

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

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Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

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

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1. Why Victoria Park Matters – A Family Perspective

We are a Brisbane family living with the long-term impacts of serious and life limiting chronic illness. Over the past decade, we've spent countless hours in and around the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH), navigating cancer treatment, dialysis, a kidney transplant, bone marrow transplant and other complex health needs.

Throughout these years, **Victoria Park has been our refuge.**

It's the place we've turned to during long hospital stays—not just for ourselves, but for our children. We've used the park to get some air between appointments, to let our kids play and feel normal, and to eat a meal together at the bistro when we needed a small moment of calm.

It is one of the only places nearby where we could park easily, step into green space, and access a playground, toilets, and food without navigating stairs, crowds or inaccessible facilities. That ease mattered immensely during times when energy and emotional capacity were already stretched thin.

For our kids, Victoria Park is more than a park. It's where they've run free after hours in sterile waiting rooms. It's where they've felt safe when the rest of life was full of uncertainty. Our children have had birthdays at Vic Park as it was the only way their Dad could participate.

To take that away—for a stadium—is both cruel and incomprehensible.

2. Why a Stadium in Victoria Park Poses Real Harm

We support the Olympics in Brisbane, but not at the cost of community health, access and wellbeing. The stadium proposal will harm families like ours in very real, practical ways:

- **Traffic Congestion:** The roads around RBWH are already under stress. A stadium will clog key routes for emergency vehicles, hospital staff and patients—especially during peak events or construction.
 - **Loss of Accessible Parking:** Hospital parking is already a challenge. With stadium visitors competing for space, the ability for families to access critical care becomes compromised.
 - **Noise, Light and Disruption:** Patients in recovery, or facing ongoing treatment, need peace and stability. Stadium activity—especially at night—will undermine this, hurting outcomes and wellbeing.
 - **Loss of Safe, Family-Friendly Facilities:** The bistro, playground and gentle open areas offered our family—and countless others—a rare, inclusive space to decompress. That matters. And it should be protected.
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3. Cultural and Environmental Significance

We are also deeply concerned about the loss of heritage and environmental value. This land is culturally significant to First Nations communities, home to native wildlife, and plays a vital role in cooling the city and filtering air.

To ignore this, and override heritage protections, is not in the spirit of community or reconciliation.

4. Disappointment in Government Leadership and Broken Promises

We feel deeply let down by **David Crisafulli and the LNP Government**. Prior to the election, clear commitments were made that **there would be no new stadiums** and that Queenslanders would be consulted on major infrastructure decisions.

This Bill breaks those promises.

Rather than respecting community consultation, this Bill seeks to override **15 critical Queensland laws**, eliminate access to the courts, fast-track construction, and bypass First Nations cultural protections—all to enable a massive new stadium and aquatic centre in a space that was never intended for such development.

The decision to place a stadium in Victoria Park—after publicly stating no new stadiums would be built—undermines public trust and signals a government willing to say one thing to voters, and do another in office.

We expected better. And we ask our elected representatives to honour the commitments they made.

5. What I Am Asking the Committee to Do

On behalf of our family, and countless others who rely on Victoria Park and RBWH, I respectfully request the Committee:

1. Remove Victoria Park / Barrambin from Schedule 1 (Authority Venues);
2. Withdraw the cultural heritage override provisions from the Bill;
3. Ensure Olympic developments are subject to existing Queensland laws, including those protecting planning integrity, environmental quality and cultural heritage;
4. Honour the **Victoria Park Master Plan** and **if a stadium is to be built another site is found.**

Please don't take away the green space that supported our family through some of the hardest moments of our lives. Please don't risk our access to the hospital with traffic delays when my husband's life often depends on urgent care. Brisbane deserves a better Olympic legacy than this. If a stadium is to go ahead it should be at another location.

Regards

Pamela Rose