

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

Submission No: 527
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Submitter Comments:

I object to the proposed 'Planning (Social Impact & Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025' which will remove 15 laws to enable the destruction of irreplaceable environmental and cultural assets without community avenues to protect them. The current environmental, heritage and planning protections have been legislated over time in response to the irreversible damage to these natural and cultural assets by previous governments. This vandalism included the demolition in the middle of the night of some of Brisbane's most iconic and loved heritage buildings including the Bellevue Hotel and Cloudland ballroom which are sorely missed and can't be rebuilt. The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 was enacted to stop a repeat of this and must remain in place to protect our special places including heritage-listed Victoria Park and the Centenary Pool's unique architecture celebrating 100 years. As a child in the 1980's, the absence of, and or disregard for, environmental protections saw the destruction of what were internationally significant wetlands including the Raby Bay canal estate in Moreton Bay (now sinking) and a marina development at Port Hinchinbrook on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area which is lying in ruins. I believe that if we need to remove 15 laws to bulldoze through developments for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics, without public scrutiny or right to a democratic say, there must be something bad that this autocratic measure is facilitating. Having recently travelled to Perth and seen the scale and size of the Optus Stadium development, I am ashamed and beyond angry and sad that this legislation will ensure our only big inner city public greenspace (64ha) will be stolen from the city to be replaced by a private concrete mega stadium that is closed for most days of the year. Instead of being the green lungs of the city the park was established for, this private ticketed space with its surrounding concrete footprint will destroy the habitat that supports over 60 bird species, bees, butterflies, marsupials and reptiles. As a person with Aboriginal heritage, I'm disgusted that these laws disrespect the culturally-significant history of the park's First Nations people and that we could lose scar trees and trees that have survived from pre-settlement times.

These laws would rubberstamp the loss of both sides of Victoria Park with a massive National Aquatic Centre and its carparks taking up most of the Gregory Terrace side of the park. Overriding heritage protections for the iconic Centenary Pool also destroy our priceless past. Without any option to stop or achieve compromises that reduce this impact, we will lose the history, plants, wildlife, peace and iconic views both sides of that this incredible park boasts. As a site for these facilities Victoria Park does not make sense. It violates the signed Olympic sustainability agreement that protects our natural and cultural heritage. It is located in a very hilly and rocky place in an already gridlocked area which would block the entrance to our major hospital. The nearest train station is also quite a long way from the stadium. The community's democratic right to have a say in the development application process must remain, otherwise public confidence in planning integrity will be seriously undermined. This enables the community to influence and improve the outcomes for those impacted by them. If passed, this Bill proposes to list a Stadium in Victoria Park as an 'authority venue' for the 2032 Olympics. The Bill would also remove any access to the Courts in relation to the construction of Olympics venues or villages. It would also override First Nations cultural heritage protections using a new process which railroads First Nations into a default plan if they don't agree in the timeline specified by the Bill. Access to the Courts is a basic right of all Queenslanders. The Bill proposes to remove this right with sweeping provisions in relation to Olympics venues and villages. The Bill introduces a fast-tracked cultural heritage scheme that limits consultation and allows default plans without the agreement of Traditional Owners. I respectfully

ask that your report to Parliament recommend that:1. Victoria Park / Barrambin be removed from Schedule 1 (Authority Venues);2. The cultural heritage override provisions be withdrawn;3. Olympic developments be subject to existing Queensland laws like all other developments;4. The Victoria Park Master Plan be upheld as a reflection of the community's vision for the park.Yours sincerely Dylan