

Competition Brief

Seachange 2030+ Ideas Competition

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects [AILA] and its competition partners invite individuals and teams to participate in the Sea Change 2030+, an international ideas competition, which will showcase innovative ideas for planning, designing and managing for adaptation to urban sea level rise.

Coastal settlements and infrastructure will be especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change including sea level rise, increased air and sea surface temperature, more frequent and intense storms, ocean acidification, and changes to rainfall and run-off. Sea level rise will cause greater coastal flooding, erosion, loss of wetlands and salt-water intrusion into freshwater sources, with impacts on infrastructure, coastal resources and existing coastal management programmes.

The interface between the built and natural environments is an important part of human settlements in Australia. Developing effective adaptation responses will be critical in reducing the impacts of climate change and can deliver co-benefits such as increased energy or water efficiency.

The aim of the AILA ideas competition is to

- Identify creative solutions for Sydney to adapt to incremental Sea Level Rise, using Sydney Harbour as a case study;
- Foster dialogue on climate change planning between public, private and community stakeholders in the landscape and urban design sector; and
- Increase public awareness of the vulnerability of NSW coastlines and foreshores to the impacts of changing climate.

The future holds both challenges and exciting possibilities for the re-shaping of our coastal cities and towns. We want to engage with the best creative thinkers to explore how we can re-configure urban waterfronts and help start the process of adapting human settlements to changing climate.

- These challenges include :
- retrofitting public infrastructure
- protection of iconic landmarks
- reconfiguration of harbour shorelines and waterfront urban spaces
- uncertainty in regional sea level rise projections, and the need for flexible approaches
- movement upward and landward of property boundaries in the Sydney Basin which are currently at the mean high water mark
- changes to urban parklands and regional open space systems
- natural resource management of marine, estuarine, inter-tidal and foreshore ecological systems, including protection and enhancement where possible
- adaptation of water-based transport systems
- designing for new waterfront architecture and shoreline built forms which are flexible to long term change and Sea Level Rise adapted
- amelioration of storm surge and high tide impacts on stormwater systems and low lying lands
- development of climate based governance and integrated place management

The ideas competition has categories for :

- Multi-disciplinary professional and academic teams
- Primary and secondary school students
- Non-government organisations [NGO's] specialising in climate adaptation policy and strategy

Sydney Harbour : a stage for your adaptation ideas

The ideas competition is about generating innovative ideas, participation, sharing knowledge and fostering dialogue on the opportunities which emerge from adapting to sea level rise in human coastal settlements.

Sydney is known internationally for hosting major annual events in and around Sydney Harbour. Events include the spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks, the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the Sydney Festival and Australia Day celebrations.

Sydney Harbour is also known for its natural values, such as its beaches, foreshore vegetation, urban parklands and marine life.

Sydney was also recognised as the home of the world's first 'Green Games' – the 2000 Summer Olympics. Global community environmental movements such as 'Clean Up the World' and 'Earth Hour' started in Sydney before spreading nationally and internationally. The competition is an opportunity to bring together innovation and potential adaptation solutions to the challenges of sea level rise, using Sydney Harbour as a model urban waterfront. We want to get more people thinking, discussing, planning and designing positive futures for our changing climate.

The competition aims to engage a range of different disciplines and perspectives, including:

Planners, Designers, Place Managers, Community Groups, Schools and universities

Sydney Harbour offers competition contestants a broad range of natural and built environments to explore design options and principles for sea level rise adaptation.

The competition is structured in two main streams:

Category 1. a professional category which includes university students; and

Category 2. an open category, which includes primary and secondary school students.

We invite you to use this competition to put forward your transformative thinking about adaptation to climate change within, around and on Sydney Harbour.

Competition site

- define your own project

The competition site is Sydney Harbour – situated within the Parramatta River estuary. The Parramatta River estuary is a drowned river valley, which is a dynamic environment shaped by natural and human activity.

