

'Phoney' park land use plan comes under fire

By Belinda Lopez

The blueprint for a Sydney University takeover of Callan Park that claims to offer 90 per cent open space on the site has been described as 'phoney and misleading' by its critics.

The NSW Government has called for public comment on the Callan Park Land Use Plan, released this month.

The plan will guide the development of a masterplan for the site.

Callan Park activists have been scathing of the development proposal, which breaches the Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act, and uses over 12,000 square metres more floor space at the site than a proposal presented to the community just last month.

While an average of 2.1 storeys for buildings at Callan Park was proposed to a largely disapproving audience at a Callan Park community workshop recently, the new Land Use Plan raises the average to 3.25 storeys.

Friends of Callan Park's Hall Greenland said several hundred parking spots to be built at the site were likely to be included in the 'so-

THE FIGURES:

- 117 of 176 buildings in Callan Park could be demolished under the plan. Any building marked as having 'moderate' heritage value or less can be demolished.

- The university will use 35 hectares of the park's 60 hectares.

- Buildings in the park could be built up to four storeys high.

The draft Callan Park Land Use Plan can be viewed at www.shfa.nsw.gov.au.

called' open space, he said.

But nine local sporting clubs have welcomed the four new ovals included in the plan, as they look to cap registrations on their teams due to the lack of sport facilities in the inner west.

The Land Use Plan proposes that the new fields be managed by the council, the university, or a shared agreement between the two organisations.

President of the Balmain and



Friends of Callan Park and students from University of Sydney's College of the Arts protested plans for the university's takeover of Callan Park recently.

District Football Club, John Thomson, said there was a 'very strong view' that Leichhardt Council should retain control of the sporting fields in Callan Park, to ensure facilities in the area could be shared amongst clubs equitably.

"If Sydney University have control, if they're paying for the maintenance of it, then they're obviously going to get first pick," he said.

The draft land use plan will be on public exhibition until February 22, 2008.