

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

Submission No: 45
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Submitter Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Bill proposed. This includes the proposal to list a Stadium in Victoria Park as an 'authority venue' for the 2032 Olympics, exempting the construction of Olympics venues and villages from 15 Queensland planning, environmental and heritage laws, removing access to the Courts in relation to this construction and overriding key provisions of First Nations cultural heritage protections. Victoria Park for me is an outstanding example of forward thinking in city design. Such a large area of green space creates relief and balance in a dense inner-city area that threatens to create an unliveable urban environment for residents and city workers alike. The park area is also a key site for Aboriginal peoples and a show of respect for their experience as a result of their displacement from the area. My feelings about this area aside, the Victoria Park Master Plan is the result of nearly four years of community consultation - to disregard this process and its outcome is disrespectful to the community and a betrayal of the systems and democratic promises in place. Additionally, building a stadium in Victoria Park breaches the Olympic Host Contract, which mandates avoiding permanent structures in protected areas and prioritizing previously developed sites. It seems that the government is content to disrespect all of these social and legal contracts to gain some short-term goals that will soon be forgotten. The consequences will continue to have to be managed, however, such as increased traffic, reduced total green space, disruption to nearby hospital operations, decreased air quality, increased urban heat and disrespect toward our own indigenous people. Critically, the loss of trust between government and citizens will not be manageable and will result in reduced democratic engagement and trust. I ask that the report to Parliament recommend that: 1. Victoria Park 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 The cultural heritage override provisions be withdrawn; 3.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. Thank you for consideration of this submission.