

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

<b>Submission No:</b>	403
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Lenore Keough
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<b>Attachments:</b>	See attachment
<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

19 May 2025

State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Attention: Committee Secretariat

**RE: Submission regarding the Inquiry into Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**

I'm writing to express serious concerns regarding the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* which proposes to override 15 Queensland laws enable Olympic developments, including proposed stadiums in Victoria Park.

My concerns relating to the Bill fall under three main areas, outlined below.

**The importance of safeguarding critical community green space, cultural heritage and habitat**

The only substantial green space left in inner-city Brisbane is Victoria Park / Barrambin. It's critical for recreational purposes for inner-city and inner suburb residents. Its history and cultural heritage are under-appreciated, and all the more important to protect for that, given its significance for our First Nations people and the part it has played in the story of Brisbane itself. It also provides priceless remnant habitat that absolutely can't be replaced once lost. There are mature native trees in the park that have been growing since before European settlement. It provides local climate benefits, helping to regulate the urban heat effect and contributing to air quality in the inner city area. It's simply unthinkable that the government plans to wreck this park for the short-term Olympic project.

**Overriding both community wishes and appropriate regulation**

The Bill proposes would exempt construction of Olympics facilities in Victoria Park and other locations from 15 Queensland planning, environmental and heritage laws, remove any access to the Courts in relation to these developments, and override First Nations cultural heritage protections. This approach undermines and betrays the community's involvement in the development of the Victoria Park Master Plan, and makes a mockery of the rule of law and regulatory framework that's supposed to protect the rights and wellbeing of all Brisbane residents. Public condemnation of this proposal is strong, and really should not be bulldozed aside. The Victoria Park Master Plan should be upheld.

**Victoria Park is a really bad choice from a practical standpoint**

Setting aside, for a moment, the fact that Victoria Park represents irreplaceable green space, it's just a bad choice for development. It surpasses belief that the State Government would be ignorant of the practical problems of building stadium venues in Victoria Park, but given the broken campaign promise and the breakneck speed with which the government is now trying to ram the decision through, these realities clearly need to be pointed out more strongly:

- The terrain and geology of the park would necessitate blasting and excavation. This would be massively destructive, dangerous to surrounding key infrastructure, and hugely costly.
- Disruption of critical emergency services (hospitals) would be unavoidable, as traffic congestion (already bad) would get completely out of control during both development and use of stadium facilities in Victoria Park. Making this even worse, the area is poorly served by public transport, unlike other options for stadium development that are available to the government. This is not to even mention the impact on through-traffic and residents.

- The Olympic Host Contract requires the government to prioritise previously developed sites, rather than using green space.
- The surrounding area doesn't contain the bars, restaurants and accommodation options that would be expected for a key Olympic venue. Either the government plans to make the Olympics an unsatisfactory experience for participants, or it plans to really thoroughly destroy the park by concreting over the whole lot for commercial use. The former makes the Olympic exercise a bit pointless, and the latter is utterly unacceptable.

In light of the above serious concerns, I request that the Committee recommend to Parliament that:

- Victoria Park be removed from the list of Olympic venues in Schedule 1 (Authority Venues).
- The cultural heritage override provisions be removed from the Bill.
- Olympic developments be subject to existing Queensland laws.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Lenore Keough.

Lenore Keough