

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

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Submitted by:	Council of Mayors (SEQ)
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State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee
Parliament House
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Brisbane QLD 4000

Via email: SDIWC@parliament.qld.gov.au

PLANNING (SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Council of Mayors (SEQ) (CoMSEQ) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee on the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill). We make this submission in relation to proposed amendments to the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021*.

CoMSEQ is owned by 11 South East Queensland (SEQ) councils and represents their collective interests. Each council is a shareholding owner of CoMSEQ, and each Mayor a nominated Director. We are proud to have initiated, championed and helped to secure the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and remain an invested partner to ensure the Games deliver catalytic benefits for our growing region.

SEQ is one of Australia's fastest growing regions, home to more than 73% of Queensland's population and 75% of its jobs, contributing over 64% to the State's Gross Regional Product. By 2046, SEQ will be home to around 1 in 6 Australians. This growth, and the need to service it, is one of the reasons the region's Mayors began the journey to securing the Games in 2015.

Since securing the Games, CoMSEQ has been a key Games Delivery Partner and has maintained an important role in supporting Games governance, engaging with and representing the views and interests of SEQ councils who have not been directly afforded a role in governance. This includes the Co-Host Cities of Moreton Bay, Redland, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Logan; and remaining SEQ councils who directly and financially contributed to the foundational work to secure the Games in the first place, and who will play an important role in supporting a successful Games, including Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley, Somerset and Noosa.

In our submission to the 100-day Review of the Brisbane 2032 Games, CoMSEQ highlighted the importance of maintaining fair and equitable representation for SEQ councils given all Co-

Host Cities have the same legal, financial and operational obligations, with the exception of Brisbane as Host City.

CoMSEQ supports the Bill's objective of streamlining governance arrangements of the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Corporation) Board. We also acknowledge and welcome amendments to this legislation aimed at helping to ensure we deliver a lasting legacy before the Games that benefits generations to come. However, this must not be done at the expense of fair and equitable representation for CoMSEQ and SEQ councils in Games governance.

It should be noted while CoMSEQ does not have autonomous decision-making authority for its shareholding councils, it has no less authority than other local government representatives who are unable to commit their organisations without prior consideration, consultation, and a decision of their respective councils. Therefore, CoMSEQ offers opportunity for streamlined representation and consultation with SEQ councils through Games governance.

Deeds between the State (through the Department of Premier and Cabinet) and individual local governments have committed councils to a significant undertaking (operational and capital expenditure). To date, councils have collectively invested significantly in progressing plans for the Games. Given this significant investment before and during the Games, genuine engagement with and support from the Corporation, the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) and other levels of government is required for councils who are ultimately responsible for critical Games-time operations.

Considering the critical role local government in SEQ will play in the successful execution of Brisbane 2032, including through its role leading city operations, removing CoMSEQ and SEQ councils from governance at a leadership, executive and operational level is a significant risk to the overall coordination, effectiveness and success of Games governance. Accordingly, to support effective engagement, we continue to seek that at minimum, CoMSEQ remains appointed as an observer across all Games governance groups.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this legislation, and we would be pleased to discuss any matter outlined within the submission further.

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

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Scott Smith
CEO, Council of Mayors (SEQ)