

# MARK PARNELL MLC

## Parliament of South Australia

Ben Willsmore  
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By email to: [sally.bolton@aila.org.au](mailto:sally.bolton@aila.org.au)

Tuesday 6 March 2018

Dear Ben

### **RE: 2018 State Election Campaign - Seeking party responses to publish**

Thank you for your letter setting out the Institute's key policy issues for the 2018 SA State Election.

As Parliamentary Leader and spokesperson on planning and environmental issues, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Greens SA.

### **Design Process and Quality**

The answer to your five questions is yes. I also make the following observations.

When the Planning Development and Infrastructure Bill was being debated in State Parliament, the Greens were methodical and forensic in our examination of the provisions. We moved hundreds of amendments, many of which were successful. For example, the State Planning Policies on climate change and biodiversity were Greens' initiatives.

As you may know, I am the only qualified Planner in State Parliament and have worked as an environmental and planning lawyer for many years, so I understand the system well, but I'm not a landscape architect. My attitude to the reform process is that there are both good and bad aspects, as is to be expected when the regime is being redesigned for the first time since the 1990s. Generally however, the positive improvements involve fiddling around the edges and there are still fundamental flaws in the system. The diminishing role for local

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**THE  
GREENS**

government and the further erosion of community rights are two examples of retrograde steps. The Greens proudly support the community-led campaign to “Put People back into Planning”. We eagerly await the release of the Community Participation Charter, although we are very disappointed that it will focus only on planning policy and not development assessment.

In relation to the Office for Design and Architecture SA, I think there is an important role for the Government Architect in helping to achieve quality developments at an early stage of the process, preferably before Development Applications (DAs) have been lodged. By the time DAs are in the system, it can be difficult to convince proponents to change their plans. I think the idea of being able to test various kites to see which ones fly can lead to better outcomes. It is important that those professionals who are assisting proponents with design solutions are kept at arms’ length from the assessment process in order to ensure the integrity of the process. Nevertheless, the fact that a project has been through Design Review should be a relevant consideration when the project is finally being assessed.

We also see a need for clear separation between those who assist in preliminary Design Review from those who are formally part of the assessment process. Professional landscape architectural expertise is needed at both stages.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

The answer to your two questions is yes. With increased densification of our urban areas, securing quality public green spaces will be critical.

### **Green Infrastructure**

The answer to your three questions is yes. These are matters we have raised regularly in Parliament and in the community over the last several years.

I look forward to working with the Institute in the next Parliament. If there are particular legislative or policy issues that need attention, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

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

Mark Parnell MLC  
Parliamentary Leader  
Greens SA