



Australian
Institute of
Architects

TAS

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The Royal Australian Institute of Architects
trading as Australian Institute of Architects

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24 April 2025

State Planning Office
Department of State Growth
GPO Box 536
Hobart TAS 7001

By email to: haveyoursay@stateplanning.tas.gov.au

Re: LUPA Amendment (Development Assessment Panel) Bill 2025

To whom this may concern,

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) would like to provide feedback on the *Draft Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendments (Development Assessment Panel) Bill 2025* (the Bill). The Institute has had limited time to review this Bill, as we did not receive direct communication about the consultation period commencing. As such, we have the following feedback in response to the *Background Report for Consultation* document.

The Institute is pleased to see the clarification about the role that the Heritage Council retains in the assessment advice it provides, and the Heritage Council's enforcement functions.

The Institute would like to reiterate the importance of the composition, skills and expertise of the Development Assessment Panel/s. In response to the Development Assessment Panel Framework Position Paper in November 2023, the Institute stated:

Again, we note that more information and consultation about the composition of the panel is required. This also needs to include parameters such as:

- *selection and nomination process of applicants,*
- *the size of the panels,*
- *duration of a term on a panel.*

In addition, the framework needs a terms of reference and a charter for Development Assessment Panels. In the interest of robust probity, all decisions, minutes and reports should ultimately be made public on similar terms to minutes of Council meetings



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where planning applications have been determined. This would remove the perception or fact of panellists favouring projects, or any political interference. Any panellists should be required to declare conflicts of interest.

Again, the Institute would like to reiterate that if the composition of Development Assessment Panels is not codified into legislation, then there should be a provision in the Act for this to be prescribed in the regulations, such as in WA in their Planning and Development (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2011¹. A further down the line approach would be a published manual and resources for DAPs such as WA's Standing Orders for DAPs². These panels should include people qualified to assess the particulars of any application across disciplines including architecture, engineering, landscape, archaeology, ecology, planning and design with Country, and such.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Bill. Please contact us if you would like to discuss any of the points raised further.

Kind regards,

Daniel Lane
President, Tasmanian Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects

Jennifer Nichols
Executive Director, Tasmanian Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects

The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation with over 13,500 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute exists to advance the interests of members, their professional standards and contemporary practice, and expand and advocate the value of architects and architecture to the sustainable growth of our communities, economy and culture. The Institute actively works to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment by promoting better, responsible and environmental design. To learn more about the Institute, log on to www.architecture.com.au.

¹ [https://www.planning.wa.gov.au/docs/default-source/daps-docs-other/planning-and-development-\(development-assessment-panels\)-regulations-2011.pdf?sfvrsn=67228bbe_8](https://www.planning.wa.gov.au/docs/default-source/daps-docs-other/planning-and-development-(development-assessment-panels)-regulations-2011.pdf?sfvrsn=67228bbe_8)

² https://www.planning.wa.gov.au/docs/default-source/daps-docs-other/standing-orders.pdf?sfvrsn=f903323e_14