

sustainable settlement green infrastructure



Australian Institute
of Landscape Architects

®

The Critical Role of Landscape Architecture in Adaptation to Climate Change

National Policy Statement

KEY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MESSAGES

1. Landscape encompasses ecosystems which provide the fundamental support system for life on earth.
2. Adapting to Climate Change requires a re-assessment of how resilient human settlements are to variations in landscape function & performance.
3. In planning for human settlement, we need to go beyond minimising damage to ecosystems and instead we should move towards proactively maximising opportunities for ecosystem enhancement and regeneration.

ABOUT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Landscape architecture is a multi-disciplined and collaborative profession committed to the creation of meaningful and enjoyable outdoor places and to the sustainable management of our built and natural environment.

Landscape architecture combines art and science to provide creative designs and land management solutions which are specific to individual sites, are respectful of the broader landscape context and meet the particular requirements of clients and the urban, rural and natural environments.

Landscape architects are uniquely placed to contribute to the protection of existing ecosystems, to the enhancement of constructed ecosystems, including urban and coastal ecosystems where most Australians live, and to the regeneration of lost or damaged ecosystem services through thoughtful intervention.

Landscape architects are closely linked to the design of environments in which humans live, including both their appearance and function, as well as environmental components that sustain life — soil, water, vegetation and biodiversity.

Landscape architects also have influence over materials and energy use in these built environments and are concerned with minimising waste and misuse of resources. In modifying natural ecosystems and creating the ecosystems of human settlements, landscape architects ultimately influence human well-being.

Since the work of landscape architects has always involved change, as either planners for change or agents of change, they are well placed to include climate change adaptation skills and strategies in their work.

The Registered Landscape Architect

A registered landscape architect has the skills and training to combine art and design and to consider physical, social, economic, political and cultural factors to generate creative solutions for our urban and natural environments. Expertise is required across such fields as design, geography, science, engineering, art, horticulture, technology, social sciences, politics, history, philosophy, project management and contract law.

Registered landscape architects may be employed to plan, design and project manage for public and private spaces such as single and multi residential areas, public parks, playgrounds, university and government campuses, shopping centres, golf courses, waterways, public gardens, roads and highways and industrial parks. Others areas of work include visual impact assessment, expert witness services, natural and resource management, urban regeneration, townscapes and streetscapes.

Some landscape architects specialise in areas such as botanic gardens, public art, heritage management, government policy & project management, the management and planning for wilderness areas and the rehabilitation and regeneration of degraded landscapes. They may work on all types of projects involving large or small, urban or rural sites and may involve a mixture of hard and soft materials, as well as integrating with environmental, social and ecological issues.

Registered landscape architects may be the head consultants on projects or work in collaboration with other professionals such as engineers, heritage consultants, hydrologists, architects, artists and planners. Employment can be within many types of firms and agencies, such as local councils, state governments, developers, firms that specialise in landscape architecture and those that are multi-disciplined. They may also be self-employed.

The registered landscape architect is often involved at the concept or masterplanning stages of projects, they may also prepare impact assessments, conduct environmental and visual assessments or be an expert witness to enquiries about the use of particular sites.

Particular practices focus on large urban development and design projects. Many significant large urban development schemes are being master planned and project managed by landscape architects. They are sought to lead these projects as they are considered to be more intuitive in drawing a balance with the “triple bottom line” between social, environmental and economic requirements.

AILA and the Australian Landscape Principles

Human activity threatens the fundamental capacity of landscape to sustain life on earth. The Australian Landscape Principles have been developed as a strategic response to this issue, based on respect for the inherent and measurable values of landscape when developing planning, design and management strategies for climate change adaptation in our natural and built environments.

The Australian Landscape Principles articulate an ethical decision-making framework for landscape planning, design and management within the built environment. Their purpose is to strategically direct landscape interventions—both in our existing and future built environments—towards more sustainable, holistic outcomes.

1. VALUE OUR LANDSCAPE
2. PROTECT > ENHANCE > REGENERATE
3. DESIGN WITH RESPECT
4. DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE
5. EMBRACE RESPONSIVE DESIGN

For more information on the Australian Landscape Principles: www.aila.org.au/landscapeprinciples

Seeking integrated design solutions for national Sustainable Settlement

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects strongly urge the Australia's Federal and State Governments to provide an integrated vision for a sustainable future and to implement a national **Sustainable Settlement** policy that will guide a consistency of approach in all settlement development across the nation.

This Policy statement is part of the AILA's Sustainable Settlement suite of Policy Statements on Australian Landscape Architecture, the profession committed to the creation of meaningful and enjoyable outdoor places and to the sustainable management of our built and natural environment.

More details on AILA National Policy Statements: www.aila.org.au/policies

All queries on National Policy should be directed to the AILA's CEO.

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