

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

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To: State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee
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Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing as a retired town planner regarding the proposed legislation to override 15 separate pieces of legislation in regard to the construction of the Olympic stadium and swimming venues at Victoria Park Barrambin.

The introduction of this legislation is appalling and completely overrides the interests of the community, reflected in the existing legislative controls. The Victoria Park Barrambin proposals are a disgrace and that special legislation is needed is indicative of the inappropriateness of the proposed works.

No other Olympic city in the history of the Games has lost its largest inner-city park due to the games.

The stadium is taking the majority of the best, least noise impacted area of the park in its entirety. It is the most disgraceful, short-sighted ill-conceived decision in recent Brisbane governance.

The resultant works with inadequate public transport will have serious ramifications for the surrounding community every time an event takes place are part and parcel of the idiocy of the decision making associated with this process.

The government is subsuming the character of Victoria Park Barrambin as a place characterised by natural values to a series of concrete edifices. There was a complete absence of appropriate investigations to consider whether the site was appropriate for one, let alone two venues. Thus all the considerations that would normally come into play associated with sound land use planning are being ignored such as:-

- environmental concerns (including the loss of trees and habitat within the park, including important squirrel glider habitat all the more significant for its urban context);
- the consideration of heritage and indigenous issues (including the destruction of one of the most tangible links to the indigenous past in south-east Queensland);
- road network (including the current over-saturation of both Bowen Bridge Road intersections, with no prospect for improvement);
- public transport planning (including the distance to heavy rail being unacceptable and the worst located stadium site in Australia);
- ground investigations (necessitating abnormal cost);
- consideration of noise impacts (including vibration impacts upon the RBWH immediately adjacent);
- impacts on surrounding residential areas (as a result of the both the construction and operation of the venues);
- amenity impacts (upon the character of the local and wider area); and
- the legality of the actions in regard to tenure (whether the infrastructure arrangements are consistent with the terms of the Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT)).

All normal considerations for a hugely costly piece of infrastructure moving the most significant crowd numbers in Brisbane are being steamrolled in the absence of adequate investigations and necessitating special legislation.

The situation is a disgrace. The 100Day GIIICA report was laughable and didn't even contain a proper review of the circumstances of Victoria Park Barrambin. The conclusion recommending Victoria Park were drafted without any proper consideration of issues and the city is destined to end up with significant debt and the least convenient major stadium in Australia for access to rail along with ongoing functional impacts on Australia's largest hospital.

The stadium should never have been considered in this location. It is retrograde and shameful.

The legislation to enable these developments should not proceed in relation to Victoria Park Barrambin or elsewhere nor should any associated works at that location.

Yours Faithfully,

Marian Wheeler

14 May 2025