

**Submission
No 127**

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

Name: Ms Diana Bagnall

Date Received: 15 January 2022

Submission to Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021

I am an Inner West resident who is particularly concerned with the future of Callan Park, but I acknowledge that this bill has wider scope and that it applies to several parklands which, simply by virtue of being what they are - open peaceful green spaces available to everyone and, in the case of Callan Park, containing exceptionally beautiful old trees - are crucial to keeping us sane and functional in this huge sprawling city.

I note and support the strong concerns and opposition to this bill voiced by the Inner West Council, the Friends of Callan Park, the Alliance for Public Parklands, among other groups.

I recognise that Jamie Parker, the member of Balmain in the Legislative Assembly, has been successful in having amendments made to the bill which remove some of its worst impacts as they affect Callan Park. That's great. But I am still concerned that this bill will permit unnecessary commercial activity in Sydney's "lungs", its open parklands, and will effectively privatise parts of them. I am very opposed to this privatisation, and in line with the Greens submission, am disturbed that the bill creates no mechanism to guarantee adequate funding from the NSW government for the maintenance and protection of the city's parklands. Parks are public goods. They should be funded and serviced by our taxes, not by dollars earned from commercialisation and rampant development. There's enough of that already.

Fifty year leases are far too generous for public lands. I agree with the Greens that the leases, if they are granted, should be no more than 10 years. Even that seems like a long time these days. The future of parklands should not be politicised. Please, when you are deliberating on this bill, would you make sure that the gate is not left open for lobby groups and developers to influence the minister of the day. I'm not an expert in these matters, but the idea of having a trust for each of the parklands with accountable local representatives on the board seems like a sound one.

Yours sincerely
Diana Bagnall