

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 10 January 2022

Partially
Confidential

January 9th, 2021

Lilyfield NSW 2040

RE: Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021

Dear Members of the Committee,

After many years of working with the local community to ensure that Callan Park remains a public park, and after achieving approval for a Callan Park Trust to be established for the protection of the park - Callan Park (Special Provisions Act) 2002, I again find myself with grave concerns for the independence of this public space and its ability to remain a space for the general public to enjoy in outdoor recreation and other uses of existing buildings which are for benefit of the community at large.

The protections that have been sought over many years are under threat from the proposed bill. Indeed the bill threatens other parks who would equally benefit from the same protections being sought for Callan Park.

I urge the committee to consider the following protections for all parks including Centennial and Moore Parks, Paramatta Park, Western Sydney and Fernhill Mulgoa:

- Leases exceeding 10 years to be tabled in both houses of parliament, with either House being able to disallow if it considers the lease not to be in the public interest
- Any proposed developments to be subject of a Development Application, publicly exhibited and determined by local Council
- Strict limits on commercial activities

Whilst those three conditions would mitigate against commercial use and development of the parks, it would be preferable for the Bill to be withdrawn and redrafted so that the parks concerned are subject to a management structure that genuinely involves the local community and the wider public in their management. Presently Callan Park does not have a stand alone Trust and I believe Fernhill is similarly without its own Trust to manage these heritage and important sites. The bill effectively abolishes the existing Trusts of other parks.

The recommended establishment/continuation of individual Trusts would result in the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust remaining a government agency and not becoming a corporation which of necessity must raise its own funds to manage the sites. Open spaces, community recreational spaces are and should remain the responsibility of governments.

Our parklands are used by a large number of people, who go out of their areas to enjoy these open spaces. They are the lungs of our urban environment and should be managed and preserved by the Trusts established whose interest is to keep them in good order for the people of NSW.

I hope you will give consideration to these comments, and remain yours sincerely,