

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

Submission No: 350
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am deeply concerned that the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) Bill allows Olympic and potentially other future developments to override existing environment and planning laws. If this Bill is passed, it would set a dangerous precedent which would allow the Government to approve development regardless of any environmental or planning laws in place without the possibility of any legal action from anyone who is convinced that the development is inappropriate. The Bill ignores democracy, the separation of powers and the rule of law; we live in a democratic state so everyone should be subject to the same laws, both individuals and Governments. I am particularly concerned about the proposed Olympic stadiums for Barrambin (Victoria Park) and the proposed Redlands Whitewater Centre. Barrambin has deep cultural significance with First Nations peoples. It was a meeting place and stop-over for visiting tribes to the area; it is a deeply spiritual place and I think anyone can experience this deep spirituality and peace when standing in the middle of the Park on a quiet day. The Park contains many mature trees which pre-date European settlement and as the largest inner-city Park provides essential habitat for our urban wildlife. Destruction of the Park would displace thousands of animals and would be an animal welfare disaster. Apart from First Nations culture, the Park has deep cultural significance as a WWII and Depression era monument. Every inch of the Park is Heritage listed at a local or State level. All this cannot be ignored and bulldozed over. The proposed Redlands Whitewater Centre at Birkdale is situated on a special conservation wetland area which is an important habitat for our endangered Koala. Millions of litres of water would have to be piped in and chlorinated for use at the Centre with ongoing negative environmental impacts. These sensitive sites cannot be made exempt from planning and environment laws. The Olympic charter itself requires that new stadiums must be built according to sustainable legacy plans; destruction of cultural heritage and essential habitat does not leave a sustainable legacy. This Bill is inappropriate and the stadiums which it is designed to facilitate are deeply unpopular with the community; the Bill should not be passed and a different approach should be adopted to accommodate the Olympic Games in Brisbane in 2032 - one that does not destroy so much heritage and nature.