

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

Submission No: 658
Submitted by: Selina Zwolsman
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To: [State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the proposed "Planning (Social Impact & Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025"
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To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly oppose the Planning (Social Impact & Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

Olympics-related developments must remain subject to existing Queensland planning laws, especially those protecting our environment, heritage, and cultural values. Exempting these projects from environmental scrutiny would erode public trust and set a dangerous precedent.

Most concerning is the bill's potential impact on koalas—an endangered, globally recognised symbol of Australian wildlife. Weakening protections now, during a time of environmental crisis, would have irreversible consequences.

Koalas in Queensland have suffered catastrophic population declines due to habitat loss. This bill threatens to accelerate that decline through:

- Further destruction and fragmentation of critical habitat
- Disruption of movement corridors, increasing risks from vehicles, dogs, and disease
- Isolation of already fragile populations, reducing genetic diversity and increasing local extinctions
- Relaxing environmental laws in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics prioritises short-term interests over long-term ecological survival.

The Queensland Government has a legal and moral responsibility to protect our koalas. Full environmental assessments must remain mandatory for all Olympic and state-prioritised projects. Furthermore, the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy must be strengthened through:

- Major reductions in koala habitat clearance
- Increased investment in habitat restoration and safe wildlife infrastructure
- Once koala habitats are lost, they are gone forever. No medal, infrastructure, or political gain can bring back an extinct species.

Passing this bill would be a national disgrace and a betrayal of future generations.

I urge you—do not pass this bill. Please protect our koalas and the integrity of development processes.

Selina Zwolsman

Artist | Designer | Wordsmith
Very Zed Art & Design

