

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

**Submission No:** 644  
**Submitted by:** Sue Henderson  
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**From:** Sue Henderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 May 2025 10:01 PM  
**To:** State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee  
**Subject:** Submission re SDIWC Planning Social Impact and Community Benefit and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

**Categories:** Submission

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I have been a local resident of the Redlands for almost 6 years now. One of the reasons I came to live here was for the beautiful nature inhabiting the green spaces in the Redlands. Koalas, wallabies and many types of native birds were evident in the area. The Birkdale Precinct, proposed place for building a white water rafting facility for the 2032 Olympics is presently a known habitat for vulnerable or endangered native species like koalas and some bird species. Overriding Environmental Laws will be highly detrimental to the local koala population. I would have thought this would be against the Olympic Committee's standards for making preparations for modern day Olympic Games. How will the world view us in Australia if we fail to protect our remaining koala population for this facility to be duplicated? There is NO need for it as there is one ready for use at Penrith in Sydney.

In these short 6 years I have lived in the Redlands, much has changed here. Many large and smaller building developments have been allowed, infrastructure like roads and sewerage have been overwhelmed with extra people using them and in many cases are now completely inadequate for current use. Many main roads across the Redlands are often blocked at and approaching school and peak hours. There are also sewerage inadequacies in some new areas as well as people affected by sewerage issues in times of flooding. Clearly, infrastructure has not been made ready and is not fit for even current purpose for the current population and use in the area. How then will infrastructure be able to cope with this massive project of a White Water facility. There is no local water source large enough to service this project so the use of town water will further compromise the local infrastructure. Will town water be used and will Redlands ratepayers be left with the costs of using it?

I strongly object to your proposed 'Planning (Social Impact & Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025'. 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, for the people of the Redlands do not want it, and never have.
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.

I also wish to note my severe disapproval of the way Redlands City Council and State Government has handled and are still handling the issue of letting residents know of the financial details and being transparent about the costs and future modelling of this facility. Numerous requests have been made for this information to be shared with those whom it will affect and to date these requests have been denied.

Secrecy from the community is the way it is being handled. This is both disrespectful and dishonest to the community to whom these Councillors and State Representatives pretend to serve those who live here. Those few

Councillors who have spoken up for transparency have been 'shot down' by the majority who want secrecy despite that most of their constituents say they would prefer transparency. Without transparency this White Water facility will be viewed by the majority as a future massive financial burden to the residents of the Redlands for a short term Olympic Games use with a benefit to a very small percentage of Australians in a highly specialised, elite sport. Disgusting!

Yours sincerely,  
Sue Henderson

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