



Australian  
Institute of  
Architects

# 2021 TASMANIAN ELECTION PLATFORM

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Prepared by the Australian  
Institute of Architects 2021

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The Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) is the peak body for the Architectural profession in Australia, representing around 12,000 members, including 300 members in the Tasmanian Chapter. The Institute works to improve our built environment by promoting quality, responsible, sustainable design. Architecture influences all aspects of the built environment and brings together the arts, environmental awareness, sciences and technology.

The design of the built environment shapes the places where we live, work and meet. The quality of the design affects how spaces and places function and has the potential to stimulate the economy and enhance the environment. Good design adds value.

Tasmanian architects have a national and worldwide reputation for innovative design leadership and our profession is well placed to support the Tasmanian Government through advice on ways to address key challenges that we are facing in our towns and cities.

Primary issues include climate change, housing affordability, equitable access to community services, an ageing demographic, increasing demand for efficient transport systems, and the need for more community and public infrastructure to support a growing population. These are urgent issues, requiring sophisticated solutions.

The planning and design of cities and towns to address these challenges will significantly impact the shape of Tasmania's built environment, requiring the Tasmanian Government's commitment to a high quality, sustainable legacy for future generations.

To face these challenges, the government will require built environment expertise and strategic planning to support its development of effective policy and project solutions. It is critical to foster the unique capability of our built environment professionals and their capacity to bring innovation and know-how to the government's work.

The Institute identifies three key areas the Tasmanian Government should address in building affordable, equitable, amenable and sustainable places that contribute to the wellbeing of Tasmanian communities and our economy. These are:

## **1. BUILT ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

## **2. COMMUNITY, WELLBEING & INCLUSION**

## **3. PLANNING & PROCUREMENT**

- At the time of this submission the National President is Ms. Alice Hampson FRAIA, Tony Giannone FRAIA is the National President Elect and the Tasmanian Chapter President is Mr. Craig Rosevear RAIA.
- The Chief Executive Officer is Ms. Julia Cambage and the Tasmanian & International Chapter Executive Director is Miss Jennifer Nichols.





# 1. BUILT ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Tasmania's built heritage assets have played a major role in attracting visitors from interstate and overseas and contributed significantly to the state's tourism resurgence. The challenge for governments and developers is to provide sensitive, well-considered projects that integrate and enhance the unique characteristics of our natural and heritage context. Tasmanian architects are uniquely placed to ensure high quality architectural outcomes for our built heritage.

Tasmania has a unique built heritage that requires careful management, protection and adaption. This built heritage consists of building of all types and from all eras that contribute to the character of our towns and cities, and as well as protecting buildings from the 19th century, attention must be paid to our more recent heritage – buildings from the 20th century.

Growth of our cities needs to include appropriate densification alongside existing buildings to prevent the blight of costly and irreversible urban sprawl that has beset other Australian capital cities and Tasmanian cities need to be sustainable and accessible, along the lines of world cities such as Copenhagen, Zurich, Frankfurt and Hamilton (Ontario).

Tasmania must enhance the resilience of our built environment to extreme weather events and predicted climate change impacts. Design plays a critical role in integrating systems, such as water and waste management, natural ecologies, culture, human health and wellbeing. Growth in our cities means increasing pressures on our natural environment and the crucial ecosystem services they provide. Climate change is expected to exacerbate these pressures. We must create a sustainable built environment that fosters connectivity and integrates essential resources and functions to mitigate against adverse impacts from climate change.

## **We recommend the Tasmanian Government:**

- 1.1** Provide additional funding to Heritage Tasmania to extend their portfolio to list and protect significant buildings from the 20th century.
- 1.2** Establish a plan towards zero carbon buildings by 2040.
- 1.3** Set strong mandatory minimum standards for energy performance of buildings and appliances.
- 1.4** Adopt energy efficiency programs for existing and new buildings.
- 1.5** Provide incentives for the private sector to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in the built environment.

## **Did you know:**

- As a signatory to the Paris Climate Change Agreement, Australia has committed to reaching net zero emissions by around 2050. Australia's built environment contributes almost a quarter of Australia's emissions, offering a significant opportunity for emissions reduction <sup>(vii)</sup>



## 2. COMMUNITY, WELLBEING & INCLUSION

Governments and industry in Tasmania must deliver places for communities that are built and connected in a way that enhances liveability, wellbeing, sustainability and productivity. Our cities are increasingly the generators of our national wealth. Rural and regional communities must be well-connected to urban centres and their services. This requires the integration of planning, transport, design and implementation.

Tasmania is faced with a major housing problem in terms of availability, affordability and accessibility. There is a major shortfall of social housing available for those on low incomes who need housing, especially those who have recently experienced homelessness, family violence or have other special needs. Affordability affects our overall productivity as a nation and the ability of all citizens to participate effectively in the economy.

