

**Submission
No 90**

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

Organisation: Sydney Swans
Date Received: 14 January 2022



Friday, January 14, 2022

The Hon. Robert Borsak, MLC
Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

RE: Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission to the inquiry into the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021 (the Bill).

The Sydney Swans are a professional AFL Club with a membership of over 60,000 (pre-COVID) and nationally, over 1.2million supporters. The largest supporter base of any AFL club in Australia.

The Sydney Swans have called the SCG and Moore Park Precinct home for 40 years, relocating to Sydney in 1982 from South Melbourne. In that time, the Club has galvanised members and supporters from across Greater Sydney and regional NSW.

There are two areas the Sydney Swans would like to provide feedback on in relation to the Bill. The first being car parking, and the second the amendments made in the Lower House which will impact the Entertainment Quarter Revitalisation project.

Car Parking:

The Club's average crowd attendance in 2021, being a COVID-affected year, was over 27,000. Prior to COVID times, the Club attracted an average crowd over 32,000 to the SCG for each home game.

Surveys conducted post each match at the SCG shows that a third of our crowd drive, with 12% of the crowd attending with children aged 5 to 12 years and 31% of attendees over the age of 60.

Disabled car spaces are exhausted at every Swans game in EP3 (Southern Car Park).

The Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021 in its current iteration makes parking on grass at Upper Kippax Lake (EP2) in Moore Park illegal, while also prohibiting parking on grass throughout Moore Park East from December 31, 2023.

While the Sydney Swans are supportive of the phased removal of car-parking on greenspace in Moore Park, we believe it should be done only when a mutually agreed process, timeline and solution(s) are agreed and approved by all key stakeholders including AMPS, Government, Transport for NSW, NSW Police, Greater Sydney Parklands, the Entertainment Quarter, and the local community.

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Parking is a complex issue which impacts operational and experiential aspects of the precinct on match days. Accessibility to the NSW Government's two world-class stadiums should be prioritised for all Moore Park Precinct tenants and their spectators.

We urge the Select Committee to remove from the Bill any reference to parking on Moore Park East greenspace being an offence or prohibited activity at this time.

Entertainment Quarter Revitalisation

The Sydney Swans support the Entertainment Quarter (EQ) revitalisation project.

The Sydney Swans new HQ and Community Centre will be in the Royal Hall of Industries, the gateway to the EQ precinct. The Sydney Swans will inject both new people, and additional revenue, into the Parklands ecosystem with this development and the rejuvenation of the EQ precinct will only serve to increase this.

Of key interest in the revitalisation project is the refurbishment and return of the Showring Oval as a sporting complex. This oval will provide an industry-leading multi-purpose space for female pathway programs as well as community uses such as hosting local AFL Club training and competition matches, schools, and community events, as well as local and international outdoor events.

The Showring Oval will only serve to open the precinct to the community and help cater for the explosion in demand for oval sporting fields for girls AFL. Female AFL has seen, and will continue to see, exponential growth, especially when the Sydney Swans AFLW team comes online in season 2022/23. NSW is ranked second nationally for female community footballers. For every one (1) female football team in 2010, there are now over 11 teams playing our game.

We are concerned about the recent amendments made to the Bill in the Legislative Assembly that will kill off this exciting opportunity and puts at risk significant community benefits.

We also understand that the Entertainment Quarter is considering adding additional car parking in its revitalisation proposal. This could be a way to address the car parking shortfall at no additional cost to the community and help get cars off the greenspace sooner.

I ask that the Committee consider removing the amendment to the Bill to allow the advancement of sport at the Entertainment Quarter and within the Moore Park Precinct, which will benefit current and future generations.

Should you wish to discuss the above in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours Sincerely,

Tom Harley
CEO

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