



Australian
Institute of
Architects

Position Description

Nationally Elected Councillor

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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

- **One Community** – embracing diversity and open communication
- **Innovation** – demonstrating leadership with courage and creativity
- **Accountability** – acting with integrity, responsibility and sustainability
- **Respect** – relating with empathy and recognition for effort
- **Collaboration** – working together, with trust and transparency

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:

- Provide perspective and insights into Institute priorities that relate to the voice of the profession within the Built Environment
- 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	June 2025
Reporting to	National President
Remuneration	Nil
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attendance at, and preparation for, formal and informal National Council MeetingsChair or attendance of a minimum of 1 x National CommitteeHelp drive committee agendas and the delivery of KPI'sReport twice a year on status of National Committee

What you'll be doing	
Strategic leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Translate national strategic initiatives into actionable programs that address member needs while maintaining alignment with Institute objectivesProvide detailed perspective and evidence-based input to national policy development, particularly on regulatory and industry mattersDrive advocacy campaigns that amplify the Institute's national agenda.Be a member of at least one of the institute National Committees and facilitate effective communication between the committee and the National Council
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Actively participate in National Council meetings, providing well-researched insights and contributing to strategic discussionsDrive effectiveness of assigned National Council committees through regular attendance, thorough preparation, and meaningful contributionImplement robust risk management practices aligned with national frameworksSupport the National President by providing governance insights and maintaining strong local compliance standards

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What you'll be doing	
Member engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead stakeholder member engagement strategy through structured consultation programs, ensuring member voice is effectively represented at national level• Communicate NC decisions across the Institute• 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• Champion awards programs, driving participation and recognition while maintaining program integrity• Support and advise on creation of targeted engagement programs for different member segments (emerging, established, senior practitioners)• Foster mentorship and knowledge-sharing networks• Support implementation of national professional standards
Industry liaison and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serve as an Institute representative when requested, managing relationships with government, industry, and educational institutions• Cultivate and maintain strategic relationships with allied architectural organisations and other professional associations• Help drive industry engagement through structured communication programs and regular consultation

Eligibility	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Builds and maintains strong relationships with diverse stakeholders, including members, government officials, industry partners, and community leadersEffectively balances and prioritises the needs and expectations of various stakeholder groups, ensuring alignment with the Institute’s mission and goalsCommunicates persuasively and diplomatically across different platforms to influence stakeholders and gain support for key initiatives
Emotional intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Demonstrates high self-awareness and effective self-regulation in professional interactions, managing own emotions and responses appropriately in varying situationsShows empathy and understanding towards others’ perspectives, actively listening, and responding with sensitivity to different communication styles and needsBuilds and maintains meaningful professional relationships through effective social skills, fostering trust and collaboration across all levels of the organisationUses emotional intelligence to motivate others, create inclusive environments, and contribute to a positive organisational culture
Industry knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understands architectural practice, including professional standards, and industry trends and practicesDemonstrates familiarity with key stakeholders in the architecture, including regulatory bodies, educational institutions, and allied professionsUnderstands the challenges and opportunities facing the architectural profession, such as technological advancements, climate change adaptation, and urban planning issuesDemonstrates awareness of the economic factors and their impact on architectural services
Commercial acumen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Displays strong commercial acumen and understanding of member-based organisationsShows ability to balance service delivery with organisational sustainabilityDemonstrates clear understanding of professional development needs and ability to drive meaningful initiatives. within a professional contextExhibits strong capability to represent the organisation credibly across various professional forums