

**Submission
No 17**

REVIEW OF THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST ACT 2022

Organisation: City of Sydney

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Ms Dora Oravec
Committee Manager
Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust
NSW Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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Dear Ms Oravec,

Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022

Thank you for the opportunity provide a submission to the Joint Select Committee's review of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022

This submission by the City of Sydney is requested to be published in full on the Inquiry website.

In summary it is considered the policy objectives of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 (the Act) remain valid and the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives, in particular balancing city-wide strategic vision for parklands with local input and representation for each park.

Outcomes and recommendations from this review must not result any reduction or weakening of the Trust's functions in particular for open space strategic planning, community representation and involvement and funding and leasing requirements

Open space strategic planning

The Act empowers the GSPT to create a Blue-Green grid committee to advocate for a long-term vision for quality parklands across Greater Sydney as well as strategic planning leadership beyond the function of managing the parklands in its portfolio.

Sydney's growing population will increase the importance for strategic oversight across metropolitan Sydney for the planning and delivery of parklands.

The GSPT is well placed to take on this role and promote open space networks across Sydney as well as provide a consolidated voice to advocate importance of parklands within government.

This role could be expanded to allow opportunities for partnerships with local councils to plan and increase Sydney's open space network.

The remit for strategic oversight and planning for open space across metropolitan Sydney provided in the Act must also be resourced to ensure the Greater Sydney Park Trust can undertake this important role.

Community representation and involvement.

The community trustee boards must be retained to ensure local communities continue to play a significant role in the management of their parklands.

The requirement for a community trustee board should be retained as mandatory with genuine influence in decision-making and outcomes.

There is the opportunity for the Act to specifically reference the relationship between councils and the GSPT to ensure consideration of local knowledge, community priorities and issues.

Funding and leasing requirements

The City supports the creation of funding models that remove the need for commercialisation of valuable parklands, especially Moore Park. The Government needs to commit to long-term recurrent funding for Centennial Parklands given that it is critical infrastructure to support the Government's metropolitan growth objectives of higher-density living.

It is also recommended the current provisions for leases of more than 10 years be put through an open competitive tender process, be retained to ensure transparency and awareness of leasing proposals.

Should you wish to speak with a Council officer about the Submission, please contact [REDACTED] Program Manager Public Domain on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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Monica Barone PSM
Chief Executive Officer