




Speech By  
**Terry James**

**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (3.45 pm): Today I stand before you to discuss the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill embodies the promise of a fairer, stronger Queensland grounded in consultation, community benefit and an enduring Olympic legacy.

Let me begin with a simple truth. For more than a decade our regional communities have hosted large-scale wind and solar farms yet the planning framework has lagged. Community consultation was optional. Appeal rights were rarely granted. Many felt overlooked in the very places changed by new infrastructure. For too long renewable energy projects could begin with little input from those most impacted. Imagine wind turbines rising taller than skyscrapers—some over 280 metres—transforming country landscapes, yet leaving locals powerless to shape the future of their own neighbourhoods. That is why at the last election the LNP promised to restore fairness. We pledged to make renewable energy projects impact assessable and subject to rigorous approval just like other major resource projects. What Labor did not achieve in 10 years, we have delivered in 100 days.

The bill is not just about the process; it is about restoring trust in Queensland's planning system. Now renewable energy proponents must consult with communities before projects begin. The days of handshake agreements and vague promises are over. Meaningful community benefits must be formalised and agreed to up-front, not after approval. The bill empowers local governments, giving them a real say on how their regions evolve and ensuring they share in the benefits of hosting major developments.

This bill also encourages First Nations consultation. It includes provisions for a First Nations specific assessment pathway and guidance for proponents engaging with traditional owners and First Nations communities, including cultural heritage assessments and incorporating First Nations defined priorities.

Let me turn to another key commitment: our Olympic and Paralympic legacy. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and we are delivering. The Crisafulli government's 2032 Delivery Plan sets us on a clear path to host a world-class games. We are building generational infrastructure, shaping a 20-year tourism vision and creating an Olympic legacy for all. We are also correcting the record. Under Labor, Queensland endured over 1,200 days of games uncertainty: backflips on stadiums, funding gaps for athletes villages, delays and missed opportunities. Our government is focused on delivery. The 2032 Delivery Plan is final. Our people want to see action, not more political wrangling.

So what does the bill do? It introduces a community benefit system into the Planning Act. This means that social impacts of major renewable projects—like wind and solar farms—must be identified and addressed through binding, transparent agreements. Local governments and their communities

are now key decision-makers, not bystanders. In a nutshell, the primary goal of this legislation is to ensure that development projects are planned and executed in a way that benefits both the proponent and the community.

The benefits of this would be to: minimise negative social impacts on development; maximise positive community outcomes and legacy; promote social equity and wellbeing; enhance community engagement and participation in the planning process; and create a more sustainable and socially responsible development landscape. In essence, this bill represents a shift towards a more holistic approach to development, where the social consequences of projects are carefully considered and integrated into the planning and approval process.

The bill also brings amendments to the Economic Development Act, focusing Economic Development Queensland on delivering homes in priority development areas—directly addressing our state's housing needs. With the amended provisions, the bill will promote increased administrative efficiency and flexibility and allow Economic Development Queensland to work effectively towards government objectives.

For the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the bill amends the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act to clarify roles, streamline approvals and ensure strong leadership through the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority. The authority will oversee venue delivery, monitor progress and ensure Queensland is games ready. The bill also removes outdated provisions—like the completed 100-day review—and streamlines board appointments and CEO selection, keeping governance efficient and accountable. It clarifies the process for venue oversight, cuts red tape and accelerates infrastructure delivery so Queenslanders can see legacy benefits before and after the games.

Why is this necessary? It is because regulation of renewable energy across Queensland has been inconsistent. Some local governments are equipped to assess impacts; others are not. Communities bore the brunt of change without always seeing fair returns. This bill mandates that all renewable energy proponents must earn social licence—consult, agree and deliver real benefits before a project gets off the ground. It is fully backed by Queenslanders. When the bill went before the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, more than 1,100 submissions poured in. Four public hearings were held—in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Biloela. The committee recommended that the bill be passed.

The bill also introduces targeted amendments to other legislation, such as the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act to ensure the Home Warranty Scheme continues to protect home owners even for informal or verbal contracts. The bill validates past actions and restores consumer confidence. It also improves processes for infrastructure charges and fast-tracks consultations on regional plans, reducing statutory frameworks and enabling more timely delivery of Queensland's 13 regional plans. The aim is simple—less red tape, more results.

Allow me to share some voices from across our state. The Local Government Association of Queensland calls the bill 'a significant step forward', recognising that it returns power to local councils and their communities. The Mayor of Isaac Regional Council welcomes renewable investment but stresses the need for tools to manage impacts and maximise community benefits—a gap this bill fills. The Infrastructure Association of Queensland and the Council of Mayors (SEQ) support the bill's objective of streamlining games governance, with a focus on lasting legacy. The Planning Institute of Australia calls the bill an opportunity to recalibrate planning for both renewable energy and the Olympics, recognising the urgency and the need for lasting outcomes.

In closing, the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is a blueprint for fairness, legacy and progress. It empowers communities, guarantees that promises made are promises kept and ensures the Olympic dream delivers for all generations. Let us seize this moment to shape Queensland's future—one that is inclusive, transparent and built to last.