

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

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submitting as an individual

Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

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

This submission urges the SDIW Committee to consider the unacceptable legal implications of the POLA Bill and recommend that the Bill not go forward.

I have already submitted my objections around the long-term consequences for environmental and heritage protections if Olympic infrastructure is exempted from the obligations imposed by the 15 Planning laws, which this Bill proposes.

This separate submission draws attention to the potential for corruption that would be enabled by this POLA Bill. There is potential for significant transfer of wealth to the construction companies and developers who would be funded to construct the Olympic infrastructure without the normal checks and safeguards provided by the 15 planning, environment and heritage laws.

I also draw attention to the proposal that a government decision:

(a) is final and conclusive; and

(b) can not be challenged, appealed against, reviewed, quashed, set aside or called into question in any other way under the Judicial Review Act 1991 or otherwise (whether by the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity); and

(c)...

and that a civil proceeding may not be started in relation to games-related infrastructure developments if there is potential they may cause delay.

Citizens' action to the courts is a fundamental principle of the rule of law, and the POLA Bill is inconsistent with this fundamental principle.

Do not allow this Bill to proceed.

Thank you for considering my submission.