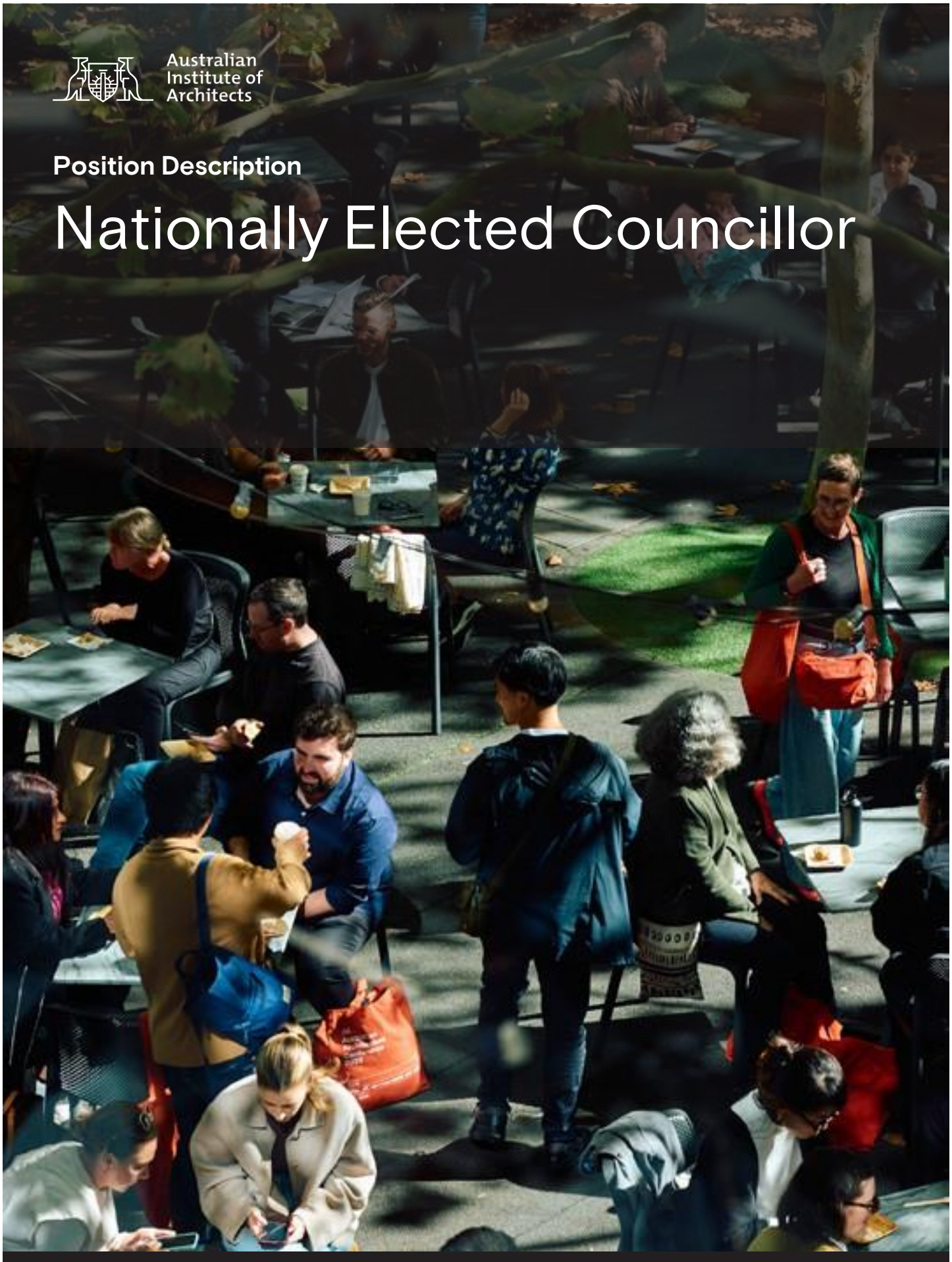
Australian Institute of Architects

Position Description

Nationally Elected Councillor



2025 Australian Architecture Conference | Seymour Centre | Photographer: Maclay Heriot

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Where architects belong

We represent over 14,000 members globally, committed to raising design standards and positively shaping the places where we live, work and meet. We operate through a National Office and State and Territory Chapters, governed by a Board of Directors and supported by the National Council. The Institute promotes high-quality design, and sustainability, and supports architects through advocacy and professional development.

Our governance framework seeks to facilitate effective leadership through policy development and provision of strategic directions.

Our values

- **Integrity** – we act with honesty, accountability and transparency.
- **Curiosity** – we listen actively, seek diverse ideas and embrace learning and innovation.
- **Intention** – we focus on meaningful progress, delivering outcomes that advance our shared purpose and create value for our staff, members and communities.

