

Executive Summary

The Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Bill) was introduced by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP, on 1 May 2025 and referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee (committee) for examination and report by 20 June 2025.

The Bill has three key objectives:

- to introduce a 'community benefit system' into the Queensland planning framework by among other things, requiring a proponent to conduct a Social Impact Assessment and enter into a Community Benefit Agreement with the local government before lodging a development application for certain uses, which are to be prescribed by regulation. A consultation version of the draft regulation was tabled during the introductory speech and indicated that the Bill will apply to proponents seeking to develop wind farms and large-scale solar farms
- to improve administrative efficiency and flexibility of Economic Development Queensland Board operations
- to ensure the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games venues and villages are delivered in a timely manner and in a way that maximises the legacy benefits of the Games.

The committee has recommended that the Bill be passed.

There was significant public interest in the committee's inquiry. The committee considered over 700 submissions, several proforma submissions, and conducted 4 public hearings in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Biloela.

Community benefit system amendments

The committee received over 40 submissions from local government, renewable energy, legal and community stakeholders in relation to this part of the Bill. In summary, stakeholders submitted general support for the introduction of a community benefit system and the formalisation of community engagement requirements. However, some issues were raised about the practical implementation of the requirements. Key themes considered by the committee included:

- support for a community benefit system
- timing and mandatory nature of community benefit requirements
- whether existing mechanisms in the planning framework could be used instead
- calls for a coordinated and strategic approach to renewables investment
- mediation provisions in the Bill and Chief Executive powers
- scope of the consultation version of the draft Planning Regulation including the omission of Battery Energy Storage Systems, and the solar farm thresholds.

Economic development amendments

The Bill proposes to amend the *Economic Development Act 2012* to remove the specified grounds on which the chief executive officer of the Minister for Economic Development Queensland can be removed from office. The amendments bring the process in line with other government appointments.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games amendments

The Bill amends the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021* to make changes to governance, project delivery and planning pathways to enable the implementation of the 2032 Games Delivery Plan in time for the Games, with appropriate governance, oversight and process efficiency.

The committee received hundreds of submissions in relation to this part of the Bill, the majority of which focussed on amendments relevant to the Authority's responsibilities and powers, specifically the definitions of Authority venues contained in Schedule 1 of the Bill (including the identification of Victoria Park), and the streamlined planning pathway including the provision that provides that Games-related development, legacy use, or activity is taken as lawful despite several existing Acts.

Key themes considered by the committee included:

- Support for a streamlined planning pathway
- Removal of requirements to comply with certain legislation
- Appeals, reviews and civil proceedings
- Victoria Park and Redlands White Water Centre
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait cultural heritage matters
- Streamlined governance arrangements.

Legislative compliance

The committee concluded that the Bill complied with the Legislative Standards Act and the Human Rights Act.