



**Australian
Institute of
Architects**

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trading as Australian Institute of
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The Hon. Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of Tasmania
Treasurer
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for Tourism

Level 9, 15 Murray Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Date: 13.08.2020

By email to: peter.gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Premier,

We would like to thank the Tasmanian Government for engaging with the Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) in recent months, and for the stimulus measures being undertaken on behalf of our industry. We appreciate the Government's open measures of communication with our organisation so far in relation to the current crisis.

Data collected by the Institute recently clearly identifies that whilst the Federal economic assistance has triaged the economy through this early stage of the crisis, construction industry consultants are beginning to look forward with little confidence due to a perceived lack of investment in longer-term larger projects.

While our members coped with the initial economic impact by reducing staff hours and applying for wage subsidies through JobKeeper in order to carry the load, they are now facing downsizing and redundancies, with some companies already beginning this process. Our data suggests the building and construction industry will be brought to its knees in 6-12 months unless affirmative action is taken now.

The Institute recommends that the Tasmanian Government allocate \$7- 9M for its departments to develop business cases for key projects, using architectural consultants to test feasibility and costing advice.

In order to provide industry confidence and stability, these funds would be most effective if allocated in the next two months, with the intent that subsequent studies be undertaken

in the first half of 2021 in preparation for the financial year or next State budget cycle where those most critical could begin to roll out further, funds pending.

As the seeds of recovery are sown in coming years, this package of work undertaken will create a clear range of well planned, viable and economically driven projects and serve as a ready resource for our State's economic rebuilding.

We would be very happy to work with you in whatever way to assist towards this if appropriate.

Kind regards,



Shamus Mulcahy
President, Tasmanian Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects



Jennifer Nichols
Executive Director, Tasmanian Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects

Copy to:

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