

**Submission
No 119**

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

Name: Sue Cameron, Rachael Haggett and Christina Hicks

Date Received: 15 January 2022

We are three local residents who live nearby and use Callan Park regularly for recreational walking, dog walking and picnicking and have done so for decades.

We strongly oppose the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021.

The Inner West is a densely populated area and its residents appreciate and treasure the beautiful open space that is Callan Park. It truly provides asylum for both locals and visitors, which has been even more evident and essential during Covid lockdowns over the past two years.

However walking through Callan Park past beautiful sandstone structures and other practical but not so elegant buildings, it is obvious a process of demolition by neglect is occurring.

We believe there is a need for a commitment of funds from government to restore, maintain and protect these buildings and the surrounding parklands, so they can be put to worthwhile social use. There is a range of possible uses: affordable housing for essential workers and students, temporary housing for refugees / asylum seekers, educational purposes, community groups. There is no need to expand the footprint of the current buildings.

None of these functions would be of interest to commercial developers because they are non profit-making. They should be funded and serviced by general taxation revenue and not required to be self funding. Commercial activity will effectively privatise many parts of Callan Park, introducing unwanted restrictions on its current use by the community.

We feel this Bill also fails to acknowledge the expertise of the NSW Heritage Council or how the Heritage Act might sit in the hierarchy of other legislation or Acts to assist in achieving restoration of the Callan Paek buildings.

We totally oppose the suggestion that 50 year leases should be granted for any use in any of the public parklands. We feel there should be a cap of 10 years on any lease.

We oppose this Bill on several grounds and suggest that lumping all the Parklands like Centennial Park/Moore Park, Parramatta Park, Western Sydney Parklands, Fernhill Estate and Callan Park together is inappropriate and is a huge mistake They are assets owned by unique local communities, which have differing needs and values. Local communities should be consulted and heard about the use of their parklands, which should not be regarded as political footballs or developers' paradises.

There is no need to include Callan Park in this Bill. The current legislation governing its use is sufficient to enable small commercial enterprises and community activities like concerts and festivals to continue.

We don't need this Bill. We need a commitment from governments to restore, protect and maintain Callan Park for worthwhile use by current and future generations.

Good luck with your deliberations.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Sue Cameron of Balmain East
Ms Rachael Haggett of Rozelle
Ms Christina Hicks of Rozelle