

# 2021-22 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION



TO THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT



Australian  
Institute of  
Architects

**TASMANIAN CHAPTER**

Submission issued March 2021

2021-22 Pre-Budget Submission

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

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The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation with around 12,000 members across Australia and overseas including 300 members in the Tasmanian Chapter.

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.

## PURPOSE

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- This submission is made by the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) to provide comment on matters affecting the 2021-22 budget of the Tasmanian Government.
- At the time of this submission the National President is Ms. Alice Hampson FRAIA<sup>1</sup> and the Tasmanian Chapter President is Mr. Craig Rosevear RAIA.
- The Chief Executive Officer is Ms. Julia Cambage and the Tasmanian Executive Director is Miss Jennifer Nichols.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION.

The Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) is the peak body for the Architectural profession in Australia, representing around 12,000 members. The Institute works to improve our built environment by promoting quality, responsible, sustainable design. Architecture influences all aspects of the built environment and brings together the arts, environmental awareness, sciences and technology.

By combining creative design with technical knowledge, architects create the physical environment in which people live, work and learn, in turn, influences quality of life. Through its members, the Institute plays a major role in shaping Australia's future.

Architects are a key component of Australia's \$100 billion built environment sector and there are around 13,500 architectural businesses in Australia with around 40,000 employees. Approximately 25,000 people in the labour force hold architectural qualifications (bachelor's degree or higher) and architectural services in Australia in 2017-18 had revenue of \$6.1 billion and generated \$1.1 billion of profit<sup>2</sup>. The significant benefit of architecture and good design is outlined in numerous articles, including the Office of Victorian Government Architects 'The Case for Good Design' or 'Revaluing an icon - Sydney Opera House' by Deloitte which explores the value of exceptional design.

Australian architects have a worldwide reputation for creative and innovative design leadership and Australia is known for producing contemporary and breakthrough architecture. Australian architect Glen Murcutt, for example, in 2002 was the Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate<sup>3</sup>, which is considered the design equivalent of the Nobel Prize. A number of Australian cities are ranked as the most liveable, globally, and attract people from all over the world who wish to live and work here. We have a well-recognised, high quality and liveable built environment.

The Institute, therefore, welcomes the opportunity to make a pre-budget submission to the Tasmanian Government in order to ensure improving use of good design, and strengthening of building safety and quality into the future.

In this way we, will create buildings and public spaces that are well designed to achieve outcomes of environmental, economic and social sustainability and positive health and wellbeing, in our culturally rich state. The buildings will reflect the overall high quality which Tasmanians expect.

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<sup>2</sup> Industry Profile: Architectural Services in Australia, IBISWorld April 2019

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://www.pritzkerprize.com/about>

## 2 THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS' ENGAGEMENT WITH THE BIG ISSUES.

The Australian Institute of Architects and its members are dedicated to raising the quality of the built environment for people and to the advancement of architecture. We seek to improve the enduring health and wellbeing of all Australians and our diverse communities. The design of the built environment shapes the places where we live, work and meet. The quality of the design affects how spaces and places function and has the potential to stimulate the economy and enhance the environment. Good design adds value to all aspects of the built environment and the significant building sector of Australia's economy.

Australian architects have a worldwide reputation for innovative design leadership and our profession is well placed to support governments through advising on ways to address key challenges that we are facing in our built environment.

Primary issues include the creation of built environments which are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. Climate change, housing affordability, equitable access to community services, an ageing demographic, increasing demand for efficient transport systems, and the need for more community and public infrastructure to support a growing population – these are urgent issues, requiring sophisticated solutions. The planning and design of cities and towns to address these challenges will significantly impact the shape of Australia's built environment, requiring governments' commitment to a high quality, sustainable legacy for future generations. The buildings and urban solutions we accept today directly impact on our ability to successfully navigate these key issues in the future – most buildings will have a minimum of a 30-year life span taking us past any 2050 commitments – we need to design and build today for the future we hope to have.

This past twelve months has presented the global challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had different impacts across the globe and between the cities and regions across Australia with a second tragic wave in Victoria, which, at least has provided lessons for the whole of Australia. By global standards, we continue to lead with among the most effective public health prevention measures. The pandemic's call to action has clearly illustrated the ability for Government to intervene to make decisions for the greater good, to lead and protect the State, irrespective of short-term disruption and challenges.

The past twelve months has also seen the delivery of a Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. As disconcerting, is the anthropogenic climate change that underpins these 'natural' disasters.

To face these challenges and the act upon the lessons learnt, governments will require built environment expertise and strategic planning to support its development of effective policy and project solutions. It is critical to foster the unique capability of our built environment professionals and their capacity to bring innovation and know-how to a government's work.

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) acknowledges the Tasmanian Government's recently announced \$30 million Building

Construction Support Loan Scheme and appreciates the Government's willingness to engage with and listen to the architecture profession along with the building and construction industry more broadly.

The Institute would like to assist in any way we can to ensure the viability of the industry moving forward. In all projects, in order to ensure a quality built outcome, it is critical to have thorough client briefing, realistic timeframes for design, realistic budgeting, community consultation, energy efficient design and construction, and a low carbon footprint. These measures ensure the long-term economic benefits are felt by the community well into the future, as they make for a sustainable built environment.

