

The Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services

Submission on the Planning and Development (Project Facilitation) Amendment Bill 2014

Having only had a very brief opportunity to review this Bill, I wish to raise with the Committee one concern only.

My concern is in regard to Section 137B of the Bill which appears to exempt significant project declarations from requiring any public consultation if they fall within a draft special precinct variation. This seems to mean that the *draft* precinct variation will not need to include all possible special projects that it may encompass. Accordingly, special projects could be added by Executive fiat to any area that is part of a *draft* special precinct variation. For example, this suggests that if the whole of Northbourne Avenue is declared a draft special precinct, there need be no further consultation on any special project which may be proposed within that precinct at a later date.

This provision does not, in my view, meet the normal standards of public consultation which can be reasonably expected of the ACT government.

Martha Kinsman