



Australian Institute
of Landscape Architects
1966/2016

22 December 2016

NSW Government Planning & Environment

RE: AILA NSW Feedback to Medium Density Design Guide

Dear Sir, Madam,

AILA is the growing national advocacy body representing 2,500 active and engaged landscape architects, and promoting their crucial role in shaping the world around us.

AILA NSW supports the aims of the **Medium Density Design Guide** and its approach, which will help initiate and inspire this type of development and create more interesting, liveable environments and places.

The broad approach to the landscape and to the Indigenous culture of Australia should be developed further in the document, for example early sections on what is important about the NSW landscape, its climate and the cultural history of the place and how these might influence residential design, would be useful for developers and designers.

Some discussion on planting and trees species suitable for medium density housing would add value in order to avoid potentially enormous blue gums being planted near houses or less hardy drought intolerant plants on structures. Some guidance on street trees and their importance and species selection would be helpful too.

The soil guidance on structures should be reviewed. The depths seem too much. Also a principle could be included stating that, where practical, structures should be designed to accommodate soils deep enough to avoid costly and unsustainable irrigation (>600mm).

Some further discussion on public open space would also be valuable. We realise that this document focuses on housing, however housing and urban open space go hand in hand. One cannot be successful without the other (think of Balmain without the myriad of tiny end of street pocket parks and the larger harbourside green spaces).

We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss our recommendations with you further.

Yours sincerely

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