

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

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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1. Why Victoria Park Matters Victoria Park / Barrambin is Brisbane's largest inner-city park. It spans over 64 hectares and is a rare green space for recreation, ecology, and cultural heritage. The site is deeply significant to Aboriginal peoples, and it also holds immense value for Brisbane's broader community. The Victoria Park Master Plan was developed after almost four years of community consultation so the surprise announcement of Olympic venues in Victoria Park is a shocking betrayal of community. I personally love Victoria Park because it creates a beautiful green space not only to still have and see in our city but because it there for all future generations to enjoy. Once it is gone it is gone forever. Also it is perfectly situated for people and families who need a mental breath, and to visit this park does that! it costs nothing allowing easy access with out crowds of people to enjoy at all times of the year. It is also wonderful that it is so close to the hospital for those recovering and family to enjoy during troubling times. However it is way more than that, it is a reminder of the importance to protect and take care of our parks at all costs. We destroy so much that is good in our world and those that came before us created this park to protect us from ourselves and to honour all those who came before us and after. To give us and the animals a beautiful and blessed space to be caretakers of for the next generation. So let's not destroy this gift but honour and protect it like we would any other precious building or artefact. Be conscious and present in seeing that this protected space is a gift that provides the people of Brisbane and those that visit a special personal invisible gift of joy and serenity to all that who need it. If Victoria Park is lost in its present form, I will lose more than what some believe is just a space to be used for an Olympic concrete stadium. I and millions of others will lose a gift that was given to the people of Brisbane to be a haven and a place fir serenity to be enjoyed in all its natural beauty. The feel and energy of the park will be destroyed along with the loss of the trees and the homes for animals etc. It will just become another big, crowded, busy area full of concrete. I could write so much more but much was already said in the last survey for the plan done for Victoria Park laid out by Brisbane City Council which has all been thrown to wayside by this state government and local government in honour of a large concrete stadium which could be built out at Boondall near the current entertainment centre leaving Victoria Park as it was alway meant to be. A peoples Park.

2. Why a Stadium in Victoria Park Doesn't Make Sense Building a stadium in Victoria Park / Barrambin is impractical, environmentally damaging, and contrary to community interests. Key reasons include:

1. Challenging Topography: The park's hilly terrain and hard Brisbane Tuff rock would require extensive excavation and blasting, increasing costs and potentially disrupting nearby hospitals due to vibrations.
2. Violation of Olympic Host Requirements: Constructing a stadium here would breach the Olympic Host Contract, which mandates avoiding permanent structures in protected areas and prioritizing previously developed sites.
3. Existing Traffic Congestion: The area already experiences significant traffic from nearby hospitals, schools, and universities. A stadium would exacerbate congestion, affecting emergency services and daily commutes.
4. Inadequate Public Transport: Unlike other stadiums, Victoria Park lacks sufficient public transport access. The nearest station is a considerable walk away, posing challenges for attendees, especially those with mobility issues.
5. Loss of Essential Green Space: As Brisbane's largest inner-city park, Victoria Park provides vital green space in a city already lacking in such areas. A stadium would significantly reduce this public amenity. There are mature native trees in this park which pre-date European settlement and date to pre-1750.
6. Proximity to Major Hospital: The park is adjacent to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Stadium events could disrupt hospital operations, affecting patient care and staff.
7. Lack of Surrounding Amenities: The area lacks the bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues that typically support stadium events,

leading to potential overdevelopment within the park itself.⁸ Environmental Impact: The park serves as a natural cooling area, mitigating urban heat. Development would increase heat retention and reduce air quality.⁹ Cultural Significance: Victoria Park holds deep cultural importance for First Nations communities. Development risks disturbing sacred sites and erasing historical significance.¹⁰ Every inch of Victoria Park is heritage listed at the local or state level. This land is part of the story of Brisbane and has a rich WWII and depression era history. ¹¹ Community Opposition: There is strong public resistance to the stadium proposal, with concerns about environmental degradation, cultural disrespect, and loss of public space.³ What the Bill Would DoThe Bill proposes to list a Stadium in Victoria Park as an 'authority venue' for the 2032 Olympics. The Bill would exempt construction of such Olympics venues and villages from 15 Queensland planning, environmental and heritage laws. The Bill would also remove any access to the Courts in relation to the construction of Olympics venues or villages. It would also override First Nations cultural heritage protections using a new process which railroads First Nations into a default plan if they don't agree in the timeline specified by the Bill.⁴ Why This Should Concern QueenslandersThe Bill removes public safeguards by effectively exempting Olympic venues and villages from laws that apply to ordinary Queenslanders. This includes the Planning Act, Heritage Act, and Environmental Protection Act. Access to the Courts is a basic right of all Queenslanders. The Bill proposes to remove this right with sweeping provisions in relation to Olympics venues and villages. The Bill introduces a fast-tracked cultural heritage scheme that limits consultation and allows default plans without the agreement of Traditional Owners. The potential use of public parkland for commercial Olympic 'villages' risks corruption. These exemptions from planning laws and court review bypass scrutiny and reduce transparency when privatising very valuable public assets.⁵ What I Am Asking the Committee to DoI respectfully ask that your report to Parliament recommend that:¹ Victoria Park / Barrambin be removed from Schedule 1 (Authority Venues);² The cultural heritage override provisions be withdrawn;³ Olympic developments be subject to existing Queensland laws like all other developments;⁴ The Victoria Park Master Plan be upheld as a reflection of the community's vision for the park.