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19/2/25

To whom it may concern;

From PLan's perspective, while the Territory Coordinator Act 2025 aims to streamline and expedite significant projects, there are potential disadvantages and concerns that arise:

1. **Reduced Public Oversight:** The Act's emphasis on expediting processes might limit the time available for public consultation and detailed scrutiny of projects. This could lead to decisions that may not fully consider community concerns or long-term environmental impacts.
2. **Potential for Overreach:** The broad powers granted to the Territory Coordinator, including the ability to issue step-in notices and exemption notices, might lead to concerns about overreach. If not checked, this could result in decisions being made without sufficient input from local communities or stakeholders.
3. **Environmental Concerns:** While the Act requires consideration of environmental outcomes, the focus on economic development might overshadow environmental protection. Citizens may worry that fast-tracked projects could bypass essential environmental assessments or lead to degradation of natural resources.
4. **Property Rights and Land Access:** The provisions allowing entry to land without a warrant, although with notification and compensation, may be seen as infringing on property rights. Landowners could feel pressured or inadequately compensated for disruptions caused by project-related activities.
5. **Imbalance of Interests:** The Act primarily focuses on economic development, which could lead to an imbalance where private sector and government interests are prioritized over community and social needs. This may result in developments that do not adequately address local issues or provide equitable benefits.
6. **Lack of Appeal Mechanisms:** The limitation on review or appeal processes for decisions made under the Act may be seen as reducing citizens' ability to challenge decisions that adversely affect them. This could lead to perceptions of a lack of recourse or fairness.
7. **Dependence on Coordinator's Judgment:** The effectiveness of the Act largely depends on the impartiality and competence of the Territory Coordinator. If the

Coordinator's decisions are perceived as biased or not in the public interest, it could undermine trust in the system.

8. **Potential Impact on Indigenous Communities:** Given the significance of land rights and cultural heritage, indigenous communities may be disproportionately affected by expedited projects. Ensuring that their rights and interests are adequately protected is crucial.

9. **Imbalance of Power:** The concentration of power in the hands of the Territory Coordinator or Minister to override decisions can create an imbalance, reducing the influence of other stakeholders, such as local communities, environmental groups, and other governmental entities. This centralization of authority can lead to decisions that prioritize economic interests over social or environmental considerations.

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Given these concerns, PAn argues that the proposed bill prioritizes economic growth over comprehensive, inclusive, and sustainable development. PAn advocates for a more balanced approach that ensures economic initiatives are aligned with environmental protection, social equity, and robust public participation.

Regards,

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