



Australian Institute of Architects

MEDIA RELEASE

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Fishermans Bend plan shows commitment to social, design and sustainability needs

The Victorian Government's decision to establish an interim industry-led design advisory committee and include mandatory provisions for social housing at Fishermans Bend have been welcomed by the Australian Institute of Architects.

The result of months of stakeholder and public consultation, the Fishermans Bend Framework released by the Andrews Government today was developed by a planning review panel created in February following concerns expressed by the Institute and other stakeholders together with the community.

Victorian Chapter President Amy Muir welcomed the announcement of an industry-led design advisory committee, which would help promote holistic and thoughtful design solutions for the site, embracing sustainability goals and recognising the significance of Fishermans Bend for a growing Melbourne.

'Fishermans Bend will reshape Melbourne's CBD and provide a vital growth corridor for the future - we will only get one shot at getting it right and we need to ensure the precinct is developed thoughtfully and sustainably,' she said.

'We are hopeful the Fishermans Bend Framework announced today will encourage more considered development of the precinct and the Institute looks forward to continuing to engage in a rigorous consultation process with Government.

'The Institute is very pleased an interim eight-member design advisory committee will be established to oversee any outstanding applications and to consider new applications lodged before the Infrastructure Contribution Plan (ICP) is introduced next year. This is something we have consistently advocated for to ensure the integrity of the site's masterplan through the implementation phase.

'We strongly urge the Government to make this panel permanent and include representation from the Australian Institute of Architects, the Planning Institute of Australia, the Urban Design Institute of Australia and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

'The stakes in this project are simply too high to see it proceed without continued expert guidance.'

Ms Muir said the Institute staunchly supported inclusion of incentivised social housing provisions in addition to an affordable housing quota.

The decision to lift the environmental sustainability credentials of the site were also welcomed, with requirements for all developments to meet 5 Star Green Star or equivalent standards.



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'The new social housing uplift scheme will dramatically improve the amount of new stock coming to market and help make Fishermans Bend accessible for all Melburnians – this is a great achievement,' she said.

'It is socially sustainable and represents a holistic approach, given the ongoing push to ensure Fishermans Bend meets the highest possible environmental standards.

'After the exhaustive planning review process it is essential the Government maintains momentum by ensuring consultation with key stakeholders continues.

'Fishermans Bend is an opportunity for the Government to set a benchmark, creating a blueprint for how growth in our towns and cities can be led by community and stakeholder consultation in partnership with considered design and masterplanning.'

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