

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

**Submission No:** 329  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I am concerned that the 'Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025' (POLA) aims to circumvent the rule of law. It: 1) effectively exempts declared venues and villages from 15 planning and environmental laws<sup>2</sup>) seeks to exclude any review by the Courts. I believe that our existing planning and environmental laws should be applied equally and fairly to everyone under the watchful eye of an independent judiciary. These laws and the role the Courts play in judicial review are designed to safeguard our community against corruption. I believe that by removing these safeguards the POLA Bill could create an 'island of power immune from supervision and restraint' through which very significant transfers of wealth could occur. The POLA explanatory notes (<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0426/5825t426.pdf> attempts to justify) provide the following justification for removing safe guards: "To the extent that the provisions in the legislation will remove the usual approval and review processes there is justification for such a position, given the need to deliver the venues for the 2032 Games and to meet existing contractual commitments in that regard." I strongly disagree with this justification statement. The planning and environmental laws protect both the present and future community from the long term (often permanent) impact of ill-considered, short-sighted decisions. Deadlines and contractual commitments associated with the 2032 Games are ephemeral pressures that the state government has voluntarily chosen to undertake. The sense of urgency they create does NOT justify removal of the usual approval and review processes. Indeed, planning and environmental laws are most important when an actor may be tempted through a sense of urgency to act in a manner that is contrary to the community's long term best interests.