This competition site is defined as the Sydney Harbour catchment using the NSW Department of Planning State and Regional Environmental Plan as follows :

http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour/pdf/maps/sydney_harbour_rep_catchment_map_a3.pdf

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/PlansforAction/CatchmentsandWaterways/SharingSydneyHarbour/SydneyHarbourCatchmentREP/tabid/222/language/en-AU/Default.aspx>

Entrants can define their own project and choose their own spatial and planning scale. For instance, you may choose to focus on a particular area of foreshore; alternatively you may address the 'big picture' of the total Sydney Harbour catchment system. Entrants can identify design options and strategies for new and/or existing shoreline architecture and other types of foreshore built forms. Any or all of the following topics can be covered:

- Human settlement– infrastructure, transport systems and shoreline buildings
- Open space systems – foreshores parks, public urban spaces and open space corridors
- Ecological systems – marine, estuarine, inter-tidal and foreshore habitats

The competition is deliberately open to allow contestants to explore a wide range of challenges, issues and possibilities. Links are provided to relevant, policies baseline data and mapping resources for participants to research and then frame their own responses either more broadly or focus on a specific site or issue.

2.1 Projected Sea Level Rise for New South Wales

All entries should use the sea level rise projections in the NSW sea level rise policy which identifies sea levels of 40cm for 2050 and 90cm for 2100 :

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climateChange/sealevel.htm>

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climateChange/kingtide.htm>

You may choose any level within this range in framing your competition response.

Categories

To encourage wide community, student and professional participation in the competition there are 2 main submission categories : Category 1 Professionals and Tertiary Students

Entry requirement - teams of professionals/tertiary students including at least 1 professionally accredited or currently enrolled student Landscape Architect.

Cross-disciplinary collaboration and the formation of teams is strongly encouraged.

Entry requirement: Proof of current professional accreditation in Landscape Architecture or current enrollment in a Landscape Architecture School.

Category 2 Open: this contains two (2) sub-categories:

Category 2A General

Including non-professionals, academics, NGOs and Non Landscape Architecture University students who have a climate adaptation policy and strategy focus

Entry requirement: open

Category 2B Schools

Including primary and secondary students under 18 years of age..

Entry requirement: Proof of current enrollment in a school

Category 1 – Professional and Tertiary Students

Adaptation design responses should use climate impact analyses and must demonstrate an understanding of landscape systems, processes and whole of harbour catchment. Ideas may address:

Ensuring the ongoing survival of foreshore and inter-tidal ecosystems such as vulnerable mangrove and salt marsh habitats

Protecting and retrofitting vulnerable shoreline assets including cultural icons, buildings, environmentally friendly sea walls, wharves/jetties, parks and other forms of 'green infrastructure'

Protecting and retrofitting vulnerable shoreline infrastructure including stormwater systems and outlets, pipelines, ports and shoreline depots

New forms of shoreline architecture and waterfront built forms architecture adapted for sea level rise height adjustment and/or relocation

New approaches to compensatory marine, estuarine and inter-tidal habitat

Beach nourishment and protection

Climate based governance and new public administration models for bio-regions and urban catchment systems appropriate to the complexity of Sydney Harbour

Submission requirement - 1 x A1 size pdf colour poster – analysis, illustration, text, etc in portrait or landscape format

Category 2 – Open

Entries should propose new types of cross-jurisdictional governance structures or policy initiatives for improved capacity building, community engagement and implementation strategies for climate change adaptation.

Category 2A general

Entry requirement – open [including non professionals, academics, NGOs, etc]

Initiatives may address:

Policy and strategic initiatives that propose new governance/public administration models or planning options to address sea level rise

Initiatives that address community leadership in sea level rise

Submission requirement - 2 x A3 size pdf sheets as schematic diagram, text etc in portrait or landscape format

Category 2B schools

Entry requirement – [high schools & primary schools]

Drawings, illustrations, diagrams, cartoons, photo-montages, images and creative writing which may address:

- New ways of living and adapting to sea level rise around the harbour
- New ways of living and adapting to sea level rise in the harbour
- New ways of living and adapting to sea level rise on the harbour

Submission requirement - 1 x A3 size colour pdf sheet in portrait or landscape format or PowerPoint presentation