

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

**Submission No:** 80  
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**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

1. Why Victoria Park Matters Victoria Park / Barrambin is Brisbane's largest inner-city park, covering more than 64 hectares of vital green space. This area is not just land; it is a living part of our city's history, environment, and cultural identity. It holds deep significance for Aboriginal peoples and is treasured by the wider Brisbane community. I personally value Victoria Park as a place of reflection and connection to nature amidst the growing urban landscape. It is a rare sanctuary for wildlife and people alike, and its open spaces have offered me and countless others a sense of calm, community, and belonging. If Victoria Park is lost in its present form, we lose not only irreplaceable green space but also a vital part of Brisbane's cultural and historical fabric.

2. Why a Stadium in Victoria Park Doesn't Make Sense Building a stadium in Victoria Park / Barrambin is a short-sighted, impractical, and damaging proposal for the following reasons:

- Challenging Topography:** The park's hilly terrain and underlying Brisbane Tuff rock will require extensive excavation and blasting, leading to enormous costs and disruption to nearby hospitals and residents.
- Violation of Olympic Host Requirements:** The Olympic Host Contract explicitly discourages permanent structures in protected areas and prioritizes the use of previously developed sites. This plan ignores those obligations.
- Traffic Congestion:** The area already suffers from significant congestion due to nearby hospitals, universities, and schools. A stadium would only worsen this, impacting emergency services and daily commutes.
- Inadequate Public Transport:** The lack of nearby public transport infrastructure will make access to the stadium difficult, particularly for people with mobility issues.
- Loss of Critical Green Space:** Brisbane is already one of Australia's most under-served cities for green space. Victoria Park is home to mature native trees that pre-date European settlement and provide critical habitat. Its loss would be a devastating blow to environmental sustainability.
- Proximity to Major Hospital:** Stadium events would directly impact the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital next door, causing noise, disruption, and hindering emergency services.
- Lack of Supporting Amenities:** Unlike other stadium precincts, this area lacks the hospitality infrastructure needed to support large events without further overdevelopment.
- Environmental Impact:** Victoria Park is a vital urban cooling area. Development would worsen the heat island effect and degrade air quality in one of Brisbane's busiest health and education districts.
- Cultural Significance:** This site holds profound significance for First Nations peoples. Development risks desecrating sacred sites and erasing vital cultural heritage.
- Heritage Listing:** Every inch of Victoria Park is heritage-listed at the local or state level. Its WWII and Depression-era history is a vital part of Brisbane's story.
- Overwhelming Community Opposition:** Thousands of community members have voiced their strong opposition to this plan. The government should listen to the people it serves.

3. What the Bill Would Do The Bill proposes to list Victoria Park as an 'authority venue' for the 2032 Olympics, allowing it to bypass 15 critical Queensland laws protecting the environment, heritage, and planning processes. It would remove public rights to access the courts regarding these developments and introduce a fast-tracked cultural heritage process that undermines the voices and rights of Traditional Owners.

4. Why This Should Concern Queenslanders The Bill sets a dangerous precedent, removing important protections that safeguard our environment, history, and democratic rights. It overrides the Planning Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Heritage Act, and removes public judicial review—fundamental pillars of a free and fair society. It also enables the fast-tracking of decisions affecting First Nations cultural heritage without proper consultation or consent, threatening reconciliation efforts and cultural respect. Finally, the risk of public assets being turned into private profit under the guise of Olympic development raises serious concerns about transparency and accountability.

5. What I Am

Asking the Committee to DoI respectfully ask that the Committee: Remove Victoria Park / Barrambin from Schedule 1 (Authority Venues). Withdraw the cultural heritage override provisions. Ensure that Olympic developments are subject to the same laws and scrutiny as any other development. Uphold the Victoria Park Master Plan as the true reflection of the community's vision for this irreplaceable public space.