

Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Queensland Parliament's Inquiry into the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. As a concerned Paddington Queensland resident, I am committed to ensuring that our planning frameworks prioritise community health and well-being and particularly social equity.

The Importance of Genuine Community Engagement

I was encouraged when Victoria Golf Course was handed back to the people as Victoria Park and now saddened to see this 'ripped up' for development. Many recent discussions, notably highlighted by Rosemary O'Hagan of the Save Victoria Park Advocacy Group, underscore the critical need for authentic community consultation in planning decisions, with the highest values, giving back to the residents and our earthly environment. Rosemary emphasised that major proposals, like constructing a stadium in Victoria Park, historically have proceeded without adequate community input, leading to decisions that may override the public's best interests. This sentiment was echoed in Rosemary's interview on ABC, where she stated, "There has to be another space in Brisbane that is not prime green parkland for us to put a stadium." My suburb of Paddington has minimal green spaces and parking. A strenuous walk to river results in a concrete river walkway, no trees and the need to dodge high speed bikes on the 'shared pathway'. I was delighted with the development of Victoria Park for the community regardless of the small area in comparison to other inner city parks of the world. Such instances highlight the necessity for planning processes that genuinely incorporate community voices, ensuring that developments align with the needs and values of local residents. Most importantly, Queensland State requires leadership for Queensland current and future residents. Paddington lacks parkland area because it looked down on the green floodlands that are now taken up by houses and infrastructure and lack of greenspace planning. Let's not continue to repeat past mistakes.

Recommendations

1. **Mandate Comprehensive Social Impact Assessments (SIAs):** Ensure that all significant developments undergo thorough SIAs, evaluating potential effects on community cohesion, access to green spaces, and overall well-being.
2. **Establish Transparent Community Consultation Processes:** Implement mechanisms that facilitate meaningful community engagement, allowing residents to have a substantive role in shaping projects that affect their neighborhoods.
3. **Prioritise Preservation of Public Green Spaces:** Recognise the intrinsic value of green spaces like Victoria Park, safeguarding them from developments that could compromise their accessibility and ecological integrity.

Conclusion

For Queensland to foster sustainable and inclusive growth, it is imperative that our planning legislation reflects a commitment to community centred development. By embedding robust social impact considerations and ensuring genuine public participation, we can create environments that truly serve the needs of all residents. Thank you for considering this submission.