



3 July 2024

To Whom It May Concern

National Urban Policy Consultation Draft

The Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) (the peak professional body representing architects in Australia with over 14,000 members) and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) (the peak professional body representing landscape architects in Australia with over 3,200 members), hereafter referred to as “The Institutes”, welcome the Federal Government’s release of the draft National Urban Policy.

The draft National Urban Policy provides the opportunity to reset our cities for the 21st Century, to focus on those who live and work in those spaces in a way that embraces, not fights, nature. The Institutes agree that the draft policy articulates, at a high level, the fundamental issues that need to be addressed in developing and delivering a comprehensive national urban policy framework.

However, there is a noticeable gap in how the document is framed, and that is that cities need to be designed (as well as planned) to be livable, equitable, productive, sustainable, and resilient. Australian communities deserve great 3-dimensional urban design to deliver community and environmental benefits to all.

As such, the attached submission sets out our compelling case for the inclusion of design as one of the guiding principles embedded into the National Urban Policy.

The Institutes also support and endorse the submission by The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC), of which we are also members. We agree with ASBEC that effective implementation is required, that intergovernmental support is essential to success, and that measurement, tracking, and reporting of goals be mandated.

More specifically, the Institutes would like to see the draft National Urban Policy adopt the following:

1. Recommend the Federal Government establish a Federal Minister for Cities
2. Incorporates Place-Based Design as a fundamental principle
3. Acknowledges the need for recognition, protection, and enhancement of the public realm
4. Acknowledges the need for cities and other urban environments to be designed as well as planned
5. Sets and enforces high standards concerning carbon abatement
6. Incorporates modern data and understandings of the interaction between nature and our urban environments that:



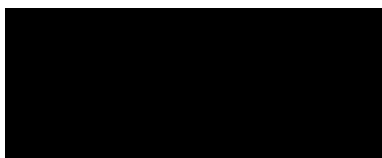
- a. Builds capacity for adaptive, resilient design that can withstand all natural hazards
 - b. Prevents building in areas of increasing coastal inundation and flood hazards
 - c. Recognises and adjusts for natural and increasing water flows and incorporates water capture for drought
 - d. Understands the importance of green and blue spaces in maintaining livable temperatures
7. Works with Government Architects at all levels
 8. Re-embrace the Australian Urban Design Awards as the 'the Australian Parliament's /Prime Minister's Urban Design Awards' to elevate the role that cross-discipline design plays in celebrating and encouraging highly functioning urban spaces

The National Urban Policy provides a unique opportunity to rethink, revitalise and recapitalise our cities and elevate design as a fundamental requirement to achieving this. A bipartisan, cross-governmental commitment to planning and delivering better cities and communities is vital to ensure the long-term success of the National Urban Policy. It must also embrace local communities, experts, and industry.

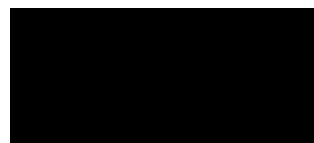
We look forward to working with you to deliver upon the potential of our urban spaces. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Yours sincerely,



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