

**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)

Aside from community concerns about the building of an Olympic Stadium in Victoria Park, the POLA Bill raises serious concerns about its consistency with the rule of law and the doctrine of separation of powers.

These fundamental aspects of our parliamentary democracy are designed to safeguard against corruption by ensuring laws are applied equally and fairly to everyone under the watchful eye of an independent judiciary.

By effectively exempting declared venues and villages from 15 planning and environmental laws and seeking to exclude any review by the Courts that may result in delay, the POLA Bill could create an island of power immune from supervision and restraint through which very significant transfers of wealth could occur.

These laws exist for a reason. They are there to protect Brisbane's unique history, to safeguard irreplaceable parts of our environment and heritage against short-sighted decision making. To dismantle them, in order to ram through two massive, poorly-conceived stadium developments that will forever change the face of Victoria Park, Barrambin, should raise a red flag to all those who value our precious green spaces, our laws and democratic process

The area known as Barrambin has a long history of cultural use predating colonisation. Despite being progressively reduced from 130 ha to 64 ha, it remains the largest inner city park in Brisbane. It was used as a golf course for many decades until 2021 and, in 2023, after 2 years of community consultation, the government decided to open the area up to the community and protect and restore the park for future generations.

The area now contained within Victoria Park / Barrambin was an extensive Aboriginal camp and is a significant historical and cultural site.

More than 80,000 people engaged directly by providing feedback regarding the direction of our public space.

Before the stadium announcement, Victoria Park / Barrambin was promised to be transformed into an iconic parkland with something for everyone. A natural retreat with respect to our country's traditional custodians.

Constructing a stadium here would breach the Olympic Host Contract, which mandates avoiding permanent structures in protected areas and prioritizing previously developed sites.

Cramming more stadiums so close to the cbd is not practical. I live in Kelvin Grove and work in Milton. If there's an event on at Suncorp stadium, an under 10 minute journey easily doubles or triples. The area already experiences significant traffic from nearby hospitals, schools, and universities. A stadium would exacerbate congestion, affecting emergency services and daily commutes.

Victoria Park lacks sufficient public transport access. The nearest station is a considerable walk away, posing challenges for attendees, especially those with mobility issues.

The park is adjacent to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Stadium events could disrupt hospital operations, affecting patient care and staff.

The return of Victoria Park to public open space presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to restore the natural landscape, revitalise the park's wetlands and waterholes and increase tree canopy cover.

This city has an increasing flood mitigation issue. Major flooding has impacted Herston and Bowen hills.

Eliminating absorptive green space with Victoria park stadium and the aquatic centre will add to this growing issue.

The artist impression of Victoria park stadium shows it nestled among trees. However, stadiums usually have a significant external surrounding concours . This includes room for ample pedestrian and vehicle access. There will also need to be further destruction beyond the final stadium footprint to construct foundations etc.

Brisbane's abundance of inner city green space, makes it very unique and beautiful.

These spaces are heritage listed for a reason. Heritage listing shouldn't be something we can pick and choose. If it is listed, it should be protected.

The potential use of public parkland for commercial Olympic use risks corruption. These exemptions from planning laws and court review, bypass scrutiny and reduce transparency when privatising very valuable public assets.

Please do what you can when considering these points before we make irreversible, damaging changes to our beautiful city.

Thank you for your time,  
Daniel Kelly.