

# The Greens NSW

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## Greens NSW policy on Public Lands

### From Public Ownership policy

The Greens NSW oppose the sale of any public land including public schools, transport corridors, hospitals and car parks.

The Greens NSW will seek to legislate to stop the sale of public lands and airspace for development, including the airspace over railway and bus stations.

### From Coastal Management policy

The Greens NSW will work towards ensuring that coastal lands in public ownership are maintained as public assets and are managed effectively as such, through co-operative arrangements under publicly agreed plans of management;

### From Local Government policy

The Greens NSW oppose the disposal of publicly owned land that is used and valued by the local community as open space. Councils should not be permitted to sell off public open space, except where the land in question has no public benefit as open space, no ecological, social or other value that would be more effectively protected or fulfilled through public ownership.

### From Urban Planning & Built Environment policy

The Greens NSW recognise that that public land is held in trust by governments and councils on behalf of the people of NSW who own it, and that there should be an end to all trade-offs of publicly owned land.

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#### For further information:

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## **From Urban Planning & Built Environment policy cont...**

Any franchise or lease of public land must be in the public benefit (eg. surf life saving club, railway station) and must support that public benefit.

Lease of public land must have a public benefit, such as the maintenance of the publicly owned asset.

The Greens NSW unequivocally oppose the current practice of granting exclusivity of use of public land (such as shopping bridges over public roads and private motorways) to private developments

Public open spaces should be linked by biodiversity corridors; these corridors could form a non-motorised transport network with native vegetation at their edges. This extension of parklands is to be funded by taxes/ contributions from developers and expenditure must be co-ordinated according to a long-term comprehensive plan.

The planting of fruit trees or other food bearing vegetation should be encouraged in parks where ecologically appropriate, eg on non-contaminated, community owned sites.

Streetscapes (roads, streets, footpaths and laneways) are to be viewed as important publicly owned spaces and their amenity is to be protected

The Greens believe that a minimum of 50% of council landscaping and plantings should be of native species. Deciduous trees should not be planted within 10m of waterways, paved surfaces or any stormwater system.

In order to control stormwater runoff and to enhance amenity, targets should be established for a percentage of any given hectare to consist of unpaved areas and permeable surfaces to reduce runoff.

Recent legislation allowing landowners to confiscate existing 'dunny cart' networks from public ownership should be repealed. These spaces provide the opportunity for non-motorised transport networks and biodiversity corridors.

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### **For further information:**

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