



Australian Institute of  
Landscape Architects

01/07/2021

**Group Deputy Secretary, Place, Design and Public Spaces  
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta 2124**

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/GSPwhitepaper>

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (AILA) SUBMISSION  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY and ENVIRONMENT, WHITE PAPER – PARKLANDS FOR PEOPLE - A  
proposed legislative framework for Greater Sydney Parklands, May 2021**

## PREFACE

**The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) leads a dynamic and respected profession: creating great places to support healthy communities and a sustainable planet.**

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is the peak national body for Landscape Architecture. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. AILA supports strategic open space planning and projects through the skills and work of our members. We provide our members with training, recognition and a community of practice to share knowledge, ideas and action.

With our members, we anticipate and develop a leading position on issues of concern in landscape architecture. Alongside government and allied professions, we work to improve the design, planning and management of the natural and built environment.

In operation since 1966, AILA represents landscape architects and promotes excellence in planning and designing for life outdoors. Committed to designing and creating a better Australia, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation's livability through a unique approach to planning issues via integrated design solutions. In doing so, landscape architects contribute towards better environmental, social and economic outcomes for all Australians. We have supported strategic open space planning

projects for many years through the skills and work of our members and we are appreciative of the ongoing engagement between AILA and the Department of Planning and Government Architect teams leading the states open space initiatives.

**AILA generally supports the creation of the Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP). The 50-year vision is a long rang thinking initiative that is strategically important to ensure sufficient protection and provision of large areas of connected open space for the growing population of Greater Sydney.**

**AILA supports the legislative change required to support GSP with its vision, to elevate the importance of open space to protect heritage and provide recreation opportunities that Sydney's growing diverse demographics while providing for adaptable open space that caters for current and future recreational demands.**

AILA thanks the NSW Government for their consultation on the proposed GSP and the opportunity to provide this submission. AILA has reviewed the GSP Parklands for People White Paper and we offer the following comments for consideration.

#### THE VISION

AILA supports the vision for the establishment of the GSP, in collaboration with community and existing local park trusts, to manage new parks created over the next 50 years or more.

AILA is supportive of the GSP's role in elevating the significance of open space, in state planning, as integral green infrastructure on a par with transport and utilities. We support the proposed mandate that the GSP is central to the successful implementation of the GANSW Green Grid Strategy which will set a benchmark for green/blue grid planning and implementation potentially across metropolitan and possibly regional NSW. AILA looks forward to more information regarding this structure.

#### LEGISLATIVE OPTIONS

AILA supports the DPIE's preferred option of creating an umbrella trust while maintaining existing trusts and Acts. AILA looks forward to more information regarding the structure, roles and responsibilities between the new layer of governance and existing trusts. AILA also welcomes information regarding how efficiencies in the management and provision of open space will be achieved without negatively impacting on overall funding for park upgrades, improvements and expansion. AILA advocates that these additional state lands be an integral part of the GSP to ensure a funding model in perpetuity.

AILA is interested in understanding how the GSP informs, compliments or even competes with other offices, programs and policies within the Place, Design and Public Spaces remit. For example, the Great Public Spaces program and the Open Space's Public Open Space Strategy, Parks for People, Everyone Can Play, and the GANSW' Design and Place SEPP and Greener Places policies etc.

## CITY WIDE APPROACH

AILA acknowledges that to implement the objectives of the GANSW Green Grid Plan and the vision of the GPS to create new parks and enhance connectivity between existing tracts of open space there are significant hurdles to overcome. These include issues around land ownership, classification, existing use and zoning which will all require significant funding, consultation, time and collaboration to work through.

AILA is interested in the proposed approach with landowners, Councils and other stakeholders for the transfer of land to open space and the framework and legislation that will then protect this land as open space in permanently. Particularly, as the intention is to fund the acquisition and ongoing management of open space from commercial operations on public land, we are seeking clarification on what the definitions are of government land that is suitable for commercial operations and subsequently not suitable for open space.

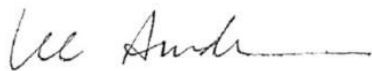
The objectives outlined above are reflected and presented in greater detail in AILA's comments submitted to the GANSW regarding the [draft Design and Place SEPP EIE](#). There is a strong cross over with the SEPP and the GSP, their successes rely on fundamental understandings of place that informs good planning.

## CONCLUSION

AILA appreciate the ongoing engagement between AILA and the Department of Planning and Government Architect teams leading the states open space initiatives. We thank you for the invitation to provide input into the legislative reforms proposed to support the establishment of the GSP.

AILA is supportive of the GSP proposal and look forward to being part of this process and the opportunity to review details of the framework and scope as the proposal progresses.

Sincerely yours,



Lee Andrews

AILA NSW President

## SUBMISSION TEAM

This submission has been prepared by a working group of AILA NSW members, co-ordinated by Aparna Goyal, David Moir and Lee Andrews.