

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

Submission No:	445
Submitted by:	Bundaberg Regional Council
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Submitter Comments:	

20 May 2025

Queensland Parliament
State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee
Via email: sdiwc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam,

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission about the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

The Bundaberg Region is considered the food bowl capital of Australia with a significant amount of land utilised for agricultural production. The Bundaberg Regional Council is committed to the protection and preservation of rural land for agriculture with the agricultural industry being a key contributor to the region's economy.

The Council is therefore generally supportive of this Bill which seeks to amend the Queensland planning framework to ensure wind farms and large-scale solar farms are both impact assessable and subject to a community benefit system.

It is acknowledged that the Bill proposes that proponents will need to undertake Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and enter into a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) with the local government prior to lodging a development application. It is also noted that development applications of this nature will be assessed by the Queensland Government's State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) and will be subject to impact assessment, providing the opportunity for local communities to have their say.

The Council does submit that Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) should also be subject to the same assessment framework including a Social Impact Assessment (SIA), Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) and an impact assessable development application lodged with the State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA). The Council considers this as imperative to ensure that proposals for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) also provide adequate justification and consideration as to how the project will affect the community and agricultural land, including public consultation.

Should you have any questions in relation to Council's submission, please contact Council's Manager Land Use Planning and Policy, Evan Fritz on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully,



Rob Williams
Chief Executive Officer