

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

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee](#)
Subject: Submission: Opposition to Proposed Victoria Park Stadium Development and Law Overrides
Date: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 12:03:38 AM

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed overriding of 15 Queensland laws to facilitate Olympic developments—including the two proposed stadiums in Victoria Park (Barrambin). As a wildlife photographer and long-time resident who lived next to this park in Herston, I have spent years observing and documenting the incredible diversity of birdlife and native species that call this vital green space home.

Victoria Park is one of the last large pockets of inner-city habitat in Brisbane. It is a critical foraging ground for flying foxes that roost along Enoggera Creek and provides refuge to native birds—many of which live for decades and have called these trees home longer than most residents. The park's mature trees, some a century old, serve as the lungs of the city—absorbing carbon, reducing heat, filtering air, and offering shade in an increasingly hot and built-up environment. Removing this habitat is not just development; it is irreversible displacement and ecological destruction.

Victoria Park is also a refuge for the people of Brisbane. It offers a rare space for mental restoration, exercise, and community connection right in the heart of our city. In a time when urban density is increasing and green space is shrinking, places like Victoria Park are more important than ever for public wellbeing.

There is already a portion of Victoria Park/Barrambin listed on the Queensland Heritage Register—the area between Gilchrist Avenue and Gregory Terrace, added in 2007. The park is also recognised as a Local Heritage Place under the Brisbane City Plan 2014. More recently, the Queensland Government's own Environment Department recommended expanding the heritage listing to encompass the entire park, citing its deep historical and cultural significance. Despite this, the government is now proposing to override the **Queensland Heritage Act** and other important protections to build a stadium. This contradiction is deeply troubling—especially given the Aboriginal cultural significance of Barrambin. This land should be honoured and protected, not erased under concrete and grandstands for a temporary event.

What's more, the government is attempting to override laws that exist to protect Queensland's people, places, and environment: the **Environmental Protection Act**, **Nature Conservation Act**, **Planning Act**, and others. These laws are not red tape—they are safeguards against exactly this kind of short-sighted and irreversible decision-making.

We are being asked to give up trees, wildlife, and cultural heritage for a "legacy" that in truth will last only a few weeks. Once this natural space is lost, we cannot bring it back. Brisbane should be showcasing our biodiversity, Aboriginal heritage, and commitment to sustainability to the world—not paving over it.

I urge the Committee to reject these law overrides and stop the stadium development in Victoria Park. This is not the legacy we want to leave. Future generations deserve a living, breathing Barrambin—not a concrete monument to missed priorities.

I've shared some of the birds and trees I got to know while living next to the park on my Instagram page: [REDACTED]. It's mostly backyard nature, but Victoria Park was a big part of that connection for me.

Sincerely,

Jane Kirkpatrick

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