



4 December 2019

Green Bridges for Brisbane
City Projects Office
Brisbane City Council
GPO Box 1434
Brisbane Qld 4001

Email submission: GreenBridges@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Project Team,

Re: Five new green bridges across Brisbane

The Queensland Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) congratulates Brisbane City Council and Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner on the proposal to build five new green bridges across Brisbane and welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback.

AILA is the growing national advocacy body representing over 3,000 active and engaged landscape architects, promoting the importance of the profession today and for the future. Committed to designing and creating a better Australia, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to solve macro issues with innovative integrated solutions. Landscape architects contribute leadership, creativity and innovation as they strive to collaborate to achieve better health, environmental, social and economic outcomes. From citywide strategies to the redesign of local parks, landscape architects are making places and spaces more sustainable and productive.

AILA's national position statements on [Green Infrastructure](#), [Child Friendly Cities](#), [Future Street](#), [Healthy Communities](#) and [Active Travel](#) all examine how an integrated approach can be used to shape the health and wellbeing of a community. Landscape architecture plays an important role in developing these strategies and these statements should be considered in the planning and design phases of the green bridges.

AILA supports the provision of and investment in active transport by local government on behalf of the community. AILA's Active Travel position statement advocates for the design of active transport systems as an integral component of new and redeveloped urban structure, ensuring that they are fully integrated into the network of travel modes to efficiently meet the needs of the community:

- meet the social and economic needs of the present without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs;
- protect the environment, locally and globally in the short and long term;
- provide and promote lower carbon transport options;
- enable safety and efficiency of the whole journey; and
- facilitate improved health and well-being through active travel choices.

AILA recommends that landscape architects be an integral part of teams that undertake transport system design and documentation, in this case the five green bridges, to resolve issues such as:

- integration of the different transport modes (e.g. walking, cycling) to link with public transport;
- provision of safety, functionality and comfort to encourage use of the services; and
- enrichment of places (place making) with lighting, signage, public art and street furniture.



We advocate for AILA's Child Friendly Cities (CFC) position statement to be considered when planning the green bridges. A fundamental aspect of achieving 'child friendliness' is including children and young people as participants in planning and design processes, particular at local government level. This kind of engagement lies at the heart of the CFC's first two principles: enabling children to influence decisions about their city and expressing their opinions on the city they want.

AILA supports Brisbane City Council's intentions to improve pedestrian connections and prioritise bicycle and pedestrian routes across Brisbane. We believe the proposal to create more 'Green Bridges' across Brisbane will assist in giving the community more environmentally friendly transport options, improve connectivity and assist in reducing the number of vehicles on our roads.

While at this stage the design of the bridges is broad and locations seem approximate, a strong brief with guidelines to ensure a high-quality design is needed, to avoid excessive visual clutter throughout the river corridor. A bridge is a significant change to the visual experience from multiple viewpoints and has large impacts on visual amenity.

AILA Queensland members last year created [the Guidance Note for Landscape and Visual Assessment](#) and we strongly suggest that this document be consulted during the planning phase.

As the Kangaroo Point bridge is the first of the proposed bridges to be completed, we have made some specific comments below in relation to this bridge proposal:

- We believe the construction of bridges on any river are significant visual changes and can have dramatic impacts on visual amenity if not considered carefully and can dramatically change the recognisable character of a city. Therefore, we believe that careful consideration of the Kangaroo Point proposed bridge design and character should be undertaken as well as providing the community every opportunity to voice their opinion on any detailed design proposal;
- We note the proposal for the Kangaroo Point bridge is a twin mast cable stayed bridge design. This type of design is likely to create a significant visual element to the existing vistas of the City Reach including notable vistas from River Terrace and Kangaroo Point Cliffs to the heart of the CBD;
- Waterfront Place and the Riverside Centre buildings are some of Brisbane's landmark office towers. The view from Kangaroo Point Cliffs to Waterfront Place and the adjoining Harry Seidler designed Riverside Centre buildings are an often-photographed vista and a well-recognised vista of Brisbane city. The impacts of constructing a bridge to the ground plane of this view is a significant visual change;
- We encourage suitable opportunities to provide feedback on the proposed architectural design of the bridge as no doubt this will significantly impact these well-recognised views of Brisbane, as well as have impacts on the well-recognised architecture that is already in place;
- We note the landing point on the city side of the bridge is possibly likely to result in the removal of mangroves to the river edge. Mangrove communities along the Brisbane River have come under increasing threat from development pressures and there are negative outcomes that arise from the loss of the mangrove communities.
- Mangrove communities provide crucial ecosystem services along the river edge. Has Brisbane City Council considered the impacts on the mangroves due to the Kangaroo Point Bridge proposal and will they be protected?



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

We encourage Brisbane City Council to deliver solutions that are well considered and aim to reduce visual clutter through clever and well considered urban design. We also believe that protecting the historical components of the city is important.

We congratulate the Brisbane City Council team on making a concerted effort thus far to reduce congestion and provide more environmentally sounds transport options for the community. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss further. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss, please contact Melanie West, AILA Queensland Chapter Manager on 0417 666 622 or melanie.west@aila.org.au

Yours sincerely,

David Uhlmann
AILA Queensland President