis and increasing community needs, the bill needs to privilege the needs of Sydney’s population for more, open, green space and trees, and leave developers and other commercially interested entities in no doubt that this is the purpose of public parkland, not making mini shopping zones wherever there is money to be made.