

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

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Dear Committee,

I write to express my strong concern regarding the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) Bill, particularly its implications for environmental protections and planning oversight in the context of Olympic-related developments.

As Queensland prepares to welcome the world for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, *it is vital that our state is recognised* not only for its sporting achievements but also for *its commitment to protecting our unique natural environment and cultural heritage*. **Global attention will be focused on our iconic landscapes—from the Great Barrier Reef to our precious koala habitats**—and it is imperative that we take meaningful climate action and ensure that all developments are appropriately located and thoroughly assessed under existing planning and environmental frameworks.

I am particularly concerned about the potential impact this Bill will have on significant sites such as Barrambin (Victoria Park), which holds deep Aboriginal cultural heritage value, and the Redlands Whitewater Centre, a location of environmental sensitivity. These areas deserve comprehensive environmental and cultural assessments—not exemptions from due process.

While I support measures to ensure that renewable energy developers clearly communicate project impacts and deliver tangible benefits to local communities, I am concerned that the Bill may unintentionally hinder the renewable energy transition by enabling unnecessary delays or rejections. To ensure a just and effective energy transition, I urge the Government to:

- Accelerate the implementation of the Renewable Energy Zone framework to better coordinate local development.
- Establish and expand Local Energy Hubs to empower communities to negotiate fair outcomes with developers.
- Provide funding to local councils to collaboratively develop investment priorities for community benefit funds in partnership with their communities.

It is also time the Government *extended the same community benefit agreement requirements to the resources sector and to maintain strong community objection rights for resource projects.*

It is unacceptable and outrageous that a coal mine extracting under 2 million tonnes per annum can avoid a full environmental impact assessment, while a small-scale solar project of just 2 hectares must comply with far more rigorous standards, including delivering a social impact assessment and community benefit agreement.

In fact, it is time “Producer Pays” legislation is enacted and enforced with restoration costs and fines to the tune of tens of millions of dollars liabled against company

directors for the damage their extractive industries or development projects cause to the environment.

All developments—whether Olympic venues, renewable projects, or resource operations—should be held to consistent and high standards of environmental and social assessment. No sector should be granted exemptions that compromise community rights or environmental integrity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important legislation.