



Australian
Institute of
Architects

QLD

ABN 72 000 023 012

The Royal Australian Institute of Architects
trading as Australian Institute of Architects

Level 1, 41 Exhibition Street,
Melbourne, Victoria 3000

P: (03) 8620 3877

national@architecture.com.au
architecture.com.au

Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier and Minister for the Olympics
Queensland Government
PO Box 15185
City East
Queensland 4002
Australia
Re: Queensland Housing Summit Outcomes Report

Dear Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk,

As the President of the Australian Institute of Architects Queensland Chapter (the Institute), I'd like to express my gratitude for the invitation extended to me to attend the Housing Summit earlier this year. In preparation for the Housing Summit, the Institute compiled document offering some suggestions to help address the issue of housing affordability and liveability in Queensland. That document, "Everyone Benefits from Good Housing" was submitted via your website portal, and we hope that it has been of some use informing the outcomes of the Queensland Housing Summit Outcomes Report.

The Institute would also like to take this opportunity congratulate you and your government on delivering so positively and promptly on many of the promises made at the Housing Summit, and the Queensland Housing Summit Outcomes Report is a commendable piece of work, representing genuine hope that a collaborative process with industry will make a positive difference. In fact, some of the items in the report concerning the high percentage of housing that is privately delivered have further fuelled aspirations for gentle density that the Institute have been advocating for over many years, and we note that the time may now be right to consider escalating the implementation of these proposals.

Further incentive to contact you and your Ministers was provided this morning at the Board of Architects Queensland conferring ceremony at Parliament House, where over 100 newly registered architects were welcomed to the profession with rousing speeches that identified the extremely unique value that architects provide to society, and how the vigorous process of registration is a protector of public property, prosperity, safety, and well-being.

Our simple suggestion reinforces and dovetails with your action to strengthen the remit of Economic Development Queensland to drive new housing supply and the commitment to declare 34 Priority Development Areas (PDAs), delivering 140,000 residential lots. The Institute is making the simple suggestion that those PDAs represent the ideal opportunity to apply the expertise and rigour of the architectural profession to address housing affordability and diversity. Our proposal is to assign a bedroom density (i.e., establish a number of bedrooms per square meter of site) in PDAs, then bestow on Queensland architects the opportunity to take responsibility for the design and certification of multiple dwellings on any lot, conditional only upon their design meeting the requirements of an agreed code and the applicable bedroom density.

Essentially, architects are seeking the same level of privilege and responsibility in a Priority Development Area for a design outcome as a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland currently has for an engineering outcome.

This innovative approach represents a multi-win scenario, as planning red-tape is reduced, smaller households are created, housing diversity is ensured, and affordability enhanced, while at the same time a quality of design not often available to the most modest forms of consumer housing is delivered as part of the package. Further, the fact that the outcome must be signed off by a registered architect who is bound by a code of ethics to uphold community values, and whose livelihood will depend on the success of that outcome, not only protects the government from risk and community concern, but also introduces the opportunity to build a portfolio of exemplar smaller homes, setting Queensland in the highest standing for innovative housing in a national and international context at an important moment in its legacy.



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The Institute and its members are more than willing to share many more ideas and innovations to help address the issues of housing affordability and liveability in Queensland, but I felt compelled to share this simple and achievable strategy with you promptly so that it might be a genuine consideration while the formation of the Priority Development Areas is still in the early stages.

Kind Regards,

Amy Degenhart LFRAIA
Queensland Chapter President
Australian Institute of Architects