

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

Submission No:	466
Submitted by:	Kelvin Grove State College Parents & Citizens Association
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RE: Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill)

Dear Sir/Madam

From the outset, on behalf of the Kelvin Grove State College Parents & Citizens Association, I wish to state that we are supportive of Brisbane hosting the 2032 Olympic Games. We see that the 2032 Olympics has the potential to be transformative, and contribute to positive outcomes for Brisbane, its residents, regional Queensland communities and the environment.

However, we wish to make the following submission in objection to the State Government's proposed POLA amendments to the existing Olympic Act, and offer recommendations to enhance the outcome of the proposed Olympic developments for all Queenslanders, and especially children, young people and future generations.

This year Kelvin Grove State College (the College) is celebrating the 150-year anniversary of state education in Kelvin Grove and shares this milestone with Victoria Park/Barrambin (the Park) as a public park. The College and Park's aboriginal and colonial histories are intertwined: the College is situated upon the land of the Yuggara and Turrbal people and sits on the northwestern boundary of Barrambin. The College includes First Nations students, families and staff with connection to the local area and is proud of its journey to promote healing and reconciliation with traditional owners. It is committed to promoting learning and understanding about our shared colonial and indigenous history, including through its 'Healing Barrambin' program.

At its closest point, the College is located approximately 300-400 metres from the Park which is to be the site of the new Olympic stadium and will subsequently become the home for sporting teams including the Brisbane Lions, Brisbane Heat and the Queensland Bulls. With a student population of around 3,700 and over 400 staff, the College represents an important stakeholder group in the developments proposed for the Park.

The College will experience a range of direct and indirect impacts from the construction and operation of Olympic and legacy venues, including:

- Disruption to student learning and teaching from dust, air-borne and ground-borne noise and vibration from construction machinery, vehicles and possible blasting.
- Restriction/loss of access to the Park or adjacent areas for school activities, and students/staff and their families living locally.
- Increased risk of traffic/pedestrian accidents due to heavier traffic flows around College and Park during construction and operation of the venues.

- Disruptions and delays to daily commute from increased traffic congestion, road diversions/detours along transport routes, including roads, footpaths, cycle ways.
- Increased congestion and completion for parking in local residential streets during construction and on event days.
- Impact on heritage values, connection to Country and sense of place, especially First Nations members of the community.

To ensure that the Olympics result in positive development outcomes for all Queenslanders, decisions need to be informed by and address the needs and concerns of broad segments of affected communities, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, especially children, youth, indigenous peoples, poor, elderly, persons with a disability, sick, migrants, can be disproportionately impacted when developments are not designed with their needs and concerns in mind. A comprehensive social impact assessment including community consultation is important to understand their needs and ensure that these groups can share the benefits.

Schools and other educational institutions and parent groups are uniquely placed to reflect the needs and concerns of children and young people. As a P&C representing our parents/careers, students and local community, we are eager to engage in consultation and to ensure that the needs and wishes of students, including future leaders and sporting stars, are considered and addressed.

What the Bill will do

The Bill will remove important public safeguards by exempting Olympic venues and villages from laws that apply to other development projects and Queenslanders. This includes the Planning Act, Heritage Act, and Environmental Protection Act and provisions for public consultation which have an important role in ensuring positive legacies and sustainable development outcomes.

The Bill will remove the requirement for public consultation. The College community, including students, parents, staff and volunteers will be directly affected by the development. We recognise that this will expedite the delivery of Olympic infrastructure, however we are concerned that this will undermine the opportunity for students, parents, staff and volunteers to contribute to the important process of designing effective avoidance and mitigation measures, and beneficial outcomes for the community.

The College is proud of its connection to First Nations groups and has a connection to Barrambin through its student, staff and programs such as the 'Healing Barrambin' project. These connections to our community's indigenous heritage and First Nations groups are important to the College's identity and values. The Bill will remove the requirement for the development project to take account of these important values.

What are we asking the Committee to do?

We respectfully ask that your report to Parliament recommend that:

1. Olympic developments be subject to existing Queensland laws like all other developments;
2. The community consultation, environmental, cultural heritage override provisions be withdrawn;
3. Establish an independent community oversight body with enforceable accountabilities to integrate community concerns and ideas into Games planning, construction and operation of the Olympic venues and legacy developments;
4. Ensure local childcare services and education institutions, including Kelvin Grove State College, are consulted as part of the environmental assessment process;
5. Ensure that a comprehensive social impact assessment is undertaken that considers gendered-impacts, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including children and youths, persons with a disability, families from lower-economic and multicultural backgrounds that will be directly and indirectly affected by the development; and
6. Gender-sensitive, socially- inclusive, and child-centred consultation methods be utilised during community consultations to understand and assess the potential impacts on children, youths, and students from surrounding schools, including Kelvin Grove State College, childcare centres, and child and youth-focused services, to inform avoidance and mitigation measures, and opportunities to enhance positive outcomes for these groups.

Yours faithfully,

Craig Millis
President
Kelvin Grove State College P&C Association