

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

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Submitted by: David Finch
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From: [David Finch](#)
To: [State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee
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Re: Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill)

Name: David Finch

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Dear State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee,

As a local resident of Kelvin Grove and a healthcare worker at the RBWH Herston, I have a keen personal interest in the proposal for Victoria Park / Barrambin and the Bill.

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 trust.

The 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.

I respectfully ask that your report to Parliament recommend that:

- Victoria Park / Barrambin be removed from Schedule 1 (Authority Venues);
- The cultural heritage override provisions be withdrawn;
- Olympic developments be subject to existing Queensland laws like all other developments;
- The Victoria Park Master Plan be upheld as a reflection of the community's vision for the park.

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

As a local resident, I am particularly worried about:

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.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Finch