

**Submission
No 9**

REVIEW OF THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST ACT 2022

Name: Mr Graeme Robinson

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I am only familiar with Centennial Park, and am involved in monitoring the birdlife in the park and the health of the park environment generally.

It has always, at least in my experience, been a park balancing the preservation of environmental values with human recreation and commercial exploitation. This has never been an easy mix, and from time to time perceived clashes have occurred, particularly with major entertainment events, and suggestions to extend human recreation into previously "wild" areas of the park.

Since the previous amalgamation of Centennial Park with the Botanic Gardens, and now into the Greater Sydney Parklands I have seen major changes to park staff and a loss of local experience and commitment to the park. I have cynically viewed this process as a Government driven cost cutting measure with an eye to future commercialisation, and possible privatisation of green assets.

We still have members of the park administration committed to the preservation of the parks natural environment, but it seems that their commitment and experience is now to be spread across multiple parklands, an obvious cost cutting measure which can only reduce their commitment to Centennial Park.

Prior to the first amalgamation Centennial Park was a self-funding parkland, and at the time I suspected the Government saw it as a way of reducing their need to fund the Botanic Gardens. I believe the current format may be a similar situation at a cost to the quality of the Centennial Parklands.

I believe that the priorities of Centennial Park, dredging ponds, maintaining bushcare etc, should be met before any profits from park events or filming are passed on to other parklands.

I doubt that the Joint Select Committee members, being politicians, would put the health of the park above the economic efficiencies of funding greenspaces across Sydney, but I need to let them know that their current course has not, in my view, improved Centennial Park.