

Frequently Asked Questions – Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022

Updated: 4 April 2022

GOVERNANCE

Q: What does the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act do?

A: The Act sets out the objectives and functions of the new Greater Sydney Parklands Trust (GSPT) to manage:

- any new parks the GSPT may own in the future.
- existing lands of the ‘associated trusts’ – Centennial Parklands (including Moore and Queens parks), Callan Park, Parramatta Park, Western Sydney Parklands and Fernhill Estate – within existing legislation.

GSPT will be a NSW Government agency, working at the direction of a Minister, and a corporation, just as the existing trusts are. This means it can own land and manage funds.

Q: What are the new GSPT’s functions?

A:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment, and the cultural and heritage values of the parklands estate.
- Promoting the use of the parklands for a variety of educational, environmental, scientific, entertainment and sporting purposes.
- Promoting access and enjoyment of parklands to all communities.
- Consult and engage with communities about the management of the parklands estate.
- Advocate for the 50-year vision for parklands and open space.
- Maintain the Trust’s assets through financial and operational management.
- Acquire land for new parks and manage its estate by entering into agreements with other government agencies.
- Grant leases, licences and easements over land in its estate, with the Minister's approval required for leases over a certain length.

Q: Why is a new GSP Trust needed?

A: By establishing the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust, we will have a world-class parkland agency that is charged with protecting our existing parklands, while also being able to manage new parklands to realise the NSW Government’s vision of Greater Sydney becoming a ‘city within a park’.

We now have a central agency of specialist parkland managers who work with councils and others to promote a grid of blue and green spaces across the city, with the necessary legislation to power and support it. GSPT will be a powerful voice for parks and public spaces – making them as important as other types of essential infrastructure such as roads,

trains and hospitals.

Q: When will the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2021 come into effect?

A: The Act's provisions will commence on proclamation, currently targeted for 1st July 2022.

Q: Will the GSPT Act replace the existing parks' acts?

A: The existing trusts' Acts remain in place. GSPT will manage and operate the existing parks under the terms of their own current legislation and any heritage protections. Management of new parks will be under the terms of the GSPT Act.

Q: Can GSPT sell land?

A: GSPT is prohibited from selling land or transferring within its estate.

Q: Who will be appointed to the Trust?

A: The GSPT will have a skills-based and diverse board to be a powerful voice for parks, independent of Government.

Board members will be appointed by the Minister and include a chief executive.

Board members must have a certain set of experience or management skills in community consultation, environmental, park, heritage and financial and property management.

Importantly, in response to community feedback, the Minister must have regard to the desirability of the board having members with diverse backgrounds, including members who reside in western Sydney. -

Q: Is it possible for the legal functions of the GSP Trust to be changed at a later date?

A: Yes, but any changes to legislation will require approval of Parliament.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Q: How will the community have its say?

A: Importantly, the GSPT has community engagement enshrined in the Act.

The Act requires the Trust to have a consultation and engagement framework that provides guidance to the GSPT about how it consults and engages with the local community and transparency and opportunities for collaboration across the community.

The Act also requires a community trustee board to be created for each park, increasing community input and consultation in a way that was previously only legislated for Centennial and Moore Parks.

Q: What is a community trustee board?

A: The community trustee boards are designed to provide local representation and to advise the GSPT board on local issues. There will be a community trustee board for each park made up of seven members approved by the GSPT to ensure that the appointed members represent a wide range of interests and voices. The community trustee boards will give truly independent advice.

Community trustee boards will have the functions of providing advice and recommendations from a local perspective to the GSPT on park uses and activities; environmental, heritage and cultural issues; plans of management; master plans; transfer of funds to other parks, and potential leases and licences.

Q: What opportunities are there for First Nations people to connect with country?

A: The Act provides opportunities for First Nations people for the first time to connect to country, and increased consultation and collaboration with local communities to respond to the specific needs of the parks across Greater Sydney.

FUNDING & REVENUE

Q: Will revenue from individual parklands be re-distributed to other parklands or agencies?

A: GSPT must ensure that in allocating money raised from parks, priority is given to the park for where revenue is raised.

The Act establishes the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Special Deposits Account. Within this fund there is to be a separate account for each associated trust and each other park managed by the GSPT for transparency. This ensures that if a parkland is able to generate some funds then those funds are expended within those parklands. This will ensure the better management of the parklands as well as ensuring clear and transparent reporting of all financial arrangements so that everyone can see where the money is going.

Q: How can the community be assured the Trust is not just a way of commercialising our Parklands?

A: Some commercial activity is already part of the management of Western Sydney Parklands, Parramatta Park and Centennial Parklands and this will continue. This includes cafes such as Georgie Boy, Amoretti's, Centennial Homestead, etc.

No new high impact commercial activities will be considered beyond the existing proposed in plans of management.

The Act sets provisions in relation to the acquisition and ownership, management and disposal of land. Any changes to these arrangements will require a change to legislation.

Where land is owned by an existing Trust, any current prohibitions on the sale of their lands will continue.

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Q: What are the next steps?

A: With the Act now passed by Parliament and to be gazetted, the targeted date to commence the Act is 1 July 2022. In the interim will draft a consultation and engagement framework for public feedback; and draft a model for Community Trustee Boards for each park.

PARK SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

PARRAMATTA PARK

Q: How will the GSP Trust protect heritage status, such as the state, national and world heritage status of Parramatta Park?

A: All existing heritage protections will remain in place. GSPT is required by law to manage the park in accordance to its Plan of Management, which is designed in consultation with the community. Protection of cultural heritage is a key objective of the Trust.

Q: What changes have occurred to the Parramatta Park Act?

