



Australian Institute  
of Landscape Architects

®

sustainable settlement  
green infrastructure  
integrated design

## Drivers For Change

### Climate Change and the AILA

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is committed to assist landscape architects, other professions, governments and the community with information and guidance to deal with the complex issues associated with Climate Change, particularly as they relate to the environmental quality and design of our cities and regional settlements.

The AILA's policy directions and advocacy are based on the Australian Landscape Principles. The Principles, first published in early 2009, articulate an ethical decision-making framework for landscape planning, design and management within the built environment. Their purpose is to strategically direct interventions in our existing and future built environments towards more sustainable, holistic outcomes.

[www.aila.org.au/landscapeprinciples](http://www.aila.org.au/landscapeprinciples)

Value Our Landscape    Protect - Enhance - Regenerate

Design With Respect    Design For The Future    Embrace Responsive Design

The Institute has embedded the Australian Landscape Principles into practice via key strategies such as national policies, national advocacy, education policy, continuing professional development, the AILA awards and on-going research initiatives and partnerships.

#### **Outcomes**

The most significant change to the AILA corporate directions was brought about by the development of the Australian Landscape Principles. It was these principles that were then used to drive changes through 2009 to the present:

- New Vision and Mission Statement.
- Restructuring of AILA's Registration criteria.
- New AILA Education Policy & Education Standards.
- Restructuring of AILA Award categories and criteria.
- The review and realignment of AILA's partnerships and alliances.
- AILA National Advocacy Strategy with key performance indicators and reporting of achievements by AILA National and State Executives.
- The publication of a new integrated suite of national policy documents including key statements on Integrated Design, Sustainable Settlement, Green Infrastructure and Urban Design.
- Targeting Climate Change Adaptation & Sustainability as key areas of interest for national and international research projects and professional development initiatives.

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## Key Achievements

**Landscape Principles:** The publication of the Australian Landscape Principles in 2009 signalled a shift of emphasis for the AILA to focus its directions on a suite of ethically based principles.

**Strategic Directions:** As a result of the adoption of the Landscape Principles, the AILA revised its Vision and Mission Statement to reflect the dual roles of: Placing a greater emphasis on advocacy to achieve resilient, engaging and healthy urban, regional and rural environments, designed in balance with natural and cultural systems; Maintaining the profile as a professional institute, with key memberships tasks to promote the profession and to offer professional recognition.

**Major Projects:** The 2008 - 2011 Climate Change Adaptation Skills for Professionals Program (CCASPP) – a national project developing a set of professional development modules to assist the Landscape Architecture profession address Climate Change. The 2009 – 2010 Climate Adaptation Tools for Sustainable Settlements (CATSS) – The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA), in partnership with IFLA and the CSIRO, conducted a one year project that provided a preliminary review of Australian and international examples of climate adaptation tools and strategies for responding to the impacts of climate change within the context of the built environment.

**Advocacy:** Increased levels of membership participation in national and state advocacy on issues of significance & relevance to the profession and the broader community. A key outcome has been the increased levels of awareness within government and other organisations of the goals, achievements and future potential of Landscape Architecture.

## The Challenges

**The Relevance of Landscape in Addressing Climate Change:** Landscape provides the fundamental support system for life on earth. Our living environment reflects human habits of consumption and waste, and historic attitudes towards the landscape have resulted in its currently degraded condition.

The AILA is working to improve understanding within governments of the relevance of landscape, in particular of Green Infrastructure, to issues relating to urban development, population, ecology, transport, energy and infrastructure.

**The Value of Landscape:** Planning, design and management of the urban landscape requires an understanding of the functionality and performance of the built environment as a total system. All urban landscapes have the capacity to enhance and regenerate the natural benefits and services provided by ecosystems in their natural state. Single dwellings, housing estates, parks, industrial estates, shopping malls, infrastructure corridors or regional recreation areas have the potential to function as an integral part of this broader global life-support system.

The AILA advocates that the key to unlocking this potential lies in how landscape value is managed by government in order to deliver Sustainable Settlements - resilient, engaging and healthy urban, regional and rural environments, designed in balance with natural and cultural systems.

**Integrated Design Approach:** There is a critical need to develop a collaborative, equitable, co-ordinated and long-term approach to urban landscape planning, design and management which aims not merely to minimise damage to ecosystems but to proactively maximise opportunities for the enhancement and regeneration of natural resources. We must consider landscape systems in a more comprehensive manner, including the previously disregarded contribution of our urban ecosystems.

The AILA encourages governments to adopt an integrated design based approach to landscape and all urban development to deliver sustainable outcomes in terms of economics, health and environmental systems.

## Key Messages

The AILA advocates an integrated, whole-of-government and multidisciplinary approach to the design, planning and development of all settlements, large and small, metropolitan, rural, regional, remote or coastal. As the basis of this advocacy position, the AILA is working with its partners and other agencies to promote the following Key Messages:

**Climate Change:** Climate change adaptation and mitigation can be addressed through innovative urban design and management which recognises that healthy ecosystems provide the fundamental support system for life on earth.

**Green Infrastructure:** Enhanced management and development of Green Infrastructure networks must be prioritised within urban design decision-making as a key pathway to healthier ecosystems and to cleaner, cooler, healthier and more liveable urban environments.

**Integrated Urban Design:** Australian Governments should adopt an integrated whole of government approach to design, planning and development for all settlements, large and small, metropolitan, rural, regional, remote or coastal.

**Stewardship:** Stewardship of our unique Australian environment should underpin the management, master planning, design and construction of urban, regional and rural landscapes and embrace recycling, conservation, regeneration, and restoration of natural systems.

**Community Engagement:** All agencies involved in the planning, design and development of our cities, including new and infill developments, should use inclusive models of collaboration and transparent decision-making processes that promote positive engagement and consultation with communities to raise public awareness of design.

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This AILA statement is part of the AILA's suite of National Policy Statements and Discussion Papers.

More details on AILA National Policy Statements: [www.aila.org.au/policies](http://www.aila.org.au/policies)

All queries on policy should be directed to the AILA's CEO or the AILA State Presidents [www.aila.org.au/contacts](http://www.aila.org.au/contacts)

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