



Australian
Institute of
Architects

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The Hon. Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Housing, Environment and Parks,
Human Services, Aboriginal Affairs and Planning
4 Salamanca Place
Hobart TAS 7000

By email to: Minister.Jaensch@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister Jaensch,

The Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) commends the Tasmanian Government's recent and continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic and your focused efforts to protect the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians, and support them in these unprecedented times.

Thank you for your government's continued support of architects and the wider building and construction industry in this challenging time. We'd also like to thank you and pass on the appreciation for the leadership of the Tasmanian Government.

Anecdotally, we have heard from many members who have been significantly affected by the flow-on effects of the coronavirus, with many local architecture firms reporting that they have had projects cancelled or postponed, and some needing to stand down staff. As I am sure you appreciate this is distressing for all concerned.

I understand you are currently considering under the Covid-19 Emergency Act the extension of various timeframes, specifically to extend the Development Application assessment period. From my conversations with Brian Risby, the director of the Tasmanian Planning Policy Unit (PPU), I understand that this is to circumvent a planner who is experiencing a delay on completing a project that would otherwise be deemed discretionary, needing to ask for an extension. Which, if the applicant does not approve, would then be required to go through the tribunal process, which may take up to six months. Our members are extremely concerned that any change to the current timeframes will potentially stall the projects that are currently progressing, and this is creating uncertainty and anxiety in the industry. Can I urge you to consider this situation in any decisions that are made around this. We would ask that prior to making changes that you consult with industry. We will be agile and nimble in our responses, as the last thing we wish to do is hold any positive change up at this time.

I am also aware of your government's commitment to keeping the building and construction industry as an essential service whilst it is safe to do so. We want to work with you to ensure we can continue to work productively. We offer you the support of the Australian Institute of Architects in any way practicable and thank you again for your committed leadership during this difficult time.

We look forward to continuing to work together in these uncertain times.

Yours sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shamus Mulcahy'.

Shamus Mulcahy
Tasmanian President
Australian Institute of Architects

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Nichols'.

Jennifer Nichols
Tasmanian Executive Director
Australian Institute of Architects