

Julie Osborne/Peter Tzannes
Co-Chairmen
**Centennial Park Residents Association
("CPRA")**
43 Robertson Rd
Centennial Park NSW 2021

The Hon Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

29 October 2021

Dear Minister,

RE: GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS (GSP) TRUST EXPOSURE BILL, 2021

The Centennial Park Residents Association (CPRA) is the umbrella organization of the street committees of the Centennial Park precinct. Our charter includes the protection and preservation of the Centennial Parklands and the residential amenity of this historic garden suburb for future generations. The CPRA is a member of the Alliance for Public Parklands.

We are writing to you to express our concerns with the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Exposure Bill, 2021. We also refer you to our submission dated 1.7.21 in response to the Greater Sydney Parks (GSP) White Paper, copy of which is attached.

We submit there are some core issues which must be addressed and included in the GSP Act. These are as follows:

- A ban on carparking on Moore Park must be enshrined in the GSP Act. The Sydney Cricket Ground has announced it will construct a carpark on its own land and will no longer lease event parking from the Centennial Parklands. The GSP as owner of Moore Park must have a prohibition in the GSP Act stopping it from allowing any carparking on Moore Park. Moore Park is a park not a carpark.
- No unsolicited bids for GSP land including the Entertainment Quarter at Moore Park. Unsolicited bids, such as occurred at Barangaroo, must be expressly prohibited by the GSP Act as such a process, in the context of the GSP, does not demonstrate an understanding of the criticality of parkland to the people of NSW nor a focus on its preservation.
- A prohibition on commercialisation and effective privatisation of the Parklands in order to secure adequate funding by the giving of long leases with inappropriate uses which alienate the parklands, their heritage and environmental values. This is of particular concern at the EQ site but would extend to the Moore Park Golf Club, Tennis Centre, Rangers Cottages, etc. The NSW Government must provide adequate funding for GSP.
- Allow leases up to but not exceeding 25 years on any GSP land. Currently s 20 of the Exposure Bill allows Ministerial consent for leases in excess of 25 years. If at some stage the Government wishes to lease any GSP land for longer than 25 years, then Parliament should provide its consent by appropriate legislative amendment at that time.

- There is no requirement for the establishment of community trustee boards. Although under s 36 the GSP “may” establish community trustee boards there is no mandated requirement that this be done. There is no apparent power or authority vested in the community trustee boards at ss 36 – 39, with all power to be vested in a centralised and remote GSP. All appointment processes must be open and transparent.
- Likewise, while a framework for community consultation is required from s 28 onwards, actual community consultation is not mandated. As referred to in our attached submission dated 1.7.21, under the heading “(B) Governance”, we support three levels of governance including i) a board for GSP ii) trust boards for each Parkland and iii) community consultative committees for each Parkland as providing an appropriate balance. The draft Bill provides two levels of governance and community trustee boards proposed by the draft Bill We are concerned there is not an appropriate balance between local communities and parklands and the GSP Board, such that the direction and management of the individual parklands will be remote and less likely to be open and transparent.

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To reiterate we are vehemently opposed to the granting of long leases that alienate the parklands, their heritage and environmental values. We would submit that land in the Centennial Parklands precinct, no matter its current form, is valuable greenspace, rare by the very fact that it is located in a busy metropolitan setting. It must be preserved for the people of NSW not carved up for the benefit of the rich and powerful.

Should you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Osborne
Co-Chairs CPRA

Peter Tzannes