

MEDIA RELEASE (24 June 2025)

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW NSW JURY CHAIR FIONA MORRISON

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11PM THURSDAY 26 JUNE**

### **South Coast shoreline restoration project wins trio of NSW landscape awards**

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) NSW Awards were celebrated at the State Library of New South Wales on Thursday 26 June. The Wagonga Inlet Living Foreshore project, by REALMstudios was honoured with three coveted accolades. They include the **2025 Minister of Planning and Public Spaces Award for Public Space**, a **Climate Positive Design Award** and an **Award of Excellence** for Land Management.

An initiative of the Eurobodalla Shire Council, in Narooma, the project integrates multiple restoration strategies — including living shorelines, bank stabilisation, saltmarsh rehabilitation and oyster reef restoration — creating an adaptive, resilient coastal ecosystem, in readiness for changing coastal conditions.

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully, had high praise for the project:

“The Wagonga Inlet Living Shoreline is an example of local leadership delivering real, lasting outcomes for New South Wales.

“The project embodies design excellence, sustainability, and equity. By restoring and protecting the foreshore, the project has bolstered the coastlines ecological resilience while also supporting the local economy and eco-tourism through sustainable aquaculture.

“It's created a safe, inclusive and accessible space where the environment and community thrive together.

“Wagonga Inlet is not only a local success but a model for how we can deliver coastal resilience and climate adaptation to build better communities across New South Wales.”

The project was delivered in partnership with Traditional Owners, local volunteers, community groups, businesses, and all levels of government.



Above: Wagonga inlet Living Foreshore (by REALMstudios) Photography: Eurobodalla Shire Council

## **AILA NSW Awards**

All winners of an AILA NSW Award will now proceed to the National Landscape Architecture Awards, to be announced in October in Hobart/Nipaluna.

AILA is the peak body for landscape architecture in Australia, championing quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities, and greater environmental stewardship.

### **What is landscape architecture + how does it benefit everyone in New South Wales?**

Landscape architecture brings nature into the heart of daily life, shaping parks, precincts, wetlands, and public spaces that invite us to gather, connect, and belong.

Well-designed landscapes strengthen local economies by attracting visitors and creating jobs, but their deeper value lies in cooling our cities, restoring ecosystems, and caring for Country.

The 2025 AILA NSW Awards celebrate the projects and practitioners reimagining how we live with landscape and each other.

- Ends -

AILA NSW Jury Chair Fiona Morrison is available for interview. Full list of entrants on following pages

[Link to the full entry gallery, with additional images and information available](#)

#### **For more information/high resolution images, please contact:**

Tonia Zemek, Snr Marketing + Communications Advisor @ Lindy Johnson  
T 0420 714 769 | [tonia@lindyjohnson.com.au](mailto:tonia@lindyjohnson.com.au)

<b><u>Category: Civic Landscape</u></b>		
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Award Type</b>
Parramatta Square	JMD design with TCL, Gehl and TZG	Award of Excellence
<b><u>Category: Climate Positive Design</u></b>		
Wagonga Inlet Living Foreshore	REALMstudios	Climate Positive Design
<b><u>Category: Community Contribution</u></b>		
Living Lab Northern Rivers (LLNR)	University of Technology Sydney and Living Lab Northern Rivers	Award of Excellence
<b><u>Category: Cultural Heritage</u></b>		
The Meandering Pathway of Tranquillity	Phillips Marler	Award of Excellence
<b><u>Category: Gardens</u></b>		
NINE	McGregor Coxall	Award of Excellence
<b><u>Category: Health and Education Landscape</u></b>		
Resilience – Karuah Primary School	Terras Landscape Architects	Award of Excellence
<b><u>Category: Infrastructure</u></b>		
Parramatta Light Rail (Stage 1)	Transport for NSW, Context and COX	Award of Excellence
Barangaroo Station Park	Arcadia	Landscape Architecture Award

<b><u>Category: Land Management</u></b>		
<b><u>Project Name</u></b>	<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b><u>Award Type</u></b>
Wagonga Inlet Living Foreshore	REALMstudios	Award of Excellence
<b><u>Category: Landscape Planning</u></b>		
Adventurous Spaces Guideline	The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	Landscape Architecture Award
<b><u>Category: Parks and Open Space</u></b>		
Wimbo Park Surry Hills	Sue Barnsley Design	Award of Excellence
Callan Park Waterfront Green	Tyrrell Studio	Landscape Architecture Award
Campbelltown Billabong Parklands	Campbelltown City Council in collaboration with Arcadia	Landscape Architecture Award
Pendle Hill Civic Park and Wetlands	Tract	Landscape Architecture Award
<b><u>Category: Play Spaces</u></b>		
Parks for People – Beaumont Hills	The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	Award of Excellence
Ian Stromborg Play Space at Paul Keating Park	ASPECT Studios	Landscape Architecture Award
Gregson Park Playspace	Phillips Marler	Landscape Architecture Award
Fagan Park Children's Forest	Hornsby Shire Council	Landscape Architecture Award
<b><u>Category: Regional Achievement</u></b>		
Living Lab Northern Rivers (LLNR)	University of Technology Sydney and Living Lab Northern Rivers	Regional Achievement Award
<b><u>Category: Research, Policy and Communications</u></b>		
Food   Landscapes Australia	Dr Joshua Zeunert, UNSW	Award of Excellence
Nature Co-benefits in Practice	Tract	Landscape Architecture Award
Biodiversity in Place Framework	Government Architect NSW with Hassell	Landscape Architecture Award

<b><u>Category: Urban Design</u></b>		
<b><u>Project Name</u></b>	<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b><u>Award Type</u></b>
Sydney Gateway	Transport Urban Design, CM+ and Context	Landscape Architecture Award
<b><u>Category: Tourism</u></b>		
Kangaroo Valley Bush Retreat Renewal	Edmiston Jones	Landscape Architecture Award
<b><u>Category: Small Projects</u></b>		
Naremburn Local Centre	Phillips Marler Architecture Landscape Architecture	Landscape Architecture Award
<b><u>Category: ShadeSmart</u></b>		
Victoria Avenue Mall Refurbishment – Chatswood	Arterra Design	ShadeSmart Award
Pendle Hill Civic Park and Wetlands	Tract	ShadeSmart Award
<b><u>Category: Future Leader</u></b>		
	Alexander Brawn	Future Leader Award
<b><u>Category: Minister's Award</u></b>		
Wagonga Inlet Living Foreshore	REALMstudios	2025 Minister of Planning and Public Spaces Award for Public Space
<b><u>Category: 2025 AILA NSW President's Award</u></b>		
	Andrew Turnbull	2025 AILA NSW President's Award

**ENTRIES**

Entries — 51  
 Awards of Excellence — 10  
 Landscape Architecture Awards — 13  
 Regional Achievement Awards — 1  
 ShadeSmart — 2  
 Climate Positive Design — 1

**Jury:**

- Fiona Morrison (Jury Chair)
- Roger Jasprizza
- Paul Melrose
- Anna Chauvel

**Jury cont'd:**

- Ian Andrews
- Kate Whatman
- Melissa Cate Christ
- Andrew Turnbull (ShadeSmart)

Please visit [www.aila.org.au](http://www.aila.org.au) for more information.