



12 October 2021

**The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP**

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads  
NSW Government  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**Letter of Congratulations to the Hon. Minister Stokes, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads**

Dear Minister Stokes,

On behalf of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA), we would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister for Transport and Roads along with your existing responsibilities in the Planning Department.

AILA has over the last two and a half years welcomed your support as well as the opportunity to help inform and collaborate with your department in our common priorities to create great places to support healthy communities and a sustainable planet. AILA's on-going participation into the SEPP has certainly been a focus of late in NSW.

As you would know from your Planning portfolio the work of landscape architects is increasingly being recognised for their unique skills in creating liveable cities, healthy active spaces, and sustainable design outcomes for all people. We would like to take this opportunity to point out that a number of AILA registered Landscape Architects and AILA Fellows are in the Transport Department as part of the Centre for Urban Design and highlight a key transport policy: '[Beyond the pavement 2020](#)' that requires good design, landscape architects engagement and the application of landscape architecture and urban design principles.

Transport for NSW and AILA have had a long-standing partnership going back to the 1970's-1980's. Landscape architects, with their understanding of the landscape in which we all live and their broad design skills, are key players in the urban design process. They have a long history of working with engineers, from the work of Peter Spooner (Sydney Newcastle Freeway) and Bruce McKenzie (Great Western Highway) in the 20th Century to the work of many landscape architecture practices this century on the vast program of work underway. They have played an invaluable role in making better projects, which is often taken for granted - such is the way of much good unassuming landscape architecture.

At our [2021 NSW Awards](#) hosted digitally in June, [The Pacific Highway Update Project](#), a legacy project undertaken over 24 years was awarded a [Landscape Architecture Award](#) in



Infrastructure as well as a Regional Award, whilst the [CBD and South East Light Rail NSW](#) project delivered by Aspect Studio with Grimshaw and the City of Sydney on behalf of Transport for NSW was awarded the top Award of Excellence for Infrastructure. Coming up this Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct at 8pm AEDT, the National Awards winners will be announced live and digitally on [AILA National YouTube Channel](#), we invite you to listen in and discover the national winners with our members.

Congratulations once again on your new appointment and we look forward to fostering the existing partnership and collaboration with AILA and both Planning and Transport Departments.

Sincerely,

**Tanya Wood**

AILA NSW President

**Tessa Faucheur**

AILA NSW Chapter Manager