



Mr Mike Rann
Premier
GPO Box 2343
ADELAIDE SA 5001

8 February 2010

Dear Premier

Integrated Design Commission

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) applauds the announcement late last year, to establish an Integrated Design Commission (IDC) to 'shape our metropolitan area and its future, to enhance its vibrancy, preserve its liveability, and enshrine its sustainability'.

Although the terms of reference or details of governance are yet to be finalised, the establishment of a collaborative group of design professionals with the multidisciplinary vision to develop a truly sustainable city and the powers to implement that vision will be vital to the success the IDC.

In the February, 2010 edition of *The Adelaide Review*, Professor Laura Lee, Adelaide's recent *Thinker in Residence*, in commenting on the need for *Intelligent Investment*, added that 'Intelligent Investment values design as a process for collaborative, integrated, multidisciplinary decision making' and the IDC is intended to demonstrate 'integration in depth and breadth, and not a hierarchy of professions'.

AILA strongly agrees that the collaboration of design disciplines is vital to the development of sustainable design solutions for our built environment and the announcement by the Premier that the future of urban design is not just about 'the better design of buildings but the spaces in between them' is of particular relevance to the profession of landscape architecture.

Registered Landscape Architects possess diverse skills and a broad range of experience and the AILA believes that the *Integrated Design Commission* is an opportunity for landscape architects to contribute to the development of sustainable solutions for South Australia's future generations. This will be achieved by addressing issues such as;

- integrating the design of indoor and outdoor spaces to deliver equitable, sustainable and climate responsive urban environments
- developing respect and strategies to rehabilitate our waterways and unique landscapes including biodiversity
- increasing public awareness, knowledge and understanding of the interdependence of existing and future natural systems and built environments.

Research that has recently been undertaken by the AILA National Office in collaboration with the CSIRO and the Built Environment Design Profession (BEDP) such as the '*Australian Landscape Principles*' <http://www.aila.org.au/landscapeprinciples/brochure1/web-ValueLandscape.pdf> and the '*Sustainable Settlements Policy*' <http://www.bedp.asn.au/settlement/Settlement-August09.pdf> could serve to underpin a robust,

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informed and balanced debate on the complex range of environmental, social and economic issues that the proposed *Integrated Design Commission* will need to address.

Recent examples of large projects undertaken by Landscape Architects in the public realm include the entrance to the Adelaide Zoo and the redevelopment of North Terrace. Members have also contributed in many other awarded projects ranging from on-site design and construction through to planning and urban design reports www.aila.org.au/sa/awards.htm.

As suggested in the AILA's comments on the draft '*30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide*', the South Australian Chapter is keen to collaborate with the State Government and fellow design and planning professions in the formation and establishment of the IDC and looks forward to being involved in the re-engagement of the Government in the planning process for the sustainable future of Adelaide and its environs.

Please don't hesitate to contact AILA for further information on how the AILA may assist in the development of an effective *Integrated Design Commission*.

Regards,

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cc

- Isobel Redman
- Laura Lee
- Mark Parnell
- Adelaide Review
- The Advertiser
- The Independent