

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

Submission No: 399
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee members, I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed changes in the POLA Bill—particularly the way it allows Olympic-related developments, like the proposed stadium in Victoria Park / Barrambin, to be exempt from Queensland's usual planning, environmental and heritage laws. As an ordinary citizen, I am required to follow these laws in my everyday life. If I want to build something in my own backyard, I have to apply for permits, consider environmental impacts, and follow strict guidelines. I don't believe the State Government or Brisbane City Council should be above these rules—especially when developing something as significant and potentially disruptive as an Olympic stadium or athlete village in one of our city's most treasured public parks. The idea that these developments could proceed without full legal scrutiny, and without the public's right to challenge poor decisions, feels incredibly unfair. It undermines the core democratic principle that everyone—no matter how powerful—should be accountable under the law. I'm also deeply troubled by suggestions that parts of Victoria Park might be sold off for private development after the Games, all without the normal protections and transparency that Queenslanders rely on. That's public land, and it should remain for public use—not quietly turned into a profit opportunity for developers. Please do not support legislation that allows governments to sidestep the very laws the rest of us must follow. I urge you to defend the rule of law, the separation of powers, and the community's right to fair and equal treatment. Kind regards, Patience Hodgson