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Heritage Council of New South Wales
Locked Bag 5020
Parramatta NSW 2124
heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Letter of Support by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) NSW Chapter

RE: Landscape Heritage
Item: 'Wingello Park'
Address: 14597 Hume Highway, Marulan : Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA, NSW

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.

A central purpose of the AILA (NSW) Landscape Heritage Group is to inform, inspire and enrich the culture of the discipline of landscape architecture in Australia and particularly the identification and understanding of both natural and cultural landscapes in NSW together with the role of such knowledge in the processes of planning and design.

BACKGROUND

'Wingello Park', NSW (built 1827-1840) is under consideration for listing on the State Heritage Register for its significance as:

- as a pastoral estate and 'Cottage Ornee' style homestead and 14 acre garden complex, representing the expansion of the first colony in Sydney and based on wool production which supported the survival and growth of the colony. The conservation and adaptive reuse of the property as a whole, with sympathetic changes in agricultural work, and homestead and garden decoration, is demonstrable.
- as a dignitary's residence, strongly associated with distinguished military man and businessman Major-General Paul Cullen (1909-2007) AC AO CBE DSO and Bar, soldier, company director, pastoralist, and Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.
- having Archaeological research potential to reveal insights to colonial life including construction, incarceration and the Wingello Stockade 1834-1839.



- as a highly intact example of an 1820s pastoral estate and ('Cottage Ornee' style) homestead complex, including sympathetic garden and pastoral setting, associated with the early expansion of colonial settlement outside of the Sydney region within a rural landscape.
- as an excellent and very early example of a colonial pastoral homestead in the Cottage Ornee style.

RURAL LANDSCAPE HISTORY

In addition to the stated points of significance, the management and use of a 'chain of ponds' in Uringalla Creek provides insight to pre-colonial land use. The region, and its waterways are known to hold significance as a meeting place of many First Nations:

Mulwaree, Wollondilly, Wiradjuri, Gundungurra, Dharrook, Tharawal, Tarlo, Pajong, Parramarragoo, Cookmal, Burra Burra, Lachlan and Ngunawal people¹.

The property of 600 acres known as 'Wingello' or 'Wingello Park', was granted to Robert Campbell around 1824, before Mitchell's Great South Road was opened² and forty years later was added as part of 'Arthursleigh Estate', 38,280 acres freehold and leased land, occupied by Thomas Holt, spanning east and west of the Wollondilly River.

CURTILEGE REVIEW

In recent times, the current owner of 'Wingello Park' requested a curtilage review in relation to this nomination for listing on the State Heritage Register, due to the financial implication of running a working farm under heritage constraint. However, the proposed listing acknowledges that the riparian vegetation holds important cultural heritage value for interpretation of the pre- and early colonial landscape. Land use of not only 'Wingello Park' but its entire former landscape such as the ridgelines and hydrological systems, regardless of current ownership and LGA boundaries, plays a vital part in conserving the whole landscape heritage significance.

LESSONS FROM SOURCE WATER LINKAGES PROJECTS

Multiple property owners along the Mulwaree 'chain of ponds' flowing into the Wollondilly River at Goulburn, 45 kms Southeast of 'Wingello Park', and part of the Sydney Source Water Linkage, have worked in partnership with land care agencies to restore the riparian ecological systems to the mutual benefit of pastoralists, Sydney drinking water consumers and the environment. However, at a comparable property, 'Arthursleigh', Big Hill, 20 kms north-west of 'Wingello Park', gully erosion had already reached catastrophic proportions, requiring extensive remedial engineering structures and revegetation (supported by Water NSW, South-East Local Land Services, Greening Australia and Rivers of Carbon : Source Water Linkages Program. For more information contact NSW LLS: Shane Laverty and Jenny Schabel).

