

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Submission to Upper House Inquiry into Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021

I strongly oppose the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill

Callan Park is an invaluable asset for the Inner West of Sydney and indeed all of Sydney. It has been a precious part of our lives and our children's lives and now their children's lives. It has enabled us to walk and picnic in relative quiet, to sit and watch the sun go down, to jog, to walk our dogs, and to attend literary events in the Writer's centre. My son had his wedding photos taken there. ABC TV has used many of its unique and varied sites for its dramas. It supports a beautiful, gentle blend of sporting events, community gardens and personal solitude not available anywhere else in the Inner West. The love and dedication of the community is reflected clearly in the decades of untiring commitment to the preservation of this glorious space, to protect it from development and commercialization. Over the years both the Liberal and Labor Party have desired to develop the land but have been fought off by the people of the Inner West.

Imagine the joy when the Callan Park Special Provisions Act of 2002 was passed, however this has proved fragile. What we want and need is a Callan Park Trust!

The Greater Sydney Parklands Trust (including Callan Park) will be in the hands of one Board – its members are drawn principally from executives in the finance and property development sectors. Under the proposed Bill, this Board is defined as a corporation with all the powers of a corporation to undertake and facilitate privatisations and commercial activities on Sydney's iconic parks. I understand there will be a consultative committee which can offer advice, but in fact has no power beyond advice. This is simply not acceptable protection!

We must have recognition from the government that our parks are, essential public goods and public good like hospitals and education are therefore deserving of financial support.

Please do not support this Bill. We need a Bill which embraces genuine community involvement in their management and government commitment to their protection and funding. Please do not support a Bill which potentially now, or in the future, would permit unnecessary commercial on Sydney's parklands and effectively privatise parts of the park.

Yours most sincerely

Inner West resident of 39 years.