

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

**Submission No:** 351  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Submission: Objection to the Proposed Olympic Stadium at Victoria Park To whom it may concern, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Queensland Government's proposal to override planning and environmental laws to build an Olympic stadium on the site of the heritage-listed Victoria Park in Brisbane. This proposal represents a serious failure of public process, planning integrity, and environmental stewardship. I have lived in Brisbane for 40 years, and raised a family. It saddens me to see the overall poor planning of our growth and city's infrastructure, and the loss of our precious green spaces. My concerns are outlined below:

1. Lack of transparency and respect for community input I was actively involved in the public consultation process that led to the Victoria Park Vision and Master Plan. This plan, developed through extensive engagement with the Brisbane community, aimed to transform the former golf course into a beautiful, world-class inner-city parkland. It was a forward-thinking and widely supported vision. It is deeply disappointing and undemocratic that this Master Plan has now been scrapped without any public consultation or explanation. A developer/sports biased committee was always going to favour development and sports, there was no parallel process to assess our green space future needs.
2. Overriding of planning and environmental laws undermines public trust and long-term sustainability Fifteen planning and environmental laws are being set aside to force through this project, despite Victoria Park's heritage listing. These laws exist to protect our shared environment, cultural heritage, and community livability. Queensland has a poor history of urban and environmental planning—examples include the destruction of the riverbank for Coronation Drive, freeway construction through residential areas, and a failure to deliver effective public transport. Weakening our already limited protections is reckless and short-sighted.
3. Threat to all protected public spaces and loss of public trust If the government can override planning laws to resume a heritage-listed park, what's to stop it from doing the same to other treasured public assets—such as the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, South Bank, or New Farm Park? This move sets a chilling precedent. It tells the public that no park, no matter how protected, is safe from political expedience or developer pressure.
4. Broken election promise and deepening public mistrust Before the last election, the Queensland Government promised it would not build a new stadium. This proposal breaks that promise and deepens public cynicism about politics. Not only is the government building a stadium after saying it wouldn't, but it is doing so by taking away a beloved green space. This is not how democratic governments should behave.
5. Misleading claims about green space and lack of safe, natural areas for families Brisbane City Council claims to be a green city with many parks. But as a grandmother who uses Brisbane's parks regularly, I know most are unfenced pocket parks, bordered by busy roads and carparks. They are not safe or suitable for free play. Victoria Park is one of the few remaining places in Brisbane where children can roam freely, wildlife thrives, and families can enjoy open, natural space. It should be protected, not paved over.
6. Lack of transparency, due process, and failure to consider alternatives The works on Victoria Park were quietly halted nearly three years ago—long before any stadium proposal was publicly announced. This suggests that the decision was made behind closed doors. There has been no proper investigation into alternative, more appropriate 'brownfield' sites for this infrastructure. The choice to destroy a greenfield park instead of reusing underutilised urban land is lazy, destructive, and driven by developer convenience rather than the public good.
7. A legacy Queensland should not be proud of Roma Street Parkland celebrates famous Queenslanders with its "Wall of Fame." If this stadium project proceeds, Victoria Park may one day need a "Wall of Shame" — for those whose decisions put concrete over community, and profits over parks. From the person who introduced cane toads, to the politicians

who destroy Victoria park for short-term gain, this legacy will not be forgotten. Future generations will rightly ask: How did we allow this to happen?<sup>8</sup> Poor history of stadium planning and maintenance demands smarter use of existing facilities Brisbane/Queensland has a long history of under-investing in and poorly maintaining its existing stadium infrastructure, leaving the city littered with aging, underused venues. Instead of destroying valuable green space like Victoria Park, the government should focus on consolidating and upgrading existing stadiums and redeveloping designated sporting precincts. This approach is more sustainable, cost-effective, and respects the community's need for open public spaces.

**Conclusion** Victoria Park is a rare and irreplaceable green space in the heart of Brisbane. It was promised to the people as a public park for future generations—not as a site for short-sighted political projects. I urge the Queensland Government to respect the heritage status of the park, honour the community-developed Master Plan, and withdraw this proposal in favour of a more sustainable, transparent and responsible approach to Olympic infrastructure planning.