

**Submission  
No 69**

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

**Name:** Ms Gail Abbott

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To the Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 20221

I wish to state my strong opposition to the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill, with in my new, fails utterly to protect parks - in particular Callan Park - from the ravages of various kinds of privatisation.

I endorse the Inner West Council's views on this matter, and note the strong support for the independence of the Park by the Friends of Callan Park and other stockholders, reflecting its vital importance to the community.

As it stands,

- the bill provides no guaranteed funding for the maintenance and protection of our parklands and their particular qualities. Rather, it will facilitate commercial activities and inappropriate development. Parklands are essential public services to be funded by general revenue.
- it appears to allow for the alienation of public lands to private interests, perhaps via long leases.
- it fails to permit adequate public consultation, via public Trusts accountable to local representatives
- it concentrates too much power on the hands of the Minister of the day, his party and its associates
- it will seriously diminish the power of the local Councils that represent our communities
- it ignores the heritage and environmental values of the parklands, treating them as mere commodities.

Though the Member for Balmain has done a good deal to lessen the worst impacts of the Bill on Callan Park in the Legislative Assembly, the threat of privatisation - where only the dollar value of the land is taken into account - still hangs over a precious public facility.

Yours sincerely,  
Gail Abbott