

**INQUIRY INTO GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST
BILL 2021**

Name: Mr Finbar O'Donoghue

Date Received: 15 December 2021

With the planned expansion of Western Sydney, it is essential to maintain every square metre of parks in the area for the existing and future residents. With increasing population, the green space available to residents is being reduced per person due to this growth. Any proportion of parklands being used for anything other than personal enjoyment and recreation is foolhardy.

GREED

Twenty-five-year leases for commercial use is illogical and driven by greed. Hotels and businesses should only be allowed where existing zoning permits such activities. Parramatta is an example of the stupidity that has prevailed to date in just the last few years. The Parramatta Stadium was pulled down to build a conference centre with a stadium attached. In order for this to proceed the residents of Parramatta have lost their swimming pool for six years to date. The existing stadium could have accommodated the same crowd numbers at the new stadium by erecting stands all around the ground instead of on just two sides as was the case before destruction. This would have saved the pool. The footprint of the new complex now allows commercial parking spaces on what was Parramatta Park.

The pool now long since gone, its replacement is proposed to be built on another section of open space. Therefore, more open green space lost to an expanding population.

This park is under renewed attack on existing green space with a section of the Westmead side being turned into parking spaces. What on earth for? Commuter parking, conveniently close to Westmead station.

This Bill that gives the GSP Board the power to acquire public and private land compulsorily.

This means any existing council parks, reserves, playgrounds, or any residents own land.