

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

Submission No:	391
Submitted by:	<div></div>
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1. Why Victoria Park / Barrambin Matters

Victoria Park / Barrambin is one of Brisbane's most significant inner-city green spaces, spanning over 64 hectares. It's more than just a park — it's a place of ecological richness, historical value, and deep cultural significance to Aboriginal peoples. For thousands of residents and visitors, it's a place for relaxation, community gatherings, and connection with nature.

The current Victoria Park Master Plan, developed after years of community engagement, reflects the vision the people of Brisbane have for this space. Announcing large-scale Olympic venues in this location — without consultation — undermines that trust and disregards the community's voice.

I care deeply about this park because it's where my children play, where I connect with Country, where I find peace in nature. Losing it to inappropriate development would be a devastating loss.

2. Why a Stadium in Victoria Park Doesn't Make Sense

Proposing a stadium at Victoria Park / Barrambin is not only impractical — it's harmful on multiple fronts. Key issues include:

- **Difficult Site Conditions:** The park's steep landscape and Brisbane Tuff rock would require major excavation, leading to higher costs and potential disruption to nearby hospitals.
- **Non-Compliance with Olympic Guidelines:** Building permanent infrastructure in green space contradicts commitments made under the Olympic Host Agreement to prioritise existing or previously developed sites.
- **Traffic and Emergency Access Risks:** The area already experiences heavy congestion due to hospitals and schools. A stadium would worsen this, potentially delaying emergency vehicles.
- **Lack of Public Transport Access:** Unlike other stadiums, Victoria Park is not serviced by nearby train stations or major bus hubs — creating accessibility concerns, especially for people with disabilities.
- **Loss of Green Space:** This park is a rare, expansive green area in the inner city. It's home to pre-1750 native trees and offers cooling benefits in a heating urban environment.
- **Proximity to Health Services:** The adjacent Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital could face disruptions due to construction and event noise.

- **Poor Surrounding Infrastructure:** There's limited hospitality or public amenity infrastructure to support a stadium, increasing the risk of overdevelopment in the park itself.
- **Environmental and Cultural Harm:** Building here would damage ecosystems, increase urban heat, and threaten areas of cultural significance to First Nations people.
- **Heritage Significance:** Every part of Victoria Park is listed at the state or local heritage level. Its historical role in Brisbane's WWII and Depression-era stories should be preserved.
- **Community Opposition:** Thousands of residents have expressed clear concern about the stadium plans. The government should be upholding, not overriding, their vision for the park.

3. What the Bill Proposes

The Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 proposes to:

Officially designate Victoria Park as an "authority venue" for the 2032 Olympics.

Exempt Olympics-related construction from 15 major Queensland laws — including the Planning Act, Environmental Protection Act, and Queensland Heritage Act.

Remove the public's right to legal appeal or court review for Olympics infrastructure decisions.

Introduce new cultural heritage provisions that allow Traditional Owners to be overridden if they do not agree to plans within set timeframes.

4. Why This Is Concerning

If passed, this Bill would set a dangerous precedent by sidelining the laws that protect Queensland's environment, heritage, and democratic processes. It allows the government to bypass essential legal safeguards under the guise of Olympic urgency.

Court access is a fundamental right — this Bill would strip it away for Olympic developments.

Environmental and heritage protections exist for a reason — removing them for a handful of projects is short-sighted and unjust.

First Nations rights are not negotiable — the proposed override process disrespects cultural heritage and self-determination.

Privatising public land for commercial Olympic developments without oversight opens the door to misuse and corruption.

Olympic infrastructure must be held to the same standards as any other development. Queenslanders deserve transparency and accountability — not exemptions that benefit private interests at the community's expense.

5. What I Am Asking the Committee to Do

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend the following actions in your report to Parliament:

- Remove Victoria Park / Barrambin from Schedule 1 of the Bill (authority venues);
- Withdraw the cultural heritage override provisions and restore proper consultation and consent processes;
- Ensure all Olympic developments remain subject to existing Queensland laws — including planning, environmental, and heritage legislation;
- Support and uphold the existing Victoria Park Master Plan as the true representation of community priorities.
- Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. I trust the Committee will take these concerns seriously and act in the interest of community, culture, and Country.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the author.