

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

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Victoria Park/Barrambin in Brisbane is an important asset to our community, valued for its expansive size, ecological significance, and rich history. As one of the largest inner-city parklands in Brisbane, it provides a peaceful retreat for both residents and visitors, offering a diverse range of activities and events that foster community engagement. More than just a green space, it serves as a crucial green corridor that supports biodiversity and helps moderate our urban climate, making it an integral part of our city's ecosystem. Spanning an impressive 64 hectares, Victoria Park is a true sanctuary in the heart of the city, located just 2 kilometres from Brisbane's vibrant centre. This accessibility ensures that a broader range of individuals can appreciate the beauty and tranquillity of nature amidst the urban environment. The park is home to over 60 bird species, as well as various native mammals, reptiles, and insects, playing a pivotal role in sustaining local biodiversity. It not only nurtures wildlife but also contributes to a more comfortable and sustainable living environment by mitigating heat in our city. Given its significance, we must work together to preserve Victoria Park from potential development. Historically, the land has served multiple purposes, including as a quarry, a rifle range, and even a World War II encampment. Since 1875, it has held a special place for recreation and sport, having been the site of the Brisbane Hockey Association's first headquarters. We must honour this heritage by protecting the park's unique environment. The proposal to construct an Olympic stadium in this cherished area raises important considerations regarding its potential impact on both the community and the environment. The current traffic congestion during peak hours could be exacerbated, complicating access to essential services, including nearby hospitals. Observing other stadium locations, such as Woolloongabba and Suncorp, reveals the challenges associated with placing large venues close to the city centre. Rather than adding more concrete to our cityscape, we believe it is important for our leaders to honour their commitments to protect our beloved park. Many residents supported the Premier with the understanding that no Olympic stadium would be built in this location, and the announcement has come as a surprise to many. There are alternative sites along railway lines where a stadium could be constructed on vacant land, thus allowing us to safeguard Victoria Park—a truly unique treasure for our community and beyond. Let us unite in our efforts to ensure that this invaluable park continues to flourish for future generations.