

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

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Good morning,

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

Name: Annie Binyon

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I urgently request that you reconsider the development of Victoria Park / Barrambin, Brisbane's largest inner-city park. Spanning over 64 hectares, this rare green space serves recreation, ecology, and cultural heritage. It holds deep significance for Aboriginal peoples and immense value for the broader Brisbane community.

The Victoria Park Master Plan was developed after nearly four years of community consultation, making the unexpected announcement of Olympic venues in Victoria Park a shocking betrayal of community trust.

Victoria Park is not just an asset for all Brisbane residents; green spaces enhance our appeal to tourists and provide essential recreational areas.

Building a Victoria Park / Barrambin stadium is impractical, environmentally damaging, and contrary to community interests.

Here are the key reasons why:

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.

Violation of Olympic Host Requirements: Constructing a stadium here would breach the Olympic Host Contract, which mandates that permanent structures should be avoided in protected areas, prioritizing previously developed sites instead.

Existing Traffic Congestion: The area already experiences significant traffic from nearby hospitals, schools, and universities. A stadium would exacerbate congestion, negatively impacting emergency services and daily commutes.

Inadequate Public Transport: Victoria Park lacks sufficient public transport access compared to other stadiums. The nearest station is quite far away, creating challenges for attendees, particularly those with mobility issues.

Loss of Essential Green Space: As Brisbane's largest inner-city park, Victoria Park provides vital green space in a city already lacking such areas. A stadium would significantly reduce this public amenity, and there are mature native trees in the park that predate European settlement, some dating back to before 1750.

Proximity to Major Hospitals: The park is adjacent to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Events at the stadium could disrupt hospital operations, adversely affecting patient care and staff.

Lack of Surrounding Amenities: The area lacks bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues typically supporting stadium events, which could lead to potential overdevelopment within the park.

Environmental Impact: The park serves as a natural cooling area, helping to mitigate urban heat. Development would increase heat retention and reduce air quality.

Cultural Significance: Victoria Park is culturally important to First Nations communities. Development could disturb sacred sites and erase historical significance. Furthermore, every inch of Victoria Park is heritage-listed at the local or state level. This land is integral to Brisbane's story and has a rich history linked to World War II and the Great Depression.

Community Opposition: The public strongly opposes the stadium proposal, raising concerns about environmental degradation, cultural disrespect, and the loss of public space.

The Bill proposes designating a stadium at Victoria Park as an "authority

venue" for the 2032 Olympics. It would exempt the construction of such Olympic venues and villages from 15 Queensland planning, environmental, and heritage laws. Additionally, it would remove access to courts regarding the construction of Olympic venues or villages and override First Nations cultural heritage protections through a new process that could impose a default plan if Traditional Owners do not agree within a specified timeline.

This Bill effectively removes public safeguards by exempting Olympic venues and villages from laws that apply to ordinary Queenslanders, including the Planning Act, Heritage Act, and Environmental Protection Act.

Access to the courts is a fundamental right for all Queenslanders, yet the Bill proposes eliminating this right with broad provisions regarding Olympic venues and villages. It introduces a fast-tracked cultural heritage scheme that limits consultation and facilitates default plans without the agreement of Traditional Owners. Additionally, the potential use of public parkland for commercial Olympic "villages" raises concerns about corruption. These exemptions from planning laws and court reviews bypass scrutiny and reduce transparency when privatising valuable public assets.

Please consider:

I 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

Thank you for your consideration in this urgent matter.

Warm regards

Annie Binyon