

# Tasmania Government Community Consultation Submission Cover Page

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<b>Relevant agencies</b>	Homes Tasmania Department of Premier and Cabinet Department of State Growth Department of Treasury and Finance



13 October 2022

The Hon. Michael Ferguson MP  
Treasurer  
Tasmanian Government Department of Treasury and Finance  
The Treasury Building  
21 Murray Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

By email to: [communityconsultation@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:communityconsultation@treasury.tas.gov.au)

## RE: 2023-24 STATE BUDGET COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Dear Minister Ferguson,

On behalf of the Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute), we would like to make the following submission to the State Budget Community Consultation.

### **Invest in quality social and affordable housing for Tasmanians**

There is a clear need for further investment in well-designed and built social and affordable housing for Tasmanians. Housing must be located in areas that have easy access to services, including public transport, education, and workplaces, rather than on the periphery of population centres in greenfield developments. Investment in high quality, well-built housing that is sustainable is crucial to ensure that ongoing costs (post-construction) are reduced, both for residents in terms of energy usage, and for housing providers, in reduced ongoing maintenance. The Institute has an [Affordable Housing Policy](#)<sup>1</sup> and a [Multi-Residential Standards Policy](#) that provide further information.

### **Strengthen Tasmania's ongoing building sector capacity through the workforce development of Tasmanian architects**

To ensure that Tasmania's building sector has the capacity and skills for our ongoing building needs, funding is required to ensure there are sufficient numbers of experienced and highly competent Tasmanian architects in the years ahead.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that our zero-carbon emissions target date is 2030, and this element of our Affordable Housing Policy is to be revised.

Two critical success factors in achieving this goal are to ensure that Tasmania's graduates from University of Tasmania's School of Architecture and Design gain their 3,300 hours of supervised employment in order to become registered, and supporting all architects undertake continuing professional development (CPD) training.

*Helping architecture graduates to attain registration.*

Practices invest a significant amount of time and money training graduates, that is not able to be recovered before a graduate becomes financially productive. The employment of recently graduated candidates seeking to become registered is a net cost borne by practices.

Support for architectural practices to train unregistered graduates on their pathway to registration could be delivered through an employer training subsidy that supports the award wage paid to a graduate. This would help ensure that our architecture graduates can gain a supervised entry level graduate position in a Tasmanian practice and attain the required supervised work experience to become registered under the support and guidance of experienced architects.

*Continuing Professional Development.*

The future of our built environment and spaces that are environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable and culturally rich lies in high quality design and construction of our cities, towns, precincts and buildings. Design and the technologies and standards that create a high-quality built environment are continually evolving. All practitioners in the building sector need to undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in order to be competent in practice and stay current. Architects in Tasmania currently have to self-fund their CPD. For many architects or their practices, the out-of-pocket cost is difficult to sustain.

We recommend investing in free or low-cost CPD to architects, together with an employer training subsidy for graduates, which could be provided through Keystone, as outlined in our recent submission made to their [strategic plan](#).

### **Ensure that Tasmania can reduce its impacts on climate change**

The Institute recommends that the Tasmanian Government establish a plan to achieve zero carbon buildings by 2030. This could include setting strong mandatory minimum standards for energy performance of buildings and appliances, provide incentives to increase energy efficiency of existing buildings, and provide incentives for the private sector to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in the built environment. Further information can be found in the Institute's [2021 Tasmanian Election Platform](#).

### **Ensure that Tasmania uses best-practice procurement methods to enable the best possible outcomes for all Tasmanians**

The Institute recommends that the Tasmanian Government's procurement for design and construction prioritises the use of Tasmanian businesses as far as possible, along with setting the benchmarks and advocating for best procurement practice, adhering to the EOI and RFT guidelines published by the [Australian Institute of Architects](#). The Institute also recommends that expert panels be utilised to make procurement decisions. Government procurement should

recognise the role of good design in maximising economic benefits and creating a rich legacy of functional and attractive buildings and urban spaces.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the development of the 2023-23 Tasmanian State Budget. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss this further.

Kind regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, bold letter 'A' with a horizontal line extending to the right and a loop at the bottom.

**Stuart Tanner**  
President, Tasmanian Chapter  
Australian Institute of Architects

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, appearing to read 'Jennifer Nichols'.

**Jennifer Nichols**  
Executive Director, Tasmanian Chapter  
Australian Institute of Architects