



## Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects – South Australian Chapter (AILA SA) is pleased to provide comment towards the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Bill 2015. AILA SA appreciated DPTI staff engagement in outlining the Bill and we remain willing to engage further with the State Government and its agencies to promote a more prosperous and sustainable future for South Australia.

### **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)**

AILA SA is part of AILA, the growing national advocacy body representing 2,500 active and engaged landscape architects. Committed to designing and creating a better Australia, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to solve macro issues with innovative integrated solutions. 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, landscape architects are making places and spaces more sustainable and productive.

*AILA SA requests greater recognition is given to the profession of Landscape Architecture within the Bill, and the assigning of roles and responsibilities including participation in the Commission and Design Review membership.*

### **Planning, Development and Infrastructure Bill 2015**

AILA SA commends the Minister for the ambition to transform the planning system, and in particular the greater focus and central position design is given in the new framework for planning, development and infrastructure in South Australia.

It is recognised that the Bill for consultation is only the first step in the transformation of the planning systems. The specific requirements of key 'tools' identified within the Bill are yet to be detailed. The resolution of these details, including the Planning Commission, Planning and Design Code, Design Standards and Design Review will determine the effectiveness of the Bill and its impact in unlocking the next generation of development that collectively contribute to a more liveable and resilient South Australia.

*AILA SA awaits the release of these tools and is willing to assist in review to ensure better planning and design code and standards as well as governance to lead to more liveable cities and better integrated infrastructure.*

### **Liveability of Cities**

***“The liveability of Australia’s cities will be affected by how their sustainability is managed.”***

(Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development, *State of Australian Cities* 2013)

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 addressing the effects of climate change within our cities (heat) and suburbs (coastal).

The Bill must address the need for greater direction towards the planning, design and management of the built environment, in particular against poor site planning (orientation), over-development of the site, reduction in communal and private open spaces and limited design requirement / drivers for innovation. Greater leadership is required to drive reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission by a more responsive design and more sustainable approach to the built environment.

Across neighbourhoods, the changing character of local streets and public spaces has also seen the decline in many of the elements that would help mitigate against climate change, including Increase in extent of hard

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paved areas, loss of trees and tree canopy cover, loss of green open spaces and a decline of maintenance standards / investment in support of greener streets and public spaces

*AILA SA strongly urges the Minister to embed climate change adaptation and mitigation into the Bill to drive innovation in the planning, design and development of the built environment, creating healthier, greener and more resilient cities, towns and suburbs.*

### **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, economic performance, value and health of a place, its residents and cumulatively the city. Green Infrastructure initiatives can include green roofs and walls, rain gardens, street trees, tree planting and under-planting resulting in greener plazas and open-spaces and streetscapes.

*AILA SA recommends that Green Infrastructure is given greater recognition within the Bill, as well as subsequent code and standards, as a critical element to the sustainability of South Australia’s cities, towns and suburbs.*

### **Strategic Alignment**

AILA SA has provided comment to the State Government regarding a new *Climate Change Strategy for South Australia*, including a Carbon Neutral Framework for Adelaide. AILA SA has recommended the Strategy give greater importance to the design of our cities in targeting climate change adaptation and mitigation. Similarly, the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Bill must be strengthened to embed climate change into the planning, development of the built environment and its and infrastructure systems.

*AILA SA urges the Minister for Planning, and the Minister for Climate Change to maximise the opportunities for shared leadership to drive a more innovative, sustainable and prosperous built environment.*

### **Conclusion**

AILA SA appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Bill 2015. The Minister and his Department are to be applauded for the ambition of the Bill and the consultative stages undertaken through the planning reform process to date.

The resilience of our cities, towns and suburbs to climate change will underpin their long term economic future. The Bill must be strengthened to recognise the importance of climate change, develop tools that focus on design quality and recognise the profession of Landscape Architecture in contributing to the quality of the built environment. The next generation of buildings, public spaces and streetscapes that will be better enabled through the new Bill must positively contribute to the long term sustainability of South Australia.

The following pages provide a series of more detailed comments regarding the specifics of the Bill. AILA SA is available to the Minister and his department to further clarify any matters or to assist in the next stages of the Bill and the in particular the detail of the planning tools identified under the first Bill.

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**AILA SA President**