

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

Submission No: 364
Submitted by: Kyle Pettett
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Submitter Comments:

1. Why Victoria Park Matters Victoria Park / Barrambin is a vital 64-hectare green space in Brisbane's inner city—culturally significant to Aboriginal peoples and essential for community, biodiversity, and public wellbeing. After nearly four years of consultation, the Victoria Park Master Plan was created as a community-driven vision for its future. Proposing two major Olympic venues here disregards this plan and breaks public trust.

2. Why Stadiums in Victoria Park Are Deeply Flawed The proposed stadiums are inappropriate for multiple reasons:

- Unsuitable Terrain: Steep slopes and Brisbane Tuff rock make construction costly and disruptive to nearby hospitals.
- Violation of Olympic Guidelines: The Host Contract discourages permanent venues on greenfield sites like Victoria Park.
- Severe Congestion: The area is already overburdened with hospitals, schools, and universities. A stadium would worsen traffic and emergency access.
- Inadequate Transport: Public transport options near the site are insufficient, especially for vulnerable groups.
- Loss of Vital Green Space: As one of Brisbane's few large inner-city parks, the park provides shade, recreation, and habitat for native species.
- Impact on Healthcare: Its proximity to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital would compromise patient care and emergency services.
- Lack of Infrastructure: The area lacks supporting hospitality or entertainment facilities. Stadiums would risk overdevelopment.
- Environmental Harm: Replacing trees and open space with concrete increases urban heat and damages air quality.
- Cultural Disrespect: The site is sacred to Traditional Owners. Development risks desecration and erasure of First Nations heritage.
- Heritage Protections Ignored: The park is heritage-listed due to its Aboriginal, wartime, and community history.
- Strong Public Opposition: Thousands of Queenslanders have voiced their concern. This is a community united in grief, not protest. Victoria park wasn't even an approved site for a National Aquatics centre by GIIICA. They found in the review that it was not a suitable location. If the findings of the review mean nothing then why does a stadium finding for Victoria Park have to be adhered to? The outcome of review for the National Aquatics Centre was not adhered to. Why was this approved at the cost of the public when it was deemed not suitable?

3. What the Proposed Bill Would Do The Bill would declare Victoria Park an "authority venue" for the 2032 Olympics, allowing the government to:

- Bypass 15 planning, environmental, and heritage laws;
- Remove the public's right to challenge developments in court;
- Undermine First Nations cultural heritage through a fast-track process that can override Traditional Owner consent.

4. Why This Should Concern Queenslanders The Bill removes public safeguards by effectively exempting Olympic venues and villages from laws that apply to ordinary Queenslanders. This includes the Planning Act, Heritage Act, and Environmental Protection Act. Access to the Courts is a basic right of all Queenslanders. The Bill proposes to remove this right with sweeping provisions in relation to Olympics venues and villages. The Bill introduces a fast-tracked cultural heritage scheme that limits consultation and allows default plans without the agreement of Traditional Owners. The potential use of public parkland for commercial Olympic 'villages' risks corruption. These exemptions from planning laws and court review bypass scrutiny and reduce transparency when privatising very valuable public assets.

5. What I Am Asking the Committee to Do I respectfully ask that your report to Parliament recommend that:

1. Victoria Park / Barrambin be removed from Schedule 1 (Authority Venues);
2. The cultural heritage override provisions be withdrawn;
3. Olympic developments be subject to existing Queensland laws like all other developments;
4. The Victoria Park Master Plan be upheld as a reflection of the community's vision for the park.