¹ Rivers of Carbon: Source Water Linkages Program : <https://riversofcarbon.org.au/our-projects/rivers-carbon-source-water-linkages/>

² The Great South Road : self guided tour , RMS https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/protecting-heritage/documents/self_guided_tours/the_great_south_road.pdf



LESSONS FROM THE COLONIAL LANDSCAPES OF THE CUMBERLAND PLAIN AND CAMDEN

The tree canopy and open woodland landscape character along with the 19th century designed landscape garden estates are rapidly diminishing under the economic focus of the current State Planning. Concerns flagged a decade ago in the study of Colonial Landscapes of the Cumberland Plain and Camden (Morris & Britton) 2000³, among other studies, are summarised in AILA NSW Landscape Heritage Report⁵. They indicate the following lessons;

- Lesson 1** The study was too late, cultural landscape already radically changing (Bella Vista)
- Lesson 2** Owners' agreement is essential for listing
- Lesson 3** Limited influence possible in planning – curtilages not respecting landscape relationships (e.g.: Greater Macarthur Urban Release)
- Lesson 4** Listing across multiple ownerships is difficult
- Lesson 5** Historically important 'picturesque' landscapes (e.g.: 'Camden Park' and 'Glenlee') were undervalued 20 years ago and now threatened by State significant development (SSD/SSI) and regional development

A workshop with AILA members and landscape heritage specialists on 14 March 2016, found that little has changed⁴. Climate change, bio-banking, inadequate data to evaluate the age of vegetation and its performance have added to the impacts. Existing instruments, such as *Greater Sydney Region Plan: Western City District Plan - Planning Priority W16 : Protecting and enhancing cultural landscapes*⁵ remain inadequate in the face of cultural landscape heritage issues⁶. Ideas included a strategic approach across government departments to recognise significant landscape, protect valuable places and their qualities, stop the diminution of green space, and, critically, to support local communities to protect significant landscapes.

LESSONS FROM SOURCE WATER LINKAGES PROJECTS

The riparian landscape at 'Wingello Park', along Uringalla Creek, which flows into the Wollondilly River at Canyonleigh, can be identified as a Source Water Linkage to Sydney's Drinking Water Catchment and requires further study for its ecological *and cultural values* prior to further alteration. There may be a substantial hilltop spring and lake or former wetland on adjacent land known as 'Cambrai', or 250 Garbutts Lane. These waters are likely to:

³ Morris, C. & Britton, G. 2000, Colonial landscapes of the Cumberland Plain and Camden, NSW : a survey of selected pre-1860 cultural landscapes from Wollondilly to Hawkesbury LGAs / prepared by Colleen Morris and Geoffrey Britton for the National Trust of Australia (NSW) collection.hht.net.au

⁴ AILA Landscape Heritage Study 2018, prepared by Christine Hay, Colleen Morris and James Quoye supported by Heritage NSW aila.org.au/AILA/Resource_library/Landscape_Heritage_Report_Volume_1-2.pdf
aila.awardsplatform.com/gallery

⁵ DRAFT Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan 2020-2056. NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, p.17

⁶ DRAFT CPCP DPIE Figure 3: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Area and scope, p.9



- hold immeasurable significance to multiple first nations people, as the source and spiritual beginning of creation of the entire Burragorang Valley – gazetted as a Songline of the Dreaming⁷⁸⁹, (seek permission to publish)
- have strongly influenced the siting of the settlement complex and
- have influenced the acquisition of 'Wingello Park' to enlarge the 'Arthursleigh Estate'
- continue to be a source of hydrology for the Uringalla creek system, including groundwater, in the vicinity of the homestead and
- provide a rare model restoration project for the Source Water Linkage for Sydney's Drinking Water Catchment, that respects complex cultural significance through the continued sympathetic use as a working grazing farm.

Changes to the drainage upslope from the creek may impact the riparian vegetation that is associated with the heritage value of the place and the health of the ecosystem. If the soil is sodic, and continues to support livestock, as at historic 'Arthursleigh', further loss of vegetation and groundcover may cause delayed and catastrophic effects on the integrity of the ecosystem and on the archaeological potential for interpretation. The potential for delayed effects of water extraction in the catchment must be investigated, monitored, assessed and reviewed.

Financial costs of repairing large scale erosion in the catchment of Sydney's' drinking water can be prevented by an integration of strategic biodiverse and structured planting and stock exclusion from riparian zones. Soil and groundwater monitoring and conservation, based on the latest scientific evidence, is becoming readily available and financially supported through a range of grants. All of these measures must be assessed and designed in relation to the heritage values of the garden and the broader landscape, such as historic vistas and archaeology, as well as the ecological benefits.

