



**Australian
Institute of
Architects**

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

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20 June 2022

David Caddy
Chairman
Western Australian Planning Commission
140 William Street
Perth WA 6000

Dear Chairman,

RE: REVIEW OF STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION (WAPC)

The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation representing over 12,500 members across Australia and overseas. More than 1,100 of these are based in Western Australia and are supported by the WA Chapter.

The Institute supports the introduction of the primary goals of the state government's Action Plan for Planning Reform is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the structural and operational review of the WAPC.

Further to our meeting 26 May 2022 with yourself, Ms Phillida Rodic (Department of Planning Lands and Heritage – DPLH) and Ms Tanya Trevisan FRAIA, we provide the following comments for your consideration.

An independent WAPC Board comprising seven to ten members

The Institute supports a streamlined and efficient approach to WAPC Board membership.

We encourage Board members and Committee members to have broad expertise and experience, in particular mandated membership of architects, landscape architects and urban designers, to ensure informed, innovative and effective outcomes.

A more flexible committee structure able to form and disband responding to emerging challenges, work programs and projects (noting that the Statutory Planning Committee and Executive, Finance and Property Committee perform core functions and will continue)

The Institute supports a flexible and efficient committee structure that is agile and responds to current WAPC challenges, programs and projects.

We propose a committee be formed which includes membership of built environment practitioners nominated by industry organisations including the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), Property Council, Urban Design Institute of Australia (UDIA), Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) and the Australian Institute of Architects.



Such a committee would effectively become an in-built working group for the WAPC providing project advice and early policy industry feedback, prior to engaging in a timely and costly stakeholder engagement process.

Fit for purpose arrangements for the provision of technical agency inputs as required

The Institute supports processes for technical agency inputs that are focussed on collaboration, consistency and timely efficiency.

Sustainability

We highlight a key opportunity for the planning system in Western Australia and the WAPC to focus on sustainable development more actively, leading toward net zero building and construction industry.

The Institute is committed to a net zero carbon building and construction industry by 2030 and we support a collaborative planning approach toward this goal. As such, we encourage coordination with the Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategies (SERS)¹ being developed by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, and the Department of Building and Energy to ensure the built environment is a targeted industry toward this shared goal.

With building construction and operation accounting for about 38% of emissions globally, the planning system has an important role to play in reducing emissions.

Clear arrangements for the WAPC to lead key land use planning and infrastructure coordination, outside the scope of Infrastructure WA

The Institute supports a collaborative, streamlined and consistent approach to Infrastructure planning in Western Australia to ensure a unified vision for the state and high-quality built environment outcomes.

We encourage clear articulation of scope and involvement of Infrastructure WA as a technical agency advisor in Infrastructure projects.

Any proposed changes servicing and resourcing arrangements between the WAPC and DPLH to better support effective strategic planning and policy development

The Institute supports the WAPC and DPLH to appropriately manage its resources to ensure effective function. We highlight the prioritised resourcing to ensure optimal operation of the Office of the Government Architect (OGA), which sits within the DPLH.

The Government Architect and the OGA play a crucial role in Western Australia's ongoing economic development and are considered paramount in ensuring future high quality built environment outcomes.

¹ The Institute's response to the SERS can be viewed: https://www.architecture.com.au/wp-content/uploads/211217-Aust_Inst_Architects_SERS-response-letter.pdf?zs=Hh1Jm&zl=3Je52



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Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and we look forward to future engagement regarding ongoing Planning Reform.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Anghie RAIA

STATE PRESIDENT WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Beata Davey RAIA

NATIONAL POLICY & ADVOCACY MANAGER