



Australian
Institute of
Architects

TAS

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Andrew Hargrave
Director - Programming and Delivery
Department of Health
Tasmanian Government

Date: 24.04.2023

By email to: andrew.hargrave@health.tas.gov.au

Dear Andrew,

We are writing to you following the consultation process for the Department of Health Consultancy Services Panel for Health Infrastructure Projects. In 2022, when the Institute prepared a response letter as part of the Industry Consultation, we identified some areas that we thought should be considered in the rollout of this project. Now, we would like to revisit and further understand some of the detail around the panel term of three years.

In our 2022 letter, we noted that there are three-year contracts given to those on the panel. At the time, we identified some possible risks associated with a small panel that is specified for a three-year term. It is still our view that this time frame limits the architectural profession in their ability to qualify for the panel.

If the next three-year panel is weighted heavily on EOI criteria—around demonstrated capabilities or highly specific experience carrying out projects for the Department of Health—then it is possible that the likely successful applicants for the next panel will be those from the first three years. This may lead to an unintentional structural division in the supply market over the longer term, which may not benefit healthy competition. It also limits the ability for architectural practices to develop their own skills and knowledge in a meaningful way that benefits the whole of the industry.

One possible solution to this would be if the panel was re-opened periodically, at the very least on an annual basis. This would allow for new market entrants, allow for attrition, or for those practices that did not meet the requirements of the first round, especially those who may have not met the third-party certification requirements.

When convenient, it would be great to schedule a meeting to discuss these, and related, issues further.

Kind regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stuart Tanner

Immediate Past President, Tasmanian Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The name 'Jennifer Nichols' is clearly legible.

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 13,000 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.