

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

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From Beverley Flutter,
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20th May, 2025 10.55am

**Submission to Queensland Parliament
The Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill
2025**

The Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Ministers of this LNP Government made promises to the Queensland people from the Opposition Benches and they took those promises to the election that **NO** stadiums would be built in Victoria Park Barrambin.

The previous Labor Government signed the “New Norm” IOC Olympic Games Bris32 Contract. The signature of the Lord mayor Adrian Schrinner was included on the contract along with the President of AOC and the President of the IOC, Thomas Bach. Both the State and Local Governments stated there would be **NO** STADIUMS TO BE BUILT IN Victoria Park Barrambin.

We also remember that the IOC putting forward their “new norm” Olympic plan that all Games after 2030 would be Climate Positive the Games, that cities deciding to put in a bid for the Games did not have to provide new facilities, could re-use and provide temporary facilities and focused on sustainability, carbon reduction strategies and objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The Lord Mayor of Brisbane added his own promise before the last Council Election in 2024, that it would be an “all about infrastructure not stadiums” Games. John Coates, the former President of AOC stated that new stadiums weren’t necessary.

However, a variety of sites and suggested options were offered should a new stadium be required but never a site in Victoria Park.

When every politician said **NO** to stadiums in Victoria Park, how and why did we get to this desperate and frantic need for this LNP State Government proposing this Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, just so that it could try and comply with the signed legal IOC Olympic Contract? That this Government thinks it is perfectly acceptable that our cultural history and heritage, that the white fella history and heritage can be ignored and/or wiped out and that the remaining 64ha of Brisbane’s first and oldest remaining parkland, bestowed to the new State by its first Governor in 1859, can now disappear under concrete, sliced up and handed out to the highest bidders!

The Bris32 Olympic Games were sold to the voters of Queensland as “Climate Positive Games” and in particular including priorities of exemplar projects with the Sustainability and Resilient clauses in the Contract.

Two of those priorities were :

a) Leveraging Games to enhance key projects such as preservation of the Great Barrier reef and

b) reinforcing greening plans for Brisbane’s largest urban park, ie Victoria.

Since 2021, when the Bris32 contract was signed, no mention of new projects for the Great Barrier reef but mass bleaching of the Reef has occurred during the summers of 2022 and 2024 – (the fifth bleaching in eight years). And water temperature of 27deg c off southern Queensland this year contributed to the first cyclone in 50 years hitting the area.

Since 2021, creating Brisbane’s largest urban park in Victoria Park saw the creation of a Vision Plan, a Draft master Plan and a Master Plan over 4 years at a cost to ratepayers of well over

\$33m. BCC boasted of its community consultation process at each stage. None of the plans included a stadium, running tracks or aquatic centre.

The Bris32 Contract stated clearly that no cultural heritage land or land neighbouring cultural heritage land could be used. So why was Victoria Park even a suggestion either for a Stadium and/or swimming complex, when both were ruled out by the IOC as being unsuitable locations?

In a city that covers 1,342 sq klms, with so much flat, ugly, unused and derelict brownfield spaces, it is impossible to believe that the only place this Government could find for stadiums would be one of Brisbane's nicest yet extremely hilly, valuable green spaces and within the most densely and oldest populated areas of Brisbane. Yet it is an area where thousands more units have been approved or are being proposed and planned to be built. Statistics show that with the approvals already passed 30 more parklands, the size of Victoria park, are needed in this area.

The losses that will flow on from taking over this inner city green space will have a huge impact on not only the surrounding historic suburbs but because it is only 1-1.5klm from CBD, it will affect how the whole City works and moves around.

1. Heat Island effect. Already we have a fast warming climate predicted for Brisbane. The value of this green space and its more 4,500 existing trees, many of which are well over 90-100 years, is a huge valuable natural asset to the city. It's irreplaceable. Its monetary value per hectare alone is well in the tens of \$\$\$billions.
2. The trees and green space are vital to absorbing the carbon dioxide from the 100,000 cars travelling on the ICB passing through the parkland each day. Carbon Credits are another undervalued asset.
3. The wonderful benefits of having an uncluttered inner city parkland, so that people can quietly enjoy the space or gather as a family or have space to run around is vital for people's well being and mental health. But also to have space for a variety of temporary uses offered and accessible to all the residents and tourists alike. Not just a massive oversized monolith greedily taking everything for a small minority group of people.
4. The cost of covering this parkland with bitumen and concrete now, will be the "legacy" to Brisbane's future generations. And they won't be thanking anyone.
5. The vehicle traffic congestions will be forever surrounding proposed stadiums. As the Park is surrounded by two major roads into the CBD and to the South of the river, i.e. Kelvin Grove Road and Bowen Bridge Road; plus one highway and 2 major roads running across the city, i.e. ICB, Gregory Terrace and Herston Road.
6. Public transport is still very limited and inadequate in this area and what is proposed by 2029 will not keep up with demand.
7. Walkability of the area is difficult. The hilly terrain, limited shade, narrow broken footpaths sharing with out-of-control e-scooters. In some streets there are no or limited width footpaths. But traffic speeding at 50klm per hour make it unsafe when forced to walk on the streets.
8. At least Seven large Schools plus a university, have campuses surrounding this parkland. The School children alone number more than 12,000 at present and increasing each year and they come into this area everyday.
9. The proposed RNA eight Olympic village towers and arena are added to the mix.
10. Queensland's biggest hospital, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital is at the north eastern corner right across from the park and spreading out along Herston Road.

The LNP Government's Olympic Plans for Victoria Park are not sustainable nor climate positive, no matter how many times people try and say that it is.

So will there be a sensible Olympic legacy for Brisbane and keep the promise to the people that **NO** stadiums would be built in Victoria Park, or will it be a nightmare for future generations and a continuing stain of Bris32 well after the fanfare is all over? I hope for the first option because the alternative is a price too high to pay.