

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

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**Submitted by:** Queenslanders with Disability Network  
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Committee Secretary  
State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee  
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**Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) Submission on the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**

**Introduction**

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*. As the state's peak body representing the voice of people with disability, QDN advocates for systems, infrastructure, and services that embed accessibility and inclusion, uphold the rights of people with disability, and align with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

We commend the Queensland Government for progressing reforms that seek to embed social impact considerations and community benefit in planning decisions. These reforms provide a critical opportunity to ensure that urban development—including infrastructure delivered under the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy—meets the diverse needs of all Queenslanders, including those with disability.

**About Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN)**

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is a state-wide organisation of, by and for people with disability. As the recognised peak body representing the voice of Queenslanders with disability, QDN's work is grounded in the belief that all people with disability should be active and valued citizens, with the same rights, responsibilities, and opportunities as others. With a growing network of over 3,000 members and supporters, QDN brings the lived experience of people with disability to the forefront of policy, service design, and system reform. QDN works across government, industry and community sectors to promote accessibility, inclusion, and human rights, ensuring people with disability are included in decision-making processes that impact their lives.

## **Key Considerations and Recommendations**

### **1. Embedding Accessibility in Social Impact Assessments (SIA)**

The Bill introduces a legislative requirement for proponents to prepare a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) before lodging major development applications. QDN supports this approach in principle. However, we recommend that the SIA framework:

- Explicitly requires assessment of accessibility and universal design considerations.
- Involves co-design with people with disability and representative bodies.
- Reflects the lived experiences of people with disability in both urban and regional areas.
- Articulate the specific types of material change of use development that would require a SIA to meet the community benefit threshold.

This is essential to ensure that the infrastructure delivered is not only technically compliant but also inclusive in practice. There are clear examples of significant public infrastructure that has been previously delivered without these measures including the Next Generation Rollingstock trains and the subsequent consequences of that. It is therefore critical that these requirements are in place from the beginning as part of the SIA.

### **2. Community Benefit Agreements Must Include Accessibility Outcomes**

Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) must address tangible improvements for people with disability in the areas impacted by the proposed development. These could include:

- Accessible, affordable housing targets
- Inclusive public space and transport infrastructure
- Digital access, wayfinding systems, and accessible communication methods

QDN recommends that CBAs be assessed against measurable accessibility criteria, aligned with the Queensland State Disability Plan and Australia's Disability Strategy.

### **3. Inclusive Infrastructure and Brisbane 2032**

Amendments to the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021* remove the requirement for a dedicated Transport and Mobility Strategy and Games Coordination Plan for the Games. Whilst QDN acknowledges that this reflects the shift in the function and structure of GIICA and moving this responsibility to relevant departments, QDN is concerned that this may reduce accountability and transparency for accessibility and inclusion outcomes. Given the commitment to an inclusive legacy from Brisbane 2032, it is essential that:

- Accessibility standards remain central to venue and transport design.
- Community consultation with people with disability is embedded throughout the delivery of Games infrastructure.
- The delivery of Games-related venues and transport is subject to ongoing public reporting against accessibility benchmarks.

## 5. Legacy of affordable and accessible housing

QDN strongly supports the inclusion of affordable and accessible housing as a central legacy outcome of the Olympic and Paralympic Villages. Given that the primary legacy use for the Villages is intended to be housing, it is critical that these developments are subject to the requirements of Schedule 9 of the *Planning Regulation 2017*, and that they are held to the highest accessibility and design standards. This must include the delivery of housing that meets or exceeds the Liveable Housing Design Gold Standard, ensuring long-term usability, adaptability and dignity for people with disability and older Queenslanders. Embedding these standards from the outset is not only a legislative and human rights imperative, but also a strategic investment in Queensland's inclusive housing future and a meaningful legacy of the Brisbane 2032 Games. QDN recommends that targets for social, affordable and accessible housing are established for the legacy of Athletes' Village and support QShelter's submission in regards to the role of community housing providers post the Games to align with Queensland Government's broader housing objectives and deliver a legacy that contributes to social and economic benefits for Queenslanders who need affordable, accessible and safe housing including Queenslanders with disability. QDN also supports QShelter's work in the area around the potential risks of displacement and increasing prices that the Games will bring to people who are on fixed income like pensions and rely on affordable housing. It is critical that we take action around monitoring and safeguards.

## 5. Appeal Rights and Procedural Fairness

QDN notes potential limitations on appeal rights and procedural review regarding the chief executive's discretion to override SIA and CBA requirements. This may affect communities' ability to challenge decisions that fail to consider accessibility impacts. We recommend:

- Enhanced transparency in the decision-making process.
- A mechanism for independent review or appeal where accessibility concerns are raised.

## Conclusion

QDN supports the intent of the Bill to embed social impact and community benefit into Queensland's planning system. However, we urge the Committee and Parliament to ensure that the implementation of these reforms explicitly incorporates accessibility, universal design, and the voice of people with disability. This is an important opportunity to build inclusive communities that uphold the rights of all Queenslanders and to set a national benchmark for accessible inclusive infrastructure and planning now and in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032.

Yours sincerely,



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