



POSITION PAPER

CALLAN PARK

BACKGROUND

The National Trust has a long-standing interest in Callan Park in terms of ensuring its ongoing conservation for future generations. The “Callan Park Conservation Area including foreshores and Leichhardt Park’ was listed on the National Trust Register in September, 1974 and was supported by twelve listing reports prepared by James Semple Kerr.

Callan Park House (Garry Owen House), attributed to Mortimer Lewis and constructed in 1839, Broughton Hall, constructed in 1842 and the Callan Park Conservation Area and Buildings were listed on the State Heritage Register in April, 1999.

The heritage significance of Callan Park cannot be overstated. Callan Park and Broughton Hall’s “*landscaped spaces and landmark buildings have contributed visually and socially to the local area for over 100 years...The site as a whole has very high levels of social significance and has special associations for the local and broader community both as an open space resource and for its cultural and aesthetic value.*” (Statement of Conservation Policy, Rozelle Hospital Conservation Plan, January 2002.)

The Trust supported the enactment of legislation to protect Callan Park in perpetuity - *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002*. The Callan Park legislation permitted the provision of health facilities, limited development and construction at Callan Park and ensured “*the preservation of the areas of open space at Callan Park that were in existence immediately before the commencement of the Act.*”

After a period of extensive renovation of the Kirkbride Complex which housed the former hospital, the Sydney College of the Arts, the fine arts campus of the University of Sydney, commenced occupancy in 1996 under a 99-year lease.

In November 2011, Leichhardt Council and the Friends of Callan Park formally presented the Draft Callan Park Master Plan to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

In November 2015, the University of Sydney announced its intention to vacate Callan Park over a three year period raising concerns that the University’s removal may well prompt plans to commercialise or sell off or privatise parts of Callan Park. Sydney University’s presence had been important in protecting the park and its historic buildings.

The University’s move brought calls for the state government to expedite a properly funded, independent Callan Park Trust to protect the whole site from subdivision or sale or inappropriate development in the future.

NATIONAL TRUST POSITION

- The Trust continues to strongly support the preservation of the areas of open space at Callan Park that were in existence immediately before the commencement of the Callan Park legislation and which are protected by that legislation. The Trust would oppose any moves to weaken this legislation.
- The Trust calls for Sydney University to maintain its presence at Callan Park and if this proves not possible, then would support a similar non-invasive use for the buildings and their grounds.
- The Trust supports the calls for the state government to expedite a properly funded, independent Callan Park Trust to protect the entire site from subdivision or future sale or inappropriate development.

ACTION TO PROMOTE THE TRUST’S POSITION

The Trust will promote its views on this issue in the media, with the NSW Government, with the University of Sydney and the Inner West Council.