

**Submission
No 140**

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

Name: Mrs Rosie White

Date Received: 14 January 2022

I oppose the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021.

This proposed Bill undermines the essential role of Public Parks and their vital importance through being truly "public", and thus available to all. This should be achieved through secure public funding without risk of alienation through sourcing private revenue streams.

It is not acceptable for Public Parks to be opened up and made available to corporations as a means to raise funds. This alienation of public space would be detrimental to the general community which is highly dependant on the limited larger Parks in Sydney. Indeed, this is ever more the case with Covid.

The Parks included in this Bill are spread across Sydney. It is vital that the local communities in which they are located are involved in the management of each one contributing valuable local knowledge and expertise.

Each Park should be managed by its own independent Trust with direct responsibility for decisions made regarding the Parks' management.

Community Trustee Boards are advisory, without management authority, and inappropriate.

Local Councils must also have direct input into the accountable management of a Park within their Municipality. This is an essential, integral component for good management of both the Park and the local government area.

The Bill must include appropriate requirements for Heritage management, acknowledging and complying with the relevant legislation.

It is not appropriate for the disparate, geographically spread, subject Parklands to be managed under one overarching Board.

It is not appropriate to invest singular power in the Minister of the day. The management of our Parklands should not be subject to fluctuating political or special interest influence.

It is not appropriate to permit any annexe of Public Parklands for the purposes of revenue raising

Adequate funding must be allocated by the NSW Government for Parkland maintenance and improvements.

Public money should be the source of funding for our Public Parklands to protect them from commercial activity and alienation through any form of privatisation.

Our Parklands are vital for the physical and mental health of our community, for connection to the environment, for the pleasures of recreation, for fresh air and water. They must be funded and managed without any risk to their integrity,

Yours,
Rosie White