Complex rural cultural landscapes that offer insight to our shared history of the occupation of this continent are rare¹⁰. 'Wingello Park' includes unique fabric such as an extant whipping post relating to the Wingello Stockade and the Argyle Road 1818-1833 and like 'Camden Park Estate', and its 'Belgenny Farm' Group¹¹, is one of Australia's most important colonial farm group or infrastructure in a rural landscape, remarkably intact and remaining virtually unaltered since 19th Century.

RECOMMENDATIONS

AILA considers 'Wingello Park' to be of State heritage significance as evidence of pre- and early colonial settlement for research purposes. The conservation of the landscape qualities is an

⁷ Halls, S. and Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association 2021, Warragamba Dam Raising Project - Gazettal of Burragorang Valley as an Aboriginal Place.

⁸ Etheridge 1839 quoted in Warragamba Dam Wall Raising Draft Report Aboriginal Cultural Value Assessment Report April 2021 v. 3 Waters Consultancy available online : Sydney Morning Herald <https://www.smh.com.au/interactive/hub/media/tearout-excerpt/2072/Appendix-11-Cultural-Values-Assessment-20210414.pdf> accessed 07/06/22 p.22

⁹ Mathews 1908 Gurrangatch-Mirrigan Dreaming Story, in ibid p.25

¹⁰ Morris, C. & Britton, G. 2000, Colonial landscapes of the Cumberland Plain and Camden, NSW : a survey of selected pre-1860 cultural landscapes from Wollondilly to Hawkesbury LGAs / prepared by Colleen Morris and Geoffrey Britton for the National Trust of Australia (NSW) <http://collection.hht.net.au/fullRecord.jsp?recno=29641>

¹¹ **Belgenny Farm:Camden Park Estate: Part of our heritage.** Ron Mason and Chris O'Brien, NSW Department of Planning, Australian Bicentenary 1788-1988 project



important part of its value to living and future generations, beyond the descendants, to the public in general. The desire for curtilage review is understandable. However, the management of vegetation, soils and waterbodies of the valley must conserve the understanding and interpretation of the shared use of the land and the early colonial village complex, as a whole.

CONCLUSION

AILA supports the listing of 'Wingello Park' on the State Heritage Register. Further research on New South Wales landscape heritage is strongly encouraged. AILA recommends a proactive identification process, conducted by suitably experienced and qualified heritage landscape architects, be supported in NSW, to educate and inspire landholders as custodians and guide protection, rather than react to community defence, of rare and irreplaceable landscape heritage in cases such as 'Wingello Park'.

Sincerely yours,

Tanya Wood
AILA NSW President

SUBMISSION TEAM

This submission has been prepared by a committee of AILA NSW the Landscape Heritage Group, chaired by Matthew Taylor RLA, and advised by Professor Emeritus Helen Armstrong AM FAILA, Professor Craig Burton, FAILA, and Oi Choong, FAILA.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

SHR Under consideration for Listing: <https://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/protecting-our-heritage/nominate-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/nominations-being-considered/>

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment : State Environmental Planning Policy for Strategic Conservation Planning (SEPP) Explanation of Intended Effect August 2020

DRAFT Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan 2020-2056. NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Fletcher, C. (no date), *Arthursleigh: A history of the property 1819 -1979*, University of Sydney.

Hobbs Report in 2020, GMC Planning Proposal to add Wingello Park to Schedule 5 of Goulburn Mulwaree Local Environmental Plan 2009 and Attachments, 16 March.



Murray, A. 2019, 'Environmental rehabilitation and Sydney drinking water cleansing at 'Arthursleigh'
AGHS Journal December 2018

Suters, R. 2019 'Field trip to Arthursleigh and Gooroorigang' in Australian Garden History Society
Journal <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Inflorescence-Dec-2019.pdf>

Thrower, L. 2022, updated 26th May, 9.46am 'Wingello Park' near Marulan proposed for State
Heritage Register' in Goulburn Post. originally published 25 May 2022

Wingello history booklet – available at Gooroorigang, Goulburn NSW



Figure 1: 'Wingello' 1846 sketch. Artist unknown- 'DAC'.

