

Competitive Canada

Recommendations to improve federal assessment for major projects

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Many aspects of Canada's approval system for major projects are world-leading. The process is rigorous, inclusive and protective of the environment. However, it isn't efficient, coordinated or predictable.

This presents a competitiveness problem, but also a competitiveness opportunity. Many of Canada's competitors also struggle with slow regulatory and permitting regimes and are attempting to develop solutions.

This report focuses on opportunities for improving project approval under the federal *Impact Assessment Act*. Some solutions are relatively easy to implement; others require deeper change. However, as noted by the government of Australia, "Any regulatory system is only as good as its weakest link. Partial reform efforts are unlikely to achieve meaningful improvements."

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