



Australian Institute of  
Landscape Architects

4 October 2018

## ***Response to the Draft State Public Health Plan 2019-2024***

*Australian Institute of Landscape Architects - SA Chapter (AILA SA)*

AILA SA thanks SA Health for the opportunity to comment on the Draft State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 and we are grateful for the ongoing engagement process being undertaken by the Department.

AILA SA has provided responses throughout this consultation process and acknowledge that our feedback has been considered and included in the ongoing refinement and drafting of this document. We look forward to continuing to work with you as this work is finalised.

### **General Feedback**

We find the overall legibility of the Draft Plan to be clear and concise. The vision, priorities and actions are clearly presented in a user-friendly format.

We acknowledge and support a stronger connection and regard for wellbeing and acknowledge a stronger reference to mental health alongside the term wellbeing in some of the detailed sections of the draft Plan.

AILA SA continues to highlight the need for partnerships across Government and into the private sector to support the vision and deliverables of the Plan. Appendix 1 clearly articulates *Public health partners and roles* and has been updated to highlight significant initiatives and relationships that already exist to assist in the implementation of the Plan once it is launched.

Of particular interest, is the reference to Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and we highlight that AILA SA strongly advocates for quality green public open space and has done so throughout all stages of the planning reform process to date, to ensure the role of design, value of green infrastructure and quality open space is embedded in the new planning system. We also note our ongoing work with the Department of Health and Ageing and Department of Environment and Water on the Healthy Parks Healthy People SA initiative – including the Quality Green Public Space Action Plan and the devolvement of principles on quality open space.

Finally, we are pleased to see that the draft Plan provides a focus on priority populations. We believe the Appendix 2 could highlight the potential actions in more detail.

### **Vision (p4)**

AILA SA believes the vision refined in the Draft Plan clearly articulates the importance of design in shaping stronger healthier communities for people in SA. We commend the inclusion of mental health in the description of the vision.

## **Four Strategic priorities: Promote, Protect, Prevent and Progress (page 26)**

### **Promote – Build Stronger communities and healthier environments**

AILA SA notes this has been strengthened to include a reference to the environment and is more aligned with our earlier suggestion to: *'Create healthier people and places'*.

### **Protect - Protect against public and environmental health risks and respond to climate change**

AILA SA highlights our recommendation from our submission on the Summary Framework and still recommends adding to the Protect Priority:

*'Protect against public and environmental health risks and mitigate and respond to climate change'*

AILA SA believes there needs to be more acknowledgment of both the need to mitigate climate change as well as to adapt to it. Mitigation techniques involve a reduction in urban heat island effects through increased protection of the natural environment and increasing our levels of green infrastructure, and through other sustainable design practices. These mitigation techniques could be highlighted in more detail under Action Areas in the Protect section of the Draft Plan on Page 30.

### **Prevent - Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury**

AILA SA commends the inclusion of more explicit reference to mental health and its connection to chronic disease on Page 31 and also welcomes the additional detail under the Action Areas on page 32 in relation to and early-in-life intervention strategies and suicide prevention initiatives.

### **Progress - Strengthen the systems that support public health and wellbeing**

As noted in previous submissions, AILA SA strongly supports strengthening collaborative efforts across the health system and across the government and non-government sector to garner support for the Draft Plan and assist in achieving the deliverables under each of the priority areas.

We are very pleased to note the inclusion of the action area "Application of an Aboriginal and equity 'lens' is used wherever possible in all public health strategies". AILA has recently launched a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan demonstrating our commitment to creating an inclusive and diverse profession by encouraging and supporting our members to expand their cultural awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. [Click Here](#) for the AILA Reflect RAP. We would welcome the opportunity to work with SA Health in this area as the Plan is finalised.

## **Alignment of the key elements of the Draft Plan to the strategic priorities of AILA SA**

As detailed in earlier submissions, we are most supportive of the acknowledgment that spaces or "environments" do contribute to public health and believe this is where Landscape Architects can make the greatest contribution to the Plan and the general health and wellbeing of the State.

More people are choosing to live in cities and built up areas for employment, education and lifestyle opportunities. Increasingly, Landscape Architects are taking leading roles locally and nationally in the planning and redevelopment of urban and regional areas as well as directing major infrastructure projects. The liveability of cities, towns and suburbs will determine their long term economic success and resilience. Landscape Architects are champions for liveable cities, in particular through the professional respect of place and increasingly the integration of green infrastructure in advancing climate change adaption and mitigation.

AILA fundamentally believes that the thoughtful design of both soft and hard infrastructure is critical to the success of planning and reshaping our cities and regional centres to address the challenges of critical social and economic shifts.

Informed development of Australia's natural infrastructure assets is key to tackling the major issues facing Australia's cities, towns and regions including; an ageing population, climbing obesity and diabetes rates, reduced fitness particularly in young children, social exclusion and the increasing importance of positive mental health, major transportation challenges, and heat-related deaths.

For more information on AILA's policies and strategic priorities please see Attachment A.

AILA SA looks forward to continuing to build relationships with SA Health as the Plan is finalised.

Please contact Sally Bolton – AILA SA Chapter Manager if you have any questions or require any additional information by email - [sally.bolton@aila.org.au](mailto:sally.bolton@aila.org.au).

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Bolton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sally Bolton  
**AILA SA Chapter Manager on behalf of AILA SA Executive**

# *Attachment A – AILA Policies for consideration*

## *AILA Policies*

### **Published 2017**

[Adaptation to the Changing Climate: Building Resilience](#)

### **Published 2016**

[Healthy Communities - Healthy Living Landscape solutions\\_v1\\_published](#) 11/16

[Active Travel\\_v1\\_published](#) 11/16

[Landscape Architects and Bushfires\\_v1\\_published](#) 11/16 (graphic version being finalised)

[The Critical Role of Landscape Architects in Local Government\\_v1\\_published](#) 11/16 (graphic version being finalised)

[Green Walls and Roofs\\_v1\\_published](#) 04/16

[Cooling Cities\\_v1\\_published](#) 04/16

[Designing for an Ageing Population\\_v1\\_published](#) 04/16

[Public Transport\\_v1\\_published](#) 04/16

[Light Rail Transit\\_v1\\_published](#) 04/16

[IFLA Asia Pacific Region's Landscape Charter](#)

### **Published 2012**

[Green Infrastructure-](#) 2012

## *AILA SA Advocacy*

Further information on the work of AILA SA Chapter and advocacy submission can be found here – [SA Advocacy Webpage](#)

Further information on AILA can be found at [www.aila.org.au](http://www.aila.org.au)

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