

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

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Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Re: Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation

Amendment Bill 2025

I welcome the opportunity to provide this submission to the Committee on the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment

Bill 2025. I strongly object to provisions of the Bill that override existing environmental and heritage protection laws, particularly with respect to those concerning Willard's Farm and the World War II Radio Receiving Station located within the Birkdale Community Precinct, and Victoria Park.

While the bill is to be commended for proposing to allow for more community consultation for renewable energy projects such as solar farms and wind farms, it is hard to reconcile this with that part of the Bill relating to the Olympic Games where a number of Acts such as the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, and the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 and their associated requirements for public consultation will be overridden by this Bill if it is enacted. By disregarding these laws, and the protections they afford, the State Government is choosing to deny democracy and the rights of communities everywhere to have a voice. This part of the Bill sets an unacceptable precedent for any future developments deemed sufficiently important to be considered worthy of "special" legislation.

My understanding is that much the same outcomes could be achieved through the use of Ministerial Infrastructure Designations without the need to ride roughshod over longstanding legislation.

I believe that, during the Committee's public briefing, that the Deputy Director-General, Ms Harwood in response to a question from Ms Bush made an erroneous assumption that the construction of a wind farm would have "a much more significant impact than I think you would expect from construction in a city of an arena". I suspect that many more people would have their lives impacted by the loss of the open green space of Victoria Park, the disruption and noise caused by a major construction in the inner city, the operation of an Olympic venue and the subsequent use of that venue than by the establishment of a wind or solar farm in Central or Western Queensland.

I urge the Committee to recommend that the Bill be amended to remove the provisions of the Bill that override existing legislation; and

1. Ensure that all Olympic developments remain subject to existing Queensland laws, like all other developments.
2. Ensure that all laws pertaining to Environment Protection, Conservation, and Cultural Heritage Protection in particular are applied to Olympic developments and that

the community's democratic right to participate in development application decision-making is protected and preserved.

3. Ensure that the legislation places no higher burden of justification on renewables projects than other projects of similar scale, recognising the potential seriousness of consequences of impeding them.