It takes time to design a building properly to ensure the best quality outcome, depending on the size and complexity of the project but this must be adequately considered. Architects have the ability to provide cost effective designs, from the layout of the building through to detailing and material selection, and quality for budget that considers not only the built cost, but the usage and maintenance costs of the building (whole-of-life cost) after it has been built. It is important that design is undertaken prior to any construction commencing to ensure that delays don't occur further down the track. Architects have the unique design ability to be able to add value to all projects, be this a toilet block or a large-scale health project.

### 3 OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

<p><b>Planning for and designing a vibrant Tasmania now and into the future.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implement a state-wide planning scheme that through the delivery of sensible planning and design provisions, standards and guidelines addresses issues of:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ liveability</li> <li>▪ vibrant and socially inclusive community spaces that promote participation by everyone</li> <li>▪ reduction of greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>▪ adaption to climate change and extreme weather events</li> <li>▪ good design and building for longevity so that Tasmania sets the benchmark in Australia for its built environment and urban and townscapes.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>○ Implement an urban strategy for Tasmania that guides the development of precincts and regions in cities, large towns and urban areas to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ strengthen the Tasmanian economy</li> <li>▪ promote social and economic inclusion for all through good access to retail and commercial centres, community and health care hubs, education and training opportunities and focal areas for industry including processing of primary produce, manufacturing and other high value-adding employment opportunities</li> <li>▪ ensure that public transport and active transport infrastructure such as walking paths and cycling lanes are available to connect people to jobs, education, retail centres and community hubs</li> <li>▪ promote appropriate densification to prevent the blight of costly and irreversible urban sprawl that has beset other Australian capital cities and promote sustainable, accessible Tasmanian cities in along the lines of world cities such a Copenhagen, Zurich, Frankfurt and Hamilton (Ontario).</li> </ul> </li>   <li>○ Provide funding for comprehensive master planning that enables Tasmanian cities, regions and towns to effectively implement urban strategy at the local level and as the basis for further successful City Deals partnerships and Smart Cities funding applications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reinvigorate the Tasmanian economy and jobs.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Re-invigorate the Tasmanian economy and reduce Tasmanians' unbalanced dependence on highly-casualised employment in the Covid-19 dampened tourism sector by committing to a program of important capital works which engages Tasmanian businesses across the design and constructions sectors including:</li> </ul>

- new public and social housing and repurposing existing buildings for housing
  - improvements to education facilities that increase equitable access for children in vulnerable circumstances and fix basic problems with existing buildings that will have a lasting benefit, such as condition upgrades, disability access and energy efficiency
  - quality community buildings and public spaces - this could include extensions-to, upgrades or maintenance of regional Tasmanian sports and cultural precincts
  - aged care housing (facilities & independent living) - ideally as part of mixed-housing developments, not stand-alone - projects like the recently completed Goulburn St housing project and commissioned by Richard Gilmour from the Department of Communities Tasmania is an ideal example of this
  - public healthcare facilities
  - green spaces - urban design, landscape and especially waterways and catchments that support sustainable places and human health and wellbeing - this would include parks and landscape infrastructure, especially the provision of accessible play areas
  - smaller town centre and amenities upgrades especially in regional and developing density suburban areas
  - design-led urban planning projects to support inclusive, nurturing, and walkable neighbourhoods along with active transport projects - that is cycle and pedestrian linkages and hubs
  - built heritage maintenance and adaptive re-use of existing buildings
  - focus on the inner-city and the public transport corridor in Hobart to ensure that development is close to infrastructure and existing services.
- Ensure that Government procurement for design and construction prioritises the use of Tasmanian businesses as far as possible and sets a requirement to provide employment for construction trades apprentices and graduates of architecture.
  - Undertake an urgent inquiry into the capacity and capability of all Tasmanian Local Government Authorities to deliver timely and value for money design and construction procurement, planning and building approvals and inspections so that the Tasmanian economy is able to benefit as quickly as possible from needed



	<p>economic stimulus delivered through design and construction projects.</p>
<p><b>The best designed state in Australia.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Australian Institute of Architects strongly recommends that if the Tasmanian Government adopts the National Registration Framework for building practitioners, that it:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ adopts as the three levels of registered building designer:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level 1. Registered architect All buildings</li> <li>- Level 2. Registered building designer level 2 Medium rise buildings (with medium rise being defined as two storeys and conditional on the number of consultants that are required to deliver the building)</li> <li>- Level 3. Registered building designer level 3 Low rise buildings</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ restricts the design of buildings of Construction Type A to registered architects as Construction Type A are the source of the most failures and risks</li> <li>▪ recognises that architects are already registered to practice and therefore exempt the requirement to simultaneously register as building designers</li> <li>▪ requires that registration category of Project Manager should be AQF Level 9 qualified, have a minimum of 2 years post graduate experience, have a code of conduct, be required to hold PI insurance and undertake annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD)</li> <li>▪ automatically registers architects in the new registration category of Project Manager as proposed by the National Registration Framework.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Expert panels should be utilised to make decisions.</li> <li>○ Establish a Tasmanian State Government Architect, as exists in every mainland State and Territory in Australia, to provide advice on Tasmanian design, public works and cost-effective procurement of design for community and civic building projects across the state.</li> </ul>