



NEWS RELEASE

The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP

Member for Heffron
Minister for Planning
Minister for Redfern Waterloo

The Hon. Verity Firth MP

Member for Balmain
Minister for Education and Training
Minister for Women

Wednesday 22 October 2008

CALLAN PARK SECURED FOR THE FUTURE

Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally, and Minister for Education and Training and Member for Balmain, Verity Firth, today announced that the long-term future of Callan Park has been secured.

"The NSW Government will secure Callan Park by granting care, control and management to Leichhardt Council through a 99-year lease," Ms Keneally said.

"The draft land use plan, which would have seen Sydney University expand its floor space at Callan Park from 25,000 to 85,000 square metres, will not be proceeding.

"The proposal would not have delivered an outcome the community could support and I considered that, along with the conversations I've had with the University of Sydney and Leichhardt Council.

"Verity Firth has made her views on the proposal very clear to me. Verity has supported the community view that Callan Park should be handed back to the community.

"Today's decision required no changes to the *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002*."

Ms Firth said the decision by the Rees Government was a victory for the inner west community.

"Callan Park is a special place for families and residents of Balmain and Sydney's inner west," Ms Firth said.

"It is protected for them now and into the future.

"People in the inner west genuinely value Callan Park's open space, sporting fields and parkland, and the NSW Government's action today will ensure they continue to enjoy them for generations to come.

"The University of Sydney has a 99-year lease on the Kirkbride Buildings, home of the Sydney College of the Arts, which is great for the local community and an outstanding example of how the site's heritage buildings can be adaptively reused."

Ms Keneally said the land to be transferred to the Council includes the site's waterfront, playing fields, parkland campus, and area around Wharf Road.

"Today's announcement will see 40 hectares of the 60 hectare Callan Park site transferred to the community in the form of their local representatives, Leichhardt Council," Ms Keneally said.

"Under the proposed transfer, the NSW Ambulance Services, NSW Writers Centre, Rozelle Child Care Centre and low-cost accommodation for nurses and other key workers will stay on site."

Media Contact: Phil McCall – (02) 9228 5811 or 0438 619 987

Page 1 of 2

Level 35 Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia
Tel: (02) 9228 5811 Fax: (02) 9228 5499 E-Mail: office@keneally.minister.nsw.gov.au