

**Submission  
No 36**

## **REVIEW OF THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST ACT 2022**

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 6 February 2025

Partially  
Confidential

Dear Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to put in a submission to Greater Sydney Parklands Trust ( GSPT) Act Review.

I am a long term resident of south east Sydney and like millions of other people use Centennial Parklands on a regular basis for running, walking and dog walking ie passive recreation.

I am alarmed at the ever watering down of protections by politicians for vested interests in Centennial Parklands ( Centennial, Queens and but Moore Park in particular) and while I do not think the legislative framework of the GSP works to protect the parks from development and alienation, **I do not want to see any changes to the GSP Act that would further reduce protections .**

I am concerned with proposed changes in state legislation that will impact the parklands including the use of Environmental Planning Instruments ( EPI) to water down parkland legislation so that the 5 great parks under the GSP become event precincts instead. The Cultural State Environment Planning Policy is one such SEPP.

Centennial Parklands appears to be used as a “ cash cow” for the GSP.

**Centennial Parklands was well served early on when it had a strong and independent Trust and was funded and valued by the government of the day.**

**It is crucial that the GSP rejects any state legislation that impacts on these iconic parklands.**

The Greater Sydney Parklands Trust ACT states that it should “ ensure the parkland estate may be used by the community in a way that is adaptive and recognises and responds to the diverse needs of the community” It also references consultation and public participation.

I was therefore shocked to see that SEPP 47 over the Entertainment Quarter ( EQ) has been repealed and there was no alert from the GSP ! This was a planning control placed over the site when the stadium was first built. It limited use to the film, television and video industry.

**It appears that the NSW Government is now trying to weaken the Parklands Estate’s various Acts with Environmental Planning Instruments or SEPPs .Every member on this Committee should be alarmed and the GSP needs to be a strong advocate for the parklands!**

This proposed new SEPP will **impact all the GSP Parklands**, widening the scope of large events.

Vested interests such as Carsingha intend to REMOVE 20a from the Centennial Park Trust Act, 20,000 persons or less, and also to REMOVE the provision in the Centennial Parklands Trust regulations limiting events to 8 per year.

In their submission to the GSP Bill 2022 Carsingha demonstrated their access to government to make regulations easier for them.

“It is important to understand the prior history and that there were two former EQ leaseholders who both struggled to make acceptable commercial returns as a function of current restrictions on the site.

This is what facilitated the approach to Government about a USP..." <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/16722/Corro%20-%20Letter%20from%20Mr%20Max%20Moore-Wilton%20dated%2027%20January%202022.pdf>

The GSP Act does not contain a definition of what a " park" actually is. One dictionary suggests "area maintained in its natural state as a public property" .

Regardless, a park cannot be everything to everyone! Public safety becomes very important given the parks are under pressure from various stakeholders that put public safety at risk eg events, bike lobby wanting to use the parklands as transit corridor, cyclists riding in large packs, dogs off leashes, hundreds of drunk festival goers moving through the park.

More and more people use Centennial Park than ever before for more and more events ranging from numerous music festivals to smaller events and this has seen the parks alienated from public use and the quiet atmosphere that people expect and need for their mental health impacted. It is unfathomable to imagine more intensity.

People's mental and physical well being should be at the forefront of decision making for the GSP , not lobby groups for sports ,events and professional money making ventures

**To have any credibility on "protection of environment" the GSP must respect existing controls and regulations limiting events, banning alcohol, ban plastics such as balloons, plastic streamers and confetti from each and every one of the five parklands. It must ensure a safe environment for all.**

I am concerned that there are NO attached documents to this review and therefore wonder how the Select Committee can make an informed decision on reviewing the ACT ?

Neither the Year in Review video 2024 NOR the "tabled" report is publicly available. This lack of transparency is a concern.

The parkland estate requires adequate funding from the NSW Government and I would expect the Select Committee to recommend increased funding so the park is not forced to self fund .

It is clear that long leases and events alienate the public and benefit vested interests such as Gerry Harvey's Carsingha Investments. Carsingha Investments campaigned for change to lease arrangements of the EQ section of the Old Sjowground site ( the conditions were fully disclosed when Carsingha bid for the lease) The lease conditions intended to preserve the site for community use and as an adjunct to the film studios.

Does the SCG pay adequate rent? Does it pay rent at all? The organisation occupies Crown Land and has high opportunity

I don't believe the Moore Park Golf Course should be carved up as it is a regular and important funding source ( recent Daily Telegraph article cites 7 million in revenue) and will lead to more development including the possibility of parklands being used to supply car parking for Allianz Stadium.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments.

