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

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Submitter Comments:

I'm writing to express my deep concern about the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) Bill and the dangerous precedent it sets by allowing Olympic developments to override existing environmental and planning laws. As the world prepares to turn its eyes to Queensland for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, I hope our state is recognised not just for its world-class sporting events, but also for its natural beauty and cultural heritage. To truly showcase places like the Great Barrier Reef and fauna like our iconic koala populations, we need strong climate action and responsible planning that ensures all developments are properly assessed. I'm particularly worried about the Bill's potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage at Barrambin (Victoria Park) and the environmental risks at the Redlands Whitewater Centre. These areas deserve full environmental and cultural assessments—not exemptions. While I support requiring renewable energy developers to clearly outline project impacts and ensure community benefits, I'm concerned these rules could be used to delay or block renewables. I urge the Government to:Fast-track the Renewable Energy Zone framework,Fund Local Energy Hubs to support community negotiations, andProvide resources to local councils to help communities set investment priorities for community benefit funds. I also call for the same transparency and community benefit requirements to apply to resource projects, and for community objection rights to be maintained. It's alarming that a coal mine producing under two million tonnes annually could avoid a full environmental impact assessment, while a small solar farm would face stricter requirements.Olympic developments and resource projects should not be given a free pass. All developments must be subject to rigorous environmental and social assessment. Thank you for considering my concerns.