




Speech By  
**David Lee**

**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise to speak to the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill contains a number of amendments, but I shall speak substantively to the planning and then the Olympic and Paralympic Games aspects of the bill. This bill is primarily about amending the Planning Act 2016 to introduce a community benefit system into the Queensland planning framework. When it comes to renewable energy projects, Labor is always, as Don Quixote would say, tilting at windmills. That is why Labor is so recklessly indifferent to the social and environmental impacts of wind and large-scale solar farms in rural regional communities. Labor is ideologically obsessed with wind farms and large solar farms.

During the 2024 election, we clearly articulated to Queenslanders that we would make renewable energy projects subject to the same rigorous planning assessments and approvals as other major resource developments such as mining, gas and agriculture. We listened to Queenslanders and we are doing what we said we would do. On 3 February 2025 we made wind farms impact assessable and subject to state development assessment provisions. This means developers must initiate public notification and community consultation, and it potentially provides an opportunity for third-party appeals. This is great news for the Fraser Coast and regional Queensland.

We are calmly and methodically rectifying Labor's reckless renewables approach to plundering our prime agricultural land and compromising our food security. Our rural and regional communities have had enough. They deserve the same respect as suburban communities when it comes to our planning laws. My community have had enough of Labor's NIMBY approach to wind and large-scale solar farms.

The bill's community benefit system consists of a social impact assessment, subject to community consultation, which will then inform a community benefit agreement between a proponent and a local government. This will be a requirement before lodging a development application for certain uses which are to be prescribed by regulation. The social impact assessment will include a comprehensive assessment of the social impact of a project, in consultation with that community. The bill requires a proponent to consider the cumulative impacts—both negative and positive—of the wind or large-scale solar project. Thus, the whole-of-life impact of the renewable energy project must be considered.

It is critical that communities have a voice very early in these wind farm or large-scale solar projects. The social impact assessment forms the basis of an enforceable community benefit agreement between the proponent and the local council. To be enforceable, the agreement requires sufficient certainty and completeness in relation to performance guarantees and decommissioning requirements. Other provisions in the agreement may include support for local charities or local infrastructure investment such as road and/or rail or energy cost reductions to landowners in proximity to wind or solar farms. The local council, on behalf of the host community, will be able to negotiate the community

benefit agreement in circumstances where they are not also the assessment manager. The social impact statement and community benefit agreement documents must be submitted to the assessment manager as part of a properly made development application.

When it comes to renewable energy projects, Labor's ideological embracement of wind and solar farms knows no bounds. We heard earlier from the Chicken Littles on the other side of the House. I wonder how the Brisbane-based Labor members would feel about wind or solar farms in their city electorates. I forgot: 'not in my backyard'. Clearly, Labor's mindset is that it is okay to ride roughshod over rural and regional communities.

This bill will provide for the Planning Regulation 2017 to prescribe the uses which require a social impact assessment and community benefit agreement prior to lodging a development application; a reserve power for the chief executive officer of the department administering the Planning Act to allow a development application to be lodged with an assessment manager without a Social Impact Assessment or a community benefit agreement, as well as the authority to impose conditions for social impacts; and transitional provisions to clarify how the Planning Act and subsequent Planning Regulation amendments apply to a development application that has been made or lodged but not decided.

This bill also amends the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021. Congratulations go to those regional Queensland locations that will be hosting the 2032 games. It will truly be a Queensland games. My electorate of Hervey Bay is the whale watching capital of Australia. The 2032 games will coincide with whale watching season and we are looking forward to capitalising on the significant domestic and international ecotourism opportunities in my beautiful city.

In 211 days the Crisafulli government has done more to get the Olympic and Paralympic Games on track than Labor did in over 1,200 days. Labor's panic-stricken and muddled renovation proposals for QSAC, Lang Park and the Gabba were an absolute dud—just ask Olympian gold medallists Sally Pearson, Grant Hackett and Leisel Jones or other Olympians such as Melanie Wright, Brooke Hanson, Geoff Huegill, Jon Sieben, Andrew Baildon, Chris Wright and Brenton Richard as well as Paralympians Curtis McGrath, Karni Liddell and Monique Murphy.

We do not have a minute to waste. We are heeding Kipling's advice to—

... fill the unforgiving minute

With sixty seconds' worth of distance run ...

This bill provides for sound governance, project delivery, thorough planning and timely implementation of the 2032 Delivery Plan for the games. The objectives of the bill include: promoting effective decisions and governance of the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Corporation board; ensuring effective government oversight of the corporation and the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority; ensuring that the powers and functions of the GIICA are fit for their intended purpose; identifying endorsed villages and venues in line with the 2032 Games Delivery Plan; and streamlining planning approval processes for the development of, or related to, venues or villages and games related transport infrastructure identified in the act.

Brisbane was selected by the International Olympic Committee on 21 July 2021 and, under the Olympic Host Contract, the IOC entrusts the corporation, the state of Queensland, the Brisbane City Council and the Australian Olympic Committee with the planning, organising, financing and staging of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In his introductory speech, the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, said—

Games governance arrangements need to be reflective of who bears the most risk in the delivery of the games.

Therefore, the Queensland government holds a significant responsibility under the Olympic Host Contract for underwriting the costs of the 2032 games.

GIICA will be responsible for the oversight and delivery of venues, including the design and construction of venues in accordance with the games delivery plan. GIICA will be required to develop funding submissions and venue designs for consideration by the cabinet or the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. This will ensure that the government has robust governance oversight of the 2032 Delivery Plan.

The bill also proposes amendments to the Economic Development Act 2012 to improve administrative efficiency and flexibility of board operations in Economic Development Queensland. These amendments are calculated to bring EDQ back to its core business of residential development in priority development areas. This is a fresh change for Queensland after a decade of Labor's sacking and stacking of boards and rallying against fearless and frank Public Service advice. I commend the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to the House.