



Australian Institute of  
Landscape Architects

## **2018 State Election Campaign – Seeking party responses to publish**

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

AILA SA is part of Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA), the growing national advocacy body representing more than 3,000 active and engaged landscape architects across Australia and internationally. Our membership includes expert staff within State Government agencies and most metropolitan Local Councils across South Australia, as well as running successful small and large design consultancy businesses across Adelaide.

Committed to designing and creating improved built environments, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to address macro issues with innovative, integrated solutions for projects at all scales. 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 and gardens, landscape architects are building stronger communities through making places and spaces more sustainable and productive.

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

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

AILA is seeking responses from the major political parties to a number of policy items. The responses will be published in the AILA communication channels in the lead up to the election. We are seeking responses on each point at your earliest convenience.

### **Design Process and Quality**

Good design processes include research and communication with the many types of communities that are affected by a project. Effective engagement is vital to good outcomes and to formulate and assess innovation. Design propositions can demonstrate different scenarios for change, to gather better feedback and inform final decisions for built works. In presenting and developing potential designs, Landscape Architects achieve meaningful dialogue with communities that make sense of higher strategy or complex policy.

AILA SA advocates for thorough design processes as a fundamental means to build better cities. Landscape architects bring a critical eye to the potential opportunities and constraints of a place, site, or landscape. We bring together other disciplines, to collaborate for better-informed choices and built outcomes. We are active on infrastructure development teams of all types, often leading, connecting, facilitating and navigating constraints to help achieve agreed and well-articulated goals. Landscape Architects lead design for the environment and for people of all ages and cultures.

**Will your party set requirements to ensure that well-articulated design processes are developed for all State Government capital and strategic projects affecting the built environment of South Australia?**

**Will your party ensure the engagement of design practitioners to develop and deliver on good design processes?**

**Does your party support the role of Office for Design and Architecture SA and the role of a Government Architect in leading a multidisciplinary team in our State to champion good design principles across Government?**

**Does your party support the Design Review Process in which a panel of built environment experts reviews the design quality of development proposals?**

**Does your party support working with the representative Institutes of built environment professionals to continue to develop the new Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, including policy that supports the development of more liveable cities, towns and suburbs?**

## **Health and Wellbeing**

AILA advocates that government policy must quantify and qualify the development of open space that focuses on the health of our communities. AILA contends that landscape architects are uniquely positioned to provide essential input into this process. Landscape architects play a key role in the early stages of project planning. Whether it be early input into broad scale planning or the detail of specific sites, landscape architects can provide the integrated, holistic approach required to design and develop successful healthy communities, considering such elements as orientation, views, amenity, wayfinding, sunlight for health and growing conditions for trees.

AILA SA is a strategic sponsor along with DPTI and ODASA for the Department of Health and Ageing - Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPHP) - Public Open Space Action Plan as part of the HPHP Framework. The vision for this Action Plan “recognises that the provision of quality green public space is essential, in particular for urban infill and renewal sites due to less private green space being available. It needs to be an integral part of urban planning, design, development and management to achieve the desired qualities and benefits.”

**Does your party support the ongoing work of the Department of Health and Ageing in relation to the Healthy Parks Healthy People Public Open Space Action Plan and its vision?**

**Is your party willing to work with the representative institutes of built environment professionals to reconsider the policy requirements associated with the supply of quality green public space, in particular in medium and high density development?**

## **Green Infrastructure**

Green Infrastructure is defined by AILA as “the network of natural landscape assets, which underpin and provide for the economic, socio-cultural and environmental functionality of our cities and towns.” Green Infrastructure, when planned well and integrated into the public realm can contribute to improving the comfort, quality and health of the city and its residents.

Green Infrastructure initiatives can include green roofs and walls, street trees and tree planting, greener open-space design and rain gardens, and can protect the community against the potentially life-threatening effects of flooding, excessive heat (urban heat island impact) and other climatic variables. It supports biodiversity and provides the critical connections within and between ecosystems. It is also considered a more efficient and effective means of managing stormwater, when compared with traditional grey infrastructure solutions.

AILA SA highly values the work delivered as part of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources - Green Infrastructure Project, and we believe green infrastructure deserves continued focus within State Government.

The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide 2017 Update now has a measurable target with respect to increasing urban green cover by 20% by 2045. This directly links back to the need for increased investment in green infrastructure, in particular with greater focus on the challenges of infill development across metropolitan Adelaide.

**Will your party look at further ways to support the important work of the Green Infrastructure Project to continue to identify and act upon green infrastructure opportunities across government, building on the momentum, knowledge and delivery of projects for South Australia into the future?**

**Will your party support the inclusion of Green Infrastructure requirements within the new Planning System – in particular, within the Planning and Design Code, Design Standards and Investiture Schemes, as they developed?**

**Will your party mandate green infrastructure targets for all state funded infrastructure projects?**

AILA SA remains committed to engaging collaboratively with the State Government and its agencies to ensure stronger communities and promote a more prosperous and sustainable future for South Australia. We thank you for your time responding to these important questions and we will publish the responses in our communications to our members in the lead up to the State Election.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the relevant representative from your party to discuss any of the issues detailed above, if this would be of assistance. 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,



**Ben Willsmore - AILA SA Chapter President**

28 February 2018