Strategic Priorities

The 2026 strategic priorities are:

- Provide exceptional educational experiences to inspire the continuous pursuit of architectural excellence**.**
- Amplify the voice of architects on key issues to help achieve member aspirations.
- Deliver meaningful and consistent awards that promote the profession and celebrate architecture.
- Drive local connection through relevant and engaging member experiences.

A role with purpose

Nationally Elected Councillors are appointed to National Council to represent member interests, to lend expertise and knowledge and assist in the implementation of Institute initiatives, while supporting the National President to advance the architectural profession's interests. Importantly the purpose of this role is to represent the broad membership base – free of Chapter boundaries.

Primary Objectives:

- To create alignment between strategic priorities of National Council and the actions of National Committees within an agreed Business Plan.
- Advocate for the priorities of National Council and the needs of Committees within a particular policy and advocacy stream: Learning, Practice or Culture.
- Ensure effective member engagement and value delivery
- Support the National President in initiatives to better the profession and broaden impact

This role requires close collaboration with:

- National President
- Chapter Presidents
- Committee members
- Institute members
- Chapter industry partners and government officials

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Position	Nationally Elected Councillor
Date	February 2026
Reporting to	National President
Remuneration	Nil
Expectation	• Attendance at, and preparation for, formal and informal National Council Meetings • Chair or attendance of a minimum of 1 x National Committee • Help drive committee agendas and the delivery of KPI's • Report twice a year on status of National Committee

What you'll be doing	
Strategic Policy and Advocacy Streams Leadership	• Act as Co-advocate for one of the Institute's Policy and Advocacy streams: Learning, Practice, Culture. The role of Co-advocate is to play a bridging role, acting as both a representative of National Council to Committees within a particular stream and advocate of these committees needs to National Council. • Translate national strategic initiatives and yearly Business Plan into actionable programs in consultation with National Committee Chair's . • Provide detailed perspective and evidence-based input to national policy development, particularly on Committee regulatory and industry matters • Drive advocacy campaigns that amplify the Institute's national agenda while addressing Committee priorities. • Be a member of at least one of the institute National Committees and facilitate effective communication between the committee and the National Council
Governance	• Actively participate in National Council meetings, providing well-researched insights and contributing to strategic discussions • Drive effectiveness of assigned National Council committees through regular attendance, thorough preparation, and meaningful contribution • Support the National President by providing governance insights and maintaining strong local compliance standards

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What you'll be doing	
Member engagement	• Lead Committee engagement strategy through structured consultation programs, ensuring member voice is effectively represented at national level • Communicate NC decisions to your Policy and Advocacy Stream Committees. • Promote and support the agreed National position to unify members • Engage with the institute's systematic feedback mechanisms and ensure they are utilized for capturing member insights and concerns, to achieve timely response and action • Support and advise on creation of targeted engagement programs for different member segments (emerging, established, senior practitioners) • Support implementation of national professional standards at Committee Level
Industry liaison and engagement	• Help drive industry engagement through structured communication programs and regular consultation

Eligibility
• Current RAIA financial membership
• Election by relevant members following the relevant voting process
• Current knowledge of relevant architectural practice and standards, trends and issues related to the profession
• considerable and proven experience (circa 5 years' or more) experience in architectural practice or industry
• Previous role in RAIA Chapters or Committees preferred; track record of successful board or committee participation in a professional context is ideal

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The skills you bring	
Stakeholder management	• Builds and maintains strong relationships with diverse stakeholders, including members, government officials, industry partners, and community leaders • Effectively balances and prioritises the needs and expectations of various stakeholder groups, ensuring alignment with the Institute's mission and goals • Communicates persuasively and diplomatically across different platforms to influence stakeholders and gain support for key initiatives
Emotional intelligence	• Demonstrates high self-awareness and effective self-regulation in professional interactions, managing own emotions and responses appropriately in varying situations • Shows empathy and understanding towards others' perspectives, actively listening, and responding with sensitivity to different communication styles and needs • Builds and maintains meaningful professional relationships through effective social skills, fostering trust and collaboration across all levels of the organisation • Uses emotional intelligence to motivate others, create inclusive environments, and contribute to a positive organisational culture
Industry knowledge	• Understands architectural practice, including professional standards, and industry trends and practices • Demonstrates familiarity with key stakeholders in the architecture, including regulatory bodies, educational institutions, and allied professions • Understands the challenges and opportunities facing the architectural profession, such as technological advancements, climate change adaptation, and urban planning issues • Demonstrates awareness of the economic factors and their impact on architectural services
Commercial acumen	• Displays strong commercial acumen and understanding of member-based organisations • Shows ability to balance service delivery with organisational sustainability • Demonstrates clear understanding of professional development needs and ability to drive meaningful initiatives. within a professional context • Exhibits strong capability to represent the organisation credibly across various professional forums