

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

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1. Why Victoria Park Matters

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.

This park, in its current state, is of immense value to me for many reasons. I grew up in Spring Hill and these natural areas were a get-away from city life. Its green spaces offered me peace and quiet in a busy urban environment. I think of the many families that still live here and I think about their needs. They must have these natural areas preserved. A stadium here is transient and will be mostly dead space. Children need green spaces to play, to learn, imagine in and grow. I know as an educator, that children need these calming green spaces more than ever. With conditions such as ASD, ADHD and ADD, only increasing in our school systems, it is well documented that spending

time in natural environments offer respite and calm. These green spaces are now, and always will be, needed by these children and their families.

2. Why a Stadium in Victoria Park Doesn't Make Sense

Building a stadium in Victoria Park doesn't make sense. It is a hospital precinct and this proposed development puts immense pressure on parking for people who work at the hospital, including doctors, interns, registrars, nurses and ancillary staff. It will further complicate the entry of ambulances in a heavy traffic area leading to further time casualties are denied emergency care.

Compared to the historic Lang Park, the transport infrastructure is not there. People will have to walk further. As a devout rugby league fan who regularly attends games at Lang Park, I do not support its replacement as the home of rugby league as it is a cultural icon of Brisbane. Rugby league fans don't want a new stadium.

This government is breaking an election promise of 'no new stadiums' and they should be held accountable to them.

Constructing a stadium here would breach the Olympic Host Contract, which mandates avoiding permanent structures in protected areas and prioritizing previously developed sites. way Olympic games are run have changed. There is now clear guidelines that compell governments who are staging the games to use existing infrastructure and make them sustainable. This government's action is not sustainable and it is too costly. We need this money to go to front-line services to serve the public in meaningful ways.

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

Access to the Courts is a basic right of all Queenslanders. The Bill proposes to remove this right with sweeping provisions in relation to Olympics venues and villages.

The Bill introduces a fast-tracked cultural heritage scheme that limits consultation and allows default plans without the agreement of Traditional Owners.

The potential use of public parkland for commercial Olympic 'villages' risks corruption. These exemptions from planning laws and court review bypass scrutiny and reduce transparency when privatising very valuable public assets.

5. What I Am Asking the Committee to Do

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 of the community's vision for the park.

Yours sincerely

Karl Fagermo