




Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2025

**PLANNING (SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.30 pm): I rise to contribute to the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The Queensland Labor opposition is and always has been a strong supporter of renewable energy, environmental protections and community-driven development. We believe in building a cleaner, more sustainable future while ensuring Queenslanders are brought along on the journey with genuine consultation and the opportunity to shape the future of their communities. This is evident in the former Labor government's commitment to the Energy and Jobs Plan and pumped hydro creating jobs in Central and Western Queensland whilst ensuring real action on climate change.

The bill introduces three significant changes to Queensland's planning and development framework: firstly, it creates a new system requiring proponents to undertake social impact assessments and negotiate community benefit agreements before lodging certain development applications; secondly, the bill proposes governance changes to Economic Development Queensland; and, lastly, the bill establishes a new framework for the delivery and oversight of infrastructure associated with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Labor is proud to have won the games for Queensland. We believe in their power to generate long-lasting economic, social and community legacies. While we support the vision, we cannot ignore the flaws in how this bill is being executed. Once again we are seeing a government rushing through legislation without adequate modelling, proper consultation or even basic regulatory due diligence. This bill was introduced without a regulatory impact statement. The government has not properly explored alternative approaches or anticipated the consequences of these proposals. That failure has real implications for communities, councils, proponents and Queensland's future energy and infrastructure landscape.

At the heart of this bill is a new dual system that requires developers to complete a social impact assessment and enter into a community benefit agreement before they are allowed to lodge a development application. This is a complex new layer of process imposed at the front end of project planning. Initially this applies to solar and wind projects, but the scope can be expanded at any time through regulation. This reform introduces significant regulatory uncertainty at a time when the renewable energy sector needs clarity and direction. We are in the midst of a critical energy transition, yet instead of providing certainty the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering confusion. There is no strategy to guide implementation, no modelling to assess delays or price impacts and no road map to ensure Queensland remains on track to meet its climate commitments. Further, Australia cannot reach its energy targets without real action in Queensland. The LNP is abdicating its responsibility by walking away from a commitment to renewables.

Councils are being asked to take on highly technical responsibilities in assessing social impact assessments and negotiating community benefit agreements—tasks that most do not have the staff, the expertise or the resources to manage. This will lead to inconsistent application across jurisdictions

and longer timeframes for approvals, putting current and future projects at risk. Furthermore, the bill disincentivises renewable investment in Queensland. It undermines the coordinated draft renewables regulatory framework developed under Labor, introducing disconnected processes and bypassing existing reforms that are still under consultation. Stakeholders have highlighted how the bill creates unnecessary inconsistency between the treatment of renewable energy and other sectors like mining or agriculture. The Queensland Law Society stated—

... these reforms are likely to adversely impact the renewable energy industry in Queensland in a way that is inconsistent with other types of development under the planning system, or resources projects under other legislation.

The result is a system that is not fair or balanced but clearly biased against clean energy. Despite the Premier's claim, this bill does not align approvals with renewables and other sectors. It makes renewable developments harder, not easier. It sends the wrong messages to investors and to regional communities that have backed Queensland's clean energy vision. I can only assume that this serves to feed the Crisafulli LNP government's ideological objection to new and emerging forms of energy generation. This bill sends a clear message to Queenslanders: the LNP has no plans to tackle climate impacts knocking at our door.

The bill also introduces sweeping changes to the governance of Economic Development Queensland. It grants the Governor in Council the power to remove the CEO or members of the EDQ board at any time without the need to provide cause. This is a deeply concerning change. The level of discretionary power granted to the minister in the new provisions is not just excessive; it risks politicising what should be impartial decision-making. It undermines the trust and the integrity that are vital to good governance and public confidence. Just like the appointment of John Sosso to the Redistribution Commission, the appointment of a former LNP federal member to lead EDQ only reinforces these concerns. These changes send a message that frank and fearless advice is no longer welcome, planning decisions are no longer made on merit and the Public Service is no longer independent. That is not how responsible planning systems work and Queenslanders deserve better.

As for the games infrastructure component of the bill, we support the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Of course we do: we won the bid to host them. We fought to bring them here and we support their delivery, but the amendments in this bill raise significant concerns among legal experts, environmental and heritage advocates, community groups and First Nations communities. This bill removes established environmental, planning and heritage protections for Olympic infrastructure, bypassing critical safeguards without clear criteria or transparency. The amendments effectively allow certain developments to be deemed lawful solely because they are linked to the games, removing key oversight mechanisms. This approach has been condemned by the Bar Association of Queensland and flagged by the Queensland Law Society as potentially unconstitutional. Accordingly, the Bar Association of Queensland stated in its submission—

In short, the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games can be delivered without the need to remove the application of the assessment and approval processes of the relevant Acts, nor to remove the offence provisions for conduct that is, by any metric, unlawful and should be prosecuted.

The opposition is also deeply concerned that First Nations communities were not properly consulted on these amendments, particularly changes that affect cultural heritage protections. As the Environmental Defenders Office has recommended—

To ensure that the reforms are progressed with the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations people, the parts of the Bill which impact the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be withdrawn, and appropriate consultation should occur with and as guided by affected First Nations communities.

In conclusion, while we support the principles of renewable energy investment and the delivery of the Brisbane 2032 games, this bill does not deliver those goals in a way that is responsible, balanced nor transparent. The Crisafulli LNP government has brought forward a bill that centralises power, offloads responsibilities onto councils without resources, weakens statutory safeguards, politicises key institutions like EDQ and introduces legal ambiguity into Olympic infrastructure delivery. Queenslanders deserve legislation that is transparent, consultative and consistent. Queenslanders deserve better.