

Environmentalism

Under a 1970 environmental policy act, projects take an average of 4.5 years to complete their impact assessments. That is before litigation and other overruns. The law's key flaw is that it emphasises the views of local communities over the benefits to millions who live elsewhere. Time and again, experience shows that "community participation" is captured by wealthy retirees and lawyers with time on their hands. The law was written before global warming became the issue.

**Edward Luce,
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