Along with access to housing, social and economic inclusion is required for all through good access to retail and commercial centres, community and health care hubs, education and training opportunities. Housing needs to be connected to cities and regional hubs through public transport and active transport infrastructure such as walking paths and cycling lanes to connect people to jobs, education, retail centres and community hubs.

### Did you know:

- Almost all Australians (97%) believe that cities and towns are better to live in when public buildings and public spaces are well designed <sup>(ii)</sup>
- Almost all Australians (96%) believe that homes and apartments provide a better living experience when they are well designed <sup>(iii)</sup>



### We recommend the Tasmanian Government:

- 2.1** Provide incentives to the development sector in return for the delivery of architect-designed, affordable housing and affordable rental properties, and explore and support new models for providing affordable and social housing.
- 2.2** Implement an urban strategy for Tasmania that guides the development of precincts and regions in cities, large towns and urban areas to strengthen the Tasmanian economy and promote social and economic inclusion for all and promotes appropriate densification.
- 2.3** Commit to a program of important architect-designed capital works which engages Tasmanian businesses across the design and constructions sectors including: new social and affordable housing; aged care housing (facilities & independent living) – ideally as part of mixed-housing developments; public healthcare facilities and community hubs.



### 3. PLANNING & PROCUREMENT

Tasmanian architects have a national and worldwide reputation for creative and innovative design leadership. We have a well-recognised, high quality and liveable built environment and to maintain this into the future to support a burgeoning population, we must create buildings and public spaces that are environmentally, economically, socially sustainable and culturally rich.

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.

The Tasmanian Government has a responsibility to support the development and growth of high value knowledge based built environment jobs within Tasmania.

The Government should promote architectural services overseas to help assist in developing capacity in countries that urgently require help to deal with the issues of climate change and mass urbanisation.

#### Did you know

- Architects are a key component of Australia's \$100 billion built environment sector
- Architectural services in Australia in 2017-18 had revenue of \$6.1 billion and generated \$1.1 billion of profit <sup>(xv)</sup>
- Architectural tourism in Australia is valued at around \$824 million <sup>(xi)</sup>
- Data from the 2014 Tasmanian Tourism Survey shows that 16% of visitors to MONA) stated that this was their primary reason for travelling to Tasmania

#### We recommend the Tasmanian Government:

**3.1** Establish a Tasmanian State Government Architect, as exists in every mainland State and Territory in Australia, to provide advice on Tasmanian design, public works and cost-effective procurement of design for community and civic building projects across the state, and to look after the interests of the community and the state.

**3.2** Utilise expert panels to make decisions.

**3.3** Set the benchmarks and advocate for best procurement practice, adhering to the [EOI and RFT guidelines](#) published by the Australian Institute of Architects.

**3.4** Provide funding for comprehensive master planning that enables Tasmanian cities, regions and towns to effectively implement urban strategy at the local level.

**3.5** Implement a state-wide planning scheme that through the delivery of sensible planning and design provisions, standards and guidelines addresses issues of heritage; liveability; vibrant and socially inclusive community spaces; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; adaption to climate change and extreme weather events; and good design and building for longevity so that Tasmania sets the benchmark in Australia for its built environment and urban and townscapes.

**3.6** Provide strong support for the promotion and export of Tasmanian architectural services overseas.







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i Low Carbon- High Performance, ASBEC, <https://www.asbec.asn.au/publications>, May 2016

ii The Benefit of Design, prepared for Architects Accreditation Council of Australia, Galaxy Research, June 2015

iii The Benefit of Design, prepared for Architects Accreditation Council of Australia, Galaxy Research, June 2015

iv Industry Profile: Architectural Services in Australia, IBISWorld April 2019

v Measuring Up, Innovation and the Value Add of Architecture, NSW Architects Registration Board with University of Technology Sydney, April 2016

### Images:

Cover: Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre | Cumulus Studio | Photo: Anjie Blair | 2021 Tasmanian Architecture Awards

Pg 2: Devonport Living City Stage 1 | Lyons with Maddison Architects and Birrelli | Photo: Peter Bennetts | 2019 Tasmanian Architecture Awards

Pg 3: Spring Bay Mill Stage 1 | Gilby + Brewin Architecture with Marcus Ragus | Photo: Richard Jupe | 2021 Tasmanian Architecture Awards

Pg 4: Domain Community Hub | Field Labs | Photo: Matt Sansom | 2019 Tasmanian Architecture Awards

Pg 5: krakani lumi | Taylor and Hind Architects with the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania | Photo: Adam Gibson | 2018 Tasmanian Architecture Awards

Pg 6: Glenorchy Health Centre | Liminal Architecture with DesignInc | Photo: Dianna Snape | 2019 Tasmanian Architecture Awards