




Speech By  
**Wendy Bourne**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST**

---

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2025

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

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (8.44 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I stand in support of the statement of reservation signed by the members of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee—the members for Cooper, Aspley and Kurwongbah.

I have spoken in this chamber before about the critical importance of heritage protection and genuine community consultation and planning and development. These values are not optional extras; they are essential pillars of responsible governance and public trust.

Let me be clear: I support the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Like many in the community, I am excited about the opportunity it represents. I heard the member for Whitsunday say they are the Queensland games. Well, what a pity they forgot Ipswich. I have to express my deep disappointment at the lack of investment in Olympic infrastructure for Ipswich West, just a stone's throw from Brisbane, despite our proximity and our potential.

Support for the games, however, cannot come at a cost of bypassing long established assessment and approval processes. This bill, which amends the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021, proposes significant changes to governance, project delivery and planning pathways to enable the games delivery plan to proceed on time. However, it also opens the door to Olympic related developments that bypass vital environmental, planning and heritage safeguards, with no explicit or transparent criteria provided.

The committee received over 1,100 submissions during its inquiry—a clear sign of public interest and concern. I want to highlight just a few of those voices. The Australian Institute of Architects, Queensland Chapter stated they are—

... deeply concerned that heritage and environmental values and safeguards are at risk if Olympic-related infrastructure is allowed to bypass standard heritage and planning laws.

They argue, rightly, that Olympic developments should be subject to the same law as all other developments. Their warning is stark: the proposed amendments pose a higher risk to the state's reputation and the overall success of the 2032 games.

Another submission from the Southeast Queensland Community Alliance, a coalition of planning and environmental advocacy groups, makes it plain that the changes proposed in this bill should have been the subject of extensive community consultation before being introduced to the parliament.

Queenslanders expect and deserve transparency, accountability and meaningful community input, especially when once-in-a-generation developments are being considered. The *100 day review* itself recommends using existing mechanisms to ensure planning and approval requirements are obtained efficiently. Section 10.4 of the *100 day review* states—

Queensland's existing legislative framework makes various streamlining mechanisms available to the Queensland Government.

Rather than use those mechanisms, the government has introduced this bill which will ensure communities are shut out of planning decisions in their own backyards—an incredible departure from Queensland’s existing planning framework. President of the Bar Association, Cate Heyworth-Smith KC, told the committee—

While the proposed provision has practical difficulties, which I will come to, they must not be allowed to distract from the fundamental proposition that the rule of law must not be a casualty in the battle for efficient development of Olympics infrastructure.

Let’s deliver a world-class Olympic and Paralympic Games, but let’s not do that at the expense of the heritage, environment and democratic processes that define us. I urge the House to listen carefully to the voices of concern and to ensure that the rush to deliver infrastructure for 2032 does not leave behind the very communities and values that make Queensland proud. As previously stated by a former member of this House, ‘We do not build a better future by demolishing the past.’