

Sydney Uni land grab in Callan Park plan

HERITAGE

Marie Sansom

SYDNEY University will use more than half of Callan Park's 60ha and build up to four storeys high if a new land use plan is approved.

The plan by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority went on public exhibition on Friday. It gives the university a 99-year lease at nominal rent for an arts and humanities and/or health-related campus.

But this would need changes to the Callan Park Act, which prohibits construction outside the current building footprints.

Up to 117 of Callan Park's 176 buildings could be demolished, if classed as of little heritage value.

Friends of Callan Park spokesman Hall Greenland said it would be a "fortress-like" university campus, shutting out the public.

"It will no longer be the Centennial Park of the Inner West - would University of NSW build a campus in Centennial Park?" Mr Greenland asked. He was concerned there would be hundreds of new parking spaces as well as grandstands and clubrooms built for the ovals.

The State Government was shifting the cost of Callan Park's upkeep to fee-paying students and taxpayers, Mr Greenland said.

"It's motivated by malice and money," he said. "They've never forgiven the community for stopping them selling Callan Park off to the developers."

Leichhardt Mayor Carolyn Allen said she supported changes to the Act but wanted to examine the plans

CALLAN PARK PLAN AT A GLANCE

- Eight precincts, including waterfront, nurses' homes, non-government organisations, NSW Ambulance and four university precincts - Kirkbride, Parkland Campus, Glover St and Wharf Rd
- The uni would have 35ha, two or three faculties, 5000 students, 400 staff and homes for 700 students
- Two new playing fields would be created near Balmain Rd
- It's undecided whether the university, Leichhardt Council or both would manage the five ovals
- View plans at www.shfa@nsw.gov.au until February 22 or Leichhardt Council offices

in detail first. "If they don't change the footprint nothing is going to happen and the buildings will just fall down," Cr Allen said. "But I don't think it should be any more than two storeys.

"I imagine that we'll think it's an over-development."

Balmain State Labor MP Verity Firth said more than 90 per cent of Callan Park would be open space and the site would remain in public ownership. The university would restore heritage buildings and grounds, and two new ovals would be created. Ms Firth said that the non-government organisation precinct would keep a mental health focus at Callan Park.



Precincts 2, 3, 5 and 6 would be for university use. The university would share use of the Waterfront precinct with Leichhardt Council.

Callan Park Land Use Plan

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| 1. Waterfront precinct | 5. Church/Glover St precinct |
| 2. Kirkbride Curtilage precinct | 6. Wharf Rd precinct |
| 3. Parkland Campus precinct | 7. NSW Ambulance precinct |
| 4. Non-govt Organisation precinct | 8. Nurses precinct |