

# Lost without red tape

RED tape, if well-conceived, protects the public, construction workers and the environment from hasty, uncontrolled and dangerous developments. Red tape is therefore not bad, to be minimised or abolished. It is a matter of balancing the rights of the public with the rights of developers. The proposed Major Projects Legislation goes too far in the interests of developers. Public consultation has been minimised, the opportunity hidden on a website with minimal time allowed for comment. The developer has the call, councils shut out, unelected assessment panel set up, the minister can veto its decisions, and the public has no right of appeal. One person, the minister, would be given almost total discretion over what may or may not go ahead. This is undemocratic, regressive, and unworthy of an Australian government, state or federal, to even consider this sort of legislation.

Mercury  
29 Sept '17

**John Biggs**  
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