

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

**Submission No:** 332  
**Submitted by:** Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

BCRQ now covers south to Logan, all eastern suburbs of Brisbane, west as far as Dalby and Blackbutt and north to Caboolture. We have satellites of a small number of BCRQ teams in Hervey Bay, Bundaberg and Gladstone. BCRQ also provides support for regional groups and individuals that respond to bat rescues and Councils. With regards to bats (flying-foxes and microbats) Queensland cannot abolish environmental State laws for the following reasons: ¶ This could allow the destruction of many trees of significance such as large native figs that very often are habitat and food source for wildlife including bats. ¶ It allows the possibility of override of the city plans for 40% green cover as city temperature control to try to mitigate climate extremes and heatwaves that affect bats especially, and air and noise pollution rules around fireworks during the games that could have massive impacts on inner city bats and for the city. Already we get calls for rescues for flying-foxes injured by fireworks. ¶ This would mean abolishing of protections for mangroves that are crucial all round food sources for bats in the cities, many creeks and foreshores and other city and state reserves protections that protect flying-foxes and microbats habitat. In addition, the environmental laws that directly protect Australian endemic species themselves, historical tunnels, culverts, bridges and places where microbats are known to roost or rely on for cover. ¶ If allowed to progress, this could pave the way for massive swathes of the SEQ region developed and wholesale destroyed without need for any checks or balances, all in the name of the games. This would go against the IOC Games own rules about host city responsibilities. ¶ Currently, BCRQ has been overwhelmed with flying-foxes suffering from paralysis syndrome. All that is known about this issue is that it is suspected to be an environmental cause and lorikeets were the first to be affected. If uncontrolled clearing continues, BCRQ will no longer be able to respond to the quantity of calls to remove and rescue bats affected from public spaces and private properties. ¶ BCRQ not only provides for bat welfare, but for keeping people safe by removing injured bats from private and public property and providing a 24/7 triage service to direct them with regards to actions for any bat interactions, questions, and report to Qld Health if we suspect there has been a bat bite or scratch. There are no other organisations that do this on the scale that we are able. Not all RSPCA responders are vaccinated, and RSPCA is already overwhelmed with other wildlife and they are not in regional locations, so greater than 95% of calls in our covered area are directed to us. Currently we are already struggling to keep up with the demand. ¶ BCRQ also provides free education to many schools, kindergartens and public groups to ensure people stay safe. Recently one of our volunteers sourced a donation with a billboard company and successfully created a 6 week billboard campaign at numerous sites around Brisbane to educate the public about safety (during the paralysis event) and who to call. No government organisation is doing this. BCRQ receives very limited support (only in the form of grants) from DETSI. ¶ Flying-foxes are a keystone species as essential long-distance pollinators for Australian forests, including koala food trees. We are already seeing the effect of land clearing for an unsustainable increase in population.