A: The Act amends the Parramatta Park Trust Act to ensure that the Parramatta Park Trust has a plan of management for each of their parks. If a community trustee board is formed, the Parramatta Park Trust will be required to comply with the approved consultation and engagement framework.

Q: When will Wistaria Gardens be transferred?

A: Greater Sydney Parklands is working closely with NSW Health to prioritise the transfer of Wistaria Gardens to Parramatta Park Trust. We will keep the community informed as the transfer progresses.

Q: Does the GSPT better protect Parramatta Park from future development?

A: Parramatta Park is the essential green space for the growing Parramatta city. GSPT will manage and operate Parramatta Park under the terms of its own current legislation as well as the Plan of Management. All existing heritage protections will remain in place.

Q: How will community have their say on Parramatta Park?

A: The GSPT has community engagement enshrined in the Act.

The Act requires the Trust to have a consultation and engagement framework that provides guidance to the GSPT about how it consults and engages with the local community and transparency and opportunities for collaboration across the community.

The Act also requires a community trustee board to be created for each park, increasing community input and consultation.

CALLAN PARK

Q: Are there amendments to the Callan Park Act and do they pave the way for commercialisation?

A: There are some minor changes to the Callan Park Act to allow for arts, cultural activities and cafes to be permitted in addition to the health, education and community uses already allowed under the existing Act.

Where existing buildings are suitable for leasing, only not-for-profit purposes will be permitted.

After community consultation, extended leases of 50 years will be possible only for the most substantial heritage buildings on the site – Kirkbride, Broughton Hall and the Convalescence Cottages. Lease lengths for all other buildings will remain at 10 years, as is currently allowed.

Q: Will there be a Plan of Management created for Callan Park?

A: GSPT has three years to prepare a plan of management for Callan Park.

CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS & MOORE PARK

Q: How long can leases be held in CPMP?

A: The Greater Sydney Parklands Trust may grant leases, licences and easements over Centennial Parklands and Moore Park up to maximum of 99 years, with the Minister's approval required for leases over 25 years.

Q: How will community have their say on Centennial Parklands and Moore Park?

A: The GSPT has community engagement enshrined in the Act.

The Act requires the Trust to have a consultation and engagement framework that provides guidance to the GSPT about how it consults and engages with the local community and transparency and opportunities for collaboration across the community.

The Act also requires a community trustee board to be created for each park, increasing community input and consultation, similar to the Centennial Parklands Community Consultative Committee.

Q: What are the changes to the Centennial Parklands and Moore Park Act?

A: The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act will be amended and will require:

- An approved plan of management to guide the use and development of the parklands
- A community trustee board to be formed
- CPMP to comply with GSPT's consultation and engagement framework

- Other amendments to the CPMPT Act ensure consistency with enforcement and legal proceedings provisions throughout the associated trusts legislation.
- Leases, easements and licences may also be granted over the CPMPT, with ministerial approval required for leases over 25 years consistent with GSPT provisions.
- The CPMPT legislation will also be amended to remove parking on the grass at Moore Park. The Act makes parking on the grass at Upper Kippax Lake in Moore Park prohibited, at Lower Kippax from 31st December 2023 and at showground from 31st December 2025.

Q: Will parking on the grass at Moore Park be permanently removed? If so, when?

A: Parking on the grass at Upper Kippax Lake in Moore Park is prohibited, at Lower Kippax from 31st December 2023 and at showground from 31st December 2025.

Q: Why has parking removal been pushed back to 2023 and 2025?

A: The staged removal of parking over the next three and a half years allows for all stakeholders to plan for better access and transport options to reduce congestion in the precinct and improve visitor experience, including the construction of a new 1500 carpark within Venues NSW land adjacent the stadium. It also allows for visitors to adapt to changing conditions and take opportunities for new ways to access the precinct.

WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS

Q: Will profit generated in WSP be spent in the west?

A: GSPT must ensure that in allocating money raised from parks, priority is given to the park for where revenue is raised.

The Act establishes the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Special Deposits Account. Within this fund there is to be a separate account for each associated trust and each other park managed by the GSPT for transparency. This ensures that if a parkland is able to generate some funds then those funds are expended within those parklands. This will ensure the better management of the parklands as well as ensuring clear and transparent reporting of all financial arrangements so that everyone can see where the money is going.

Q: Will Western Sydney Parklands be sold off for more business hubs?

A: GSPT will manage and operate Western Sydney Parklands under the terms of its own current legislation as well as the Plan of Management. WSP currently sets aside 2% of land with low ecological and recreational value for business hubs, which fund the remaining 98% of the parklands. This includes creating and restoring around 2000 ha of bushland corridor, 60km of tracks and trails for walking, running and cycling, award-winning playgrounds and picnic facilities.

There are no changes to the WSPT Act in relation to the acquisition and ownership, management and disposal of land.

FERNHILL ESTATE

Q: Will Fernhill Estate have a community trustee board?

A: Yes, a community trustee board will be created for Fernhill Estate, increasing community input and consultation.

Q: How can I have a say on the future of Fernhill Estate?

A: GSP will establish a consultation and engagement framework that provides guidance on how the agency will consult and engage with the local community, with greater transparency and opportunities for collaboration across the community.

Q: Is GSP planning commercial operation of the house or property?

A: Fernhill Estate's Foundation Plan of Management to 2026 establishes the custodianship and stewardship for opening up and taking care of the Estate. This includes investigating appropriate uses for Fernhill House that embrace and support its heritage significance while facilitating public access; and investigating adaptive re-use leasing opportunities for ancillary estate buildings and surrounds that are sympathetic to the significance of Fernhill House and its setting.