

**Submission
No 126**

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

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Upper House Inquiry into Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill

It is my informed opinion that the draft legislation for changes to the Callan Park Bill should be abandoned entirely.

I have lived in the Leichhardt Municipality (now IWC) for over 44 years, and have served as a Councillor for 4 years.

Thanks to the strength and commitment of local communities, Callan Park remains an incredibly important and much-needed green space for the Inner West and greater Sydney, now – and increasingly importantly, forever protected by the Callan Park Act (Callan Park, Special Provisions Act 2002). To secure the future of Callan Park the NSW Government must commit to establishing a Callan Park Act.

The proposed hand-picked consultative committee can only offer advice. This is token and will not guarantee the strong protections needed to protect Callan Park from the many vested interests. It can be argued that the most lasting good any politician can do is to protect and provide green spaces for current and future generations.

The Callan Park Act ensures this will happen.

Contrary to this, the proposed Greater Sydney Parkland Trust, which includes Callan Park, would be in the hands of one board. By definition, this will exclude adequate local representation, as its members are drawn almost exclusively from executives in the finance and development sectors.

Most worryingly for the future of Callan Park (& other Sydney parklands), the Board – under the proposed Bill – is defined as a corporation to undertake and facilitate privatisations and commercial activities. Once lost, these green spaces will never be replaced. Do not let Sydney's iconic parklands be destroyed by 1,000 cuts.

The NSW Government has an obligation to fund our precious parks as public goods; as public good health – now more than ever. The proposed Bill needs to be withdrawn. There needs to be a government commitment to protect and fund these critically important spaces for the entirety of local populations.

**Yours sincerely
Dr Cassi Plate**