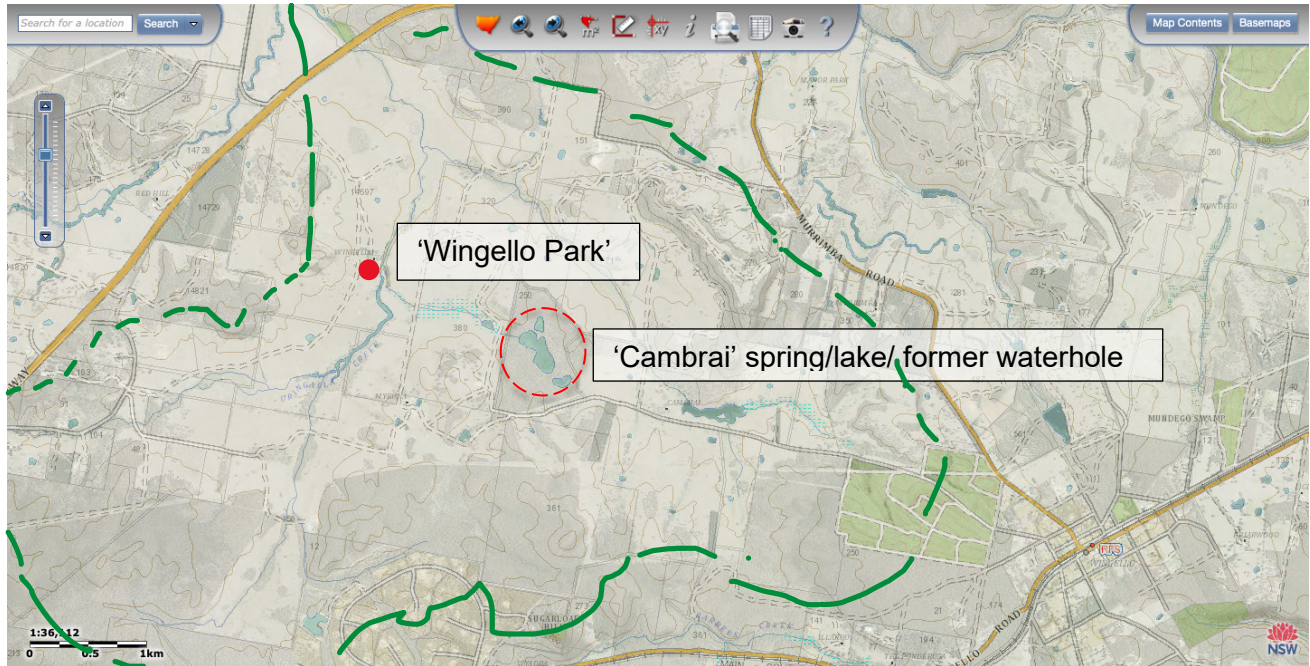


Figure 2: Adapted from SixMaps : Hybrid satellite imagery and NSW topographic base map from DFSI Spatial Services

