

Submission
No 99

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

In 2017, I left Sydney, having lived near Callan Park which I visited on a daily basis for exercise and respite.

I had been forced to cut short postgraduate study given the cost, was working in an exploitative environment for not much more than the minimum wage and saw no reason to continue living.

Caring for my cat who has since died, and walking in Callan Park were the only things that kept me going.

If I had been unable to access this beautiful, quiet, green space and river front with its extraordinary buildings (and ruins that could be fixed), I would probably have committed suicide - please don't take this as sensationalist, it is the truth. Walking in Callan Park was uplifting in ways that walking on dirty, noisy streets could never be. Don't steal this wonderful resource from the people of NSW - it belongs to everybody - and has the potential to save lives and health - it saved mine.

You cannot build out all of the green space in Sydney or co-opt it for residential and commercial development that will only benefit a few people with the money to live or shop there.

Communities include people on low incomes whose only recreational activities are those that are free - like walking in a park. Furthermore, the positive psychological and physical health benefits (for everyone) of green spaces in urban and metropolitan areas has been well documented and researched - just a few examples <https://tinyurl.com/yc3t6323> <https://tinyurl.com/yzvjeuwp> <https://tinyurl.com/2p8nmuen>

You cannot in all good conscience destroy this park, its historical buildings and the public amenity it provides if that is your intention.

Please, take a walk in the park - alone, wear comfortable clothes and shoes, walk for at least an hour, explore the spaces and wait until the sun sets over the water. Pay attention to your surroundings for what they are, smell the star jasmine if it's in season, watch the possums and white cockatoos fight over one of the last remaining hollow trees, visit the Japanese garden, the original 'homestead' and gardens... Do this everyday for a week and take a different route each day.

Thank you.