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Clarence City Council  
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Rosny Park TAS 7018

By email to: [yoursay@ccc.tas.gov.au](mailto:yoursay@ccc.tas.gov.au)

## Re: Richmond Village Public Realm Masterplan 2023

To whom this may concern,

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Richmond Village Masterplan 2023 (the Plan), prepared by Realm Studios for the Clarence City Council.

The Institute is supportive of master planning that utilises best practice design and planning principles to create a well-designed and connected town for locals and visitors, and provides the best outcome for all, while respecting the existing built-environment and natural landscape which is so important to Richmond.

The Institute has read the consultation report and notes some of the concerns community stakeholders have raised around vegetation, tree canopy, fauna and accessibility. The Institute commends the use of suitably qualified architects and built-environment professionals, in the development of the Plan, and especially the need to include a Tasmanian Aboriginal consultant, along with other relevant professionals, including landscape architects and access consultants. However, given the historic significance of Richmond, the Institute suggests it is essential that suitably qualified heritage architects and historians form part of the project team to ensure that best practice cultural heritage management is undertaken in accordance with The Burra Charter and its accompanying guidelines. The absence of reference to The Burra Charter within the Plan is a concern in this regard.

As the peak professional body for architects and with a membership of over 14,000 Australia wide, the Institute, on behalf of its members, advocates for excellence in design. We believe that it is critical that excellence in design can only be achieved with the involvement of experienced professionals from the start of any project, and through to

the completion. In this case, the engagement of a suitably qualified heritage architect and historian, as part of a multi-disciplined consultant team versed in the appropriate redevelopment and preservation of historically significant sites under the guidelines of The Burra Charter.

The Institute understands the need for the upgrade and adaption to public realms and the built environment to ensure suitability for modern-day occupation. It is imperative that any proposed redevelopment be undertaken with the requisite due care and adherence to heritage principles, thereby delivering design outcomes and uses that appropriately conserve such an historically significant place like Richmond.

The Institute recommends that the Plan seek to address and consider the following:

- a response to the principles, and supporting guidelines, of The Burra Charter
- minimise impact on the existing built heritage and historic streetscapes
- maintain historic view lines and corridors to surrounding landscapes
- reuse historic materials where possible and appropriate
- maintain existing heritage fabric, such as cobblestones, fences etc.
- utilise Dark Sky appropriate lighting
- respond to context rather than altering context.

The Institute highly values the cultural heritage significance of Richmond that makes it unique. The Tasmanian Chapter of the Institute were involved in the formation of the 'Richmond Committee' in July 1964, which brought together government and community to preserve the intact colonial character of the town. As such, the Institute would value the opportunity to be involved in the process as a stakeholder as this develops.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Plan. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this further.

Kind regards,



**Daniel Lane**  
President, Tasmanian Chapter  
Australian Institute of Architects



**Jennifer Nichols**  
Executive Director, Tasmanian Chapter  
Australian Institute of Architects

The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation with over 14,500 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute exists to advance the interests of members, their professional standards and contemporary practice, and expand and advocate the value of architects and architecture to the sustainable growth of our communities, economy and culture. The Institute actively works to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment by promoting better, responsible and environmental design. To learn more about the Institute, log on to [www.architecture.com.au](http://www.architecture.com.au).