

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

Submission No: 590
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I strongly object to your proposed 'Planning (Social Impact & Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025'. Whilst I acknowledge the need to get the work done, so that the unnecessary Olympics can occur in Australia without being an international embarrassment because of the late planning, I fear that this knee-jerk reaction to allow actions of planners and developers to hurdle over previous environmental protection laws is potentially very dangerous for our environment. Once damage to our environment happens, there is usually no way of turning back. Damage will negatively impact both present and future generations. I fear for our wildlife and our nature. For example, I have seen the impact of development over decades in the area of Whites Hill and its surrounds in Brisbane. There is no easy, inexpensive solution once the damage is done. In that situation, our community and our wildlife are paying the horrendous price of poor decision making in the past. We need to learn from these experiences, not merely repeat poor practices usually for monetary gain or convenience. We are the caretakers of this land for future generations. We need to take this responsibility seriously. I urge you to:

1. Ensure that all Olympic developments remain subject to existing Queensland laws, like all other developments.
2. Ensure that all laws pertaining to Environment Protection, Conservation, and Cultural Heritage Protection in particular are applied to Olympic developments and that the community's democratic right to participate in development application decision-making is protected and preserved.
3. Remove the proposed Redlands Whitewater Centre from the 2032 Olympic Venue Plan in favour of using the existing Penrith Whitewater Stadium in NSW.
4. Ensure that the legislation places no higher burden of justification on renewables projects than other projects of similar scale, recognising the potential seriousness of consequences of impeding them.