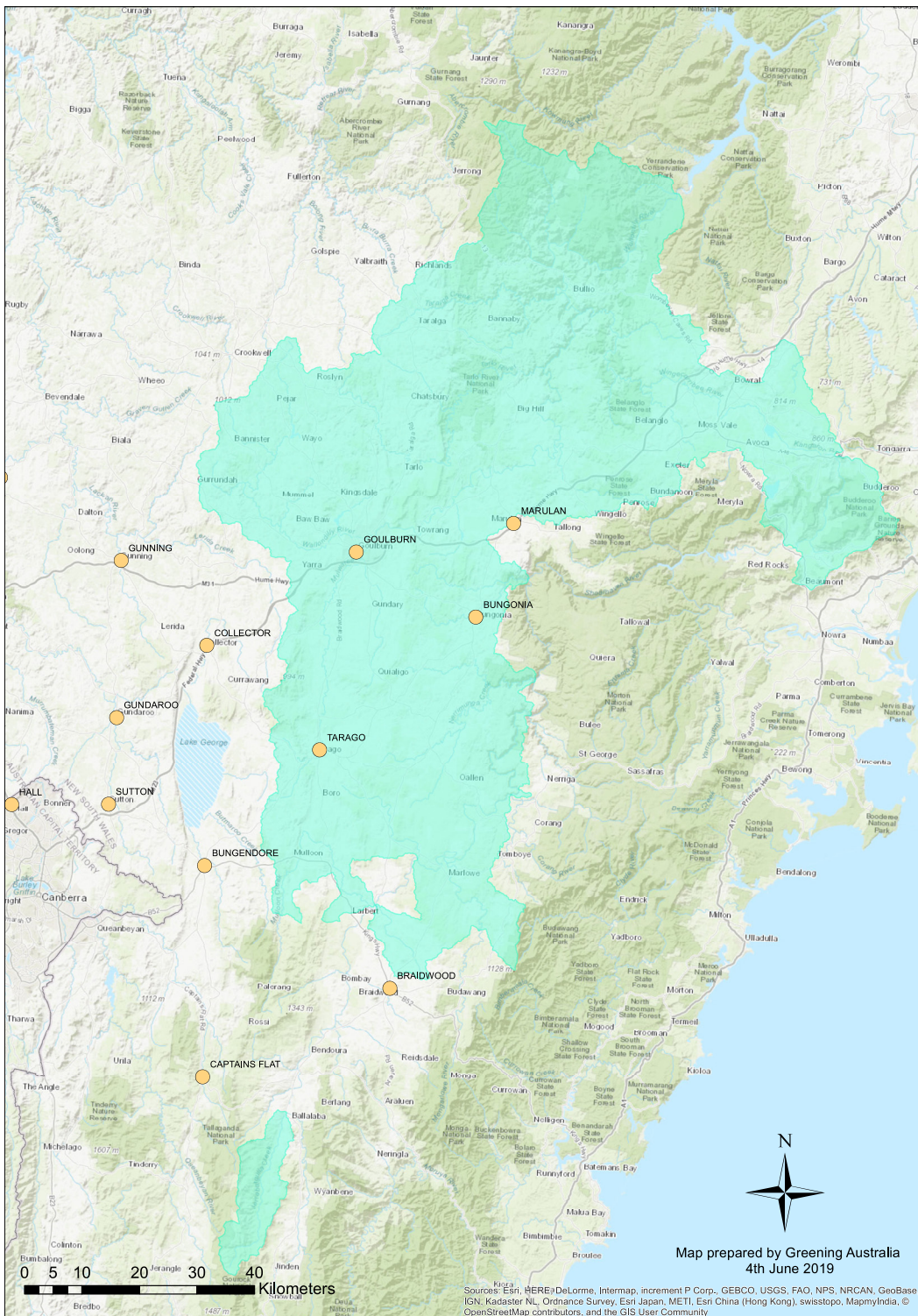


Figure 3 Rivers of Carbon Source Water Linkages Project Area

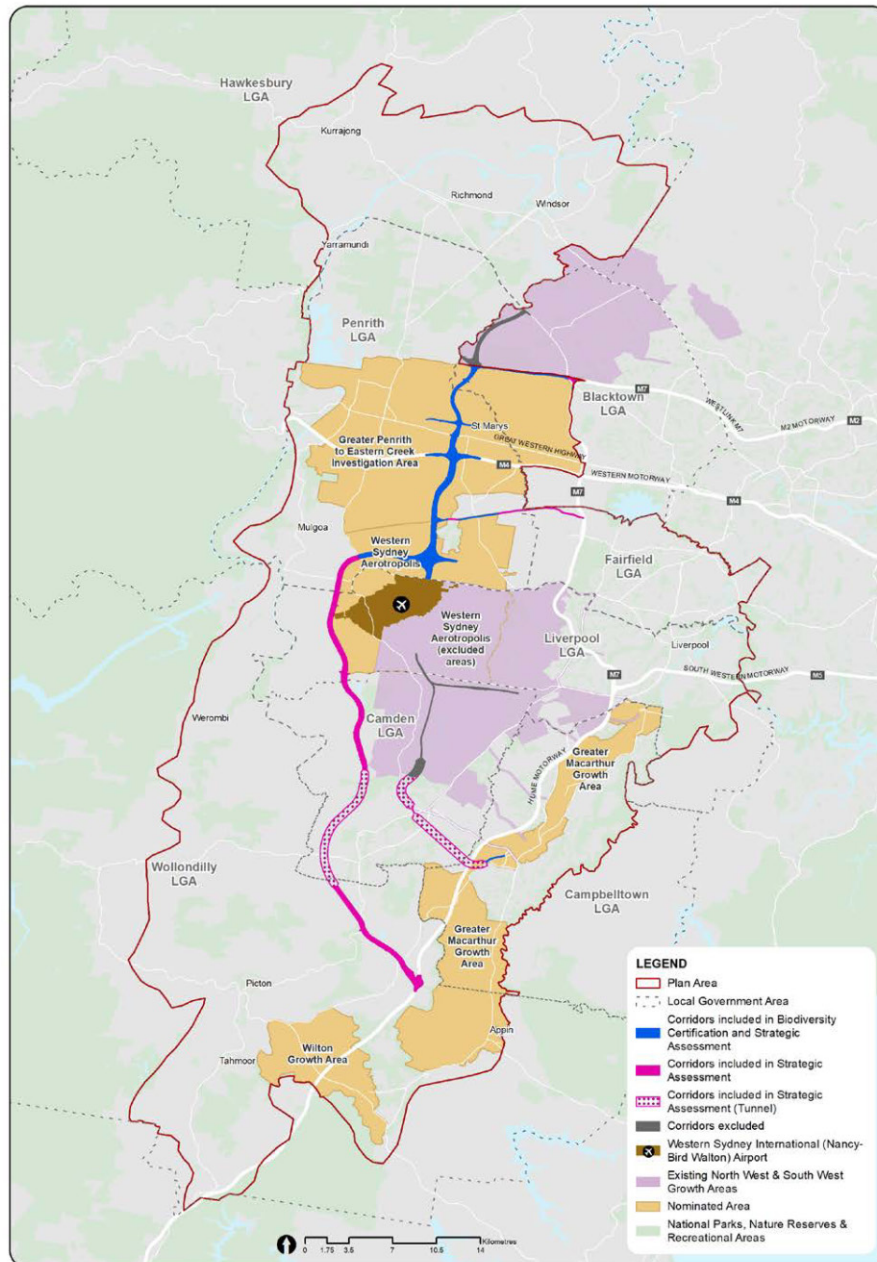


Figure 4. Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan DPIE – Figure 3: Area and scope, p.9

About the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

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

Who we are and what we do

AILA is the peak national body for Landscape Architecture. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities, and greater environmental stewardship.

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 over 2,500 members Australia-wide and promotes excellence in planning and designing for life outdoors. Committed to designing better places, Australian landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation's liveability through integrated nature-based solutions delivering better environmental, social, and economic outcomes for all Australians.

AILA's national position statements on Green Infrastructure, Climate Positive Design, Child Friendly Cities, Healthy Communities, and Active Travel; examine how an integrated approach can be used to shape the health and wellbeing of communities. Landscape architects play a central role in developing and implementing these strategies.

Our members are distributed across Australia and range from sole traders to large internationally recognised practices and are embedded within local and state government, creating significant and profound community impacts at a variety of scales.

AILA's values focus on the design, delivery, and management of:

1. Quality Public Places

Examples include:

- Southbank Parklands, QLD
- Sydney Park and Darling Quarter, NSW
- Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria – Cranbourne Gardens, VIC
- Pelzer Park/ Pityarilla (Park 19) Activity Hub, SA
- Elizabeth Quay and Scarborough Foreshore, WA
- and many more Australia-wide.

2. Stronger Communities

Through public open space networks, parks, and sporting complexes.

3. Environmental Stewardship

Through ecological restoration (flood, fire, weeds and contaminated waterways).

As landscape architects:

- We resolve to protect and sustain our landscapes.
- We affirm that self-sustaining landscapes are essential to our planet by placing a high value on the protection of living landscapes and taking a thoughtful approach to their change.
- We resolve to restore damaged landscapes to health.
- We recognise each landscape is best cared for by the community as a whole.
- We work to reveal the value of each landscape to all parties so that they can work in its best interests.
- We work collaboratively with the community and with other professionals to ensure the best outcome for each place.