

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

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Protect Our Environment, Culture, and Communities from the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) Bill (and my family) are deeply concerned about the Queensland Government's proposed Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) Bill, which could allow Olympic developments and other major projects to bypass vital environmental and planning laws. As Queensland prepares to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the world will be watching closely. We want our state to be celebrated not just for world-class events, but for conserving our natural beauty (includes our fauna and flora), strong climate leadership, and respect for cultural heritage and for all Brisbane peoples' rights. This Bill risks:

- Overriding environmental protections for the sake of fast-tracking Olympic developments
- Sacrificing 'gifted' public land for commercial or international interests
- Ignoring the cultural significance of Barrambin (Victoria Park) to Aboriginal communities
- Causing serious environmental harm at sites like the Redlands Whitewater Centre (RWC) which will become a disastrous Olympic legacy for the people of the Redlands; unending financial burden of an Olympic venue we did not want, on special conservation lands where it should never have been. For 4 years the people of the Redland area (and others) have been telling the government that we 'do not' want the RWC built – it's not a sensible decision when the Birkdale site lacks a water supply, meaning large volumes of water from the SEQ Grid would need to be piped in, stored, and treated—causing significant financial costs for Redlands ratepayers and ongoing environmental impacts. Plus, there is no existing public transport to the area. *Is the Government so 'self-centred' that they won't use the existing Penrith Whitewater Stadium in Sydney NSW – it is the sensible perfect alternative. We believe all developments must go through proper environmental and community impact assessments, especially in areas of cultural and ecological importance. We also urge the Government to apply the same standards for community benefit agreements to resource projects, and to maintain the community's right to object. It is unacceptable that a coal mine under 2 million tonnes per year can skip full environmental assessment, while a small solar farm must meet strict conditions. We call on the Queensland Government to:

1. Withdraw or amend the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) Bill to ensure no project—Olympic, mining, or renewable—can bypass environmental and planning protections
2. Protect First Nations cultural heritage, especially at sites like Barrambin
3. Apply fair, consistent rules across all sectors and properly consider the often-ignored impact of long-term costs including transport/access logistics.
4. Ensure communities have a 'real voice' in shaping development in their regions.

If this government wants to show the world that Queensland truly values its environment, culture, and people then be fair, transparent, and responsible when planning for our future.