



31 July 2019

Response to the 20 – Year State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects - SA Chapter (AILA SA)

AILA SA thanks Infrastructure SA for the opportunity to provide feedback and expertise to inform the 20 Year Infrastructure Strategy for South Australia.

AILA SA is the local chapter representing the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, the growing national advocacy body representing just under 4,000 active and engaged landscape architects across the country. We are committed to creating a better Australia that acknowledges the benefits that integrated thinking on moving people and goods through our cities, suburbs and regions can have on our physical and mental health, and the role that good design plays in creating vibrant and liveable cities and neighbourhoods.

Landscape architects have the skills and expertise to resolve a diverse range of complex issues with innovative, integrated solutions demonstrated in many award-winning projects across Australia.

We can contribute leadership, creativity and innovation as landscape architects collaborate with many varied disciplines and stakeholders striving to achieve better, healthier environmental, social and economic outcomes for the built environment. Projects include varying scales from citywide strategies to the redesign of local streets and parks. Landscape architects within government and in private practice work alongside other government and allied professionals in building stronger communities through making places and spaces more sustainable, productive and enjoyable for all.

AILA SA has recently provided feedback to DPTI on the Planning and Design Code: Productive Economy Policy Discussion Paper, the Natural Resources and Environment Discussion Paper, and the Integrated Movement Systems Policy Discussion Paper in our ongoing involvement with the Planning Reform consultation process. [Click here](#) to review AILA SA's ongoing advocacy to support the Planning Reform in SA.

We provide the following feedback in relation to the 20 Year Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper for South Australia

General Feedback

AILA SA supports the intent of this Strategy in seeking to improve the liveability of this State.

Adelaide is fortunate to be continually listed in the top 10 most liveable cities in the world determined by The Economist's Global Liveability Index, most recently in tenth place in 2018.

The index speaks to the need for cities to have a good balance between hard and soft infrastructure. By soft infrastructure the index lists economic, health, social and cultural aspects as being important indicators, along with safety and parks and recreational areas.

AILA SA notes that whilst the discussion paper outlines a number of initiatives in the regions, which are supported, there is limited information on Adelaide's future infrastructure needs, which, as the paper outlines, support 75% of South Australia's Gross State Product and our overall prosperity. It could be argued South Australia is a city-state in many respects.

Therefore, a better understanding of cities, their movement systems and networks in and around the State's most productive area, Adelaide's city centre, as well as the middle and outer suburbs, will assist achieving the overall goals for the regions as well as stimulating population growth, investment, activation and attraction across South Australia.

Further, whilst the paper focuses on road infrastructure projects to improve freight movements and industrial growth, there is limited focus on public transport and the benefits a comprehensive review can provide to reshape Adelaide's future worker and resident mobility. With an increasing tourist spend, it is even more important to ensure visitors can move about the city as easily as possible. A customer centric approach to planning future public transport projects is critical and AILA SA recommends this is developed in more detail.

We also note that while this discussion paper clearly demonstrates the need for planning of future physical assets to enable the enhancement of the economy and liveability of South Australia, more content should focus on the soft infrastructure to better balance the paper.

In particular, the paper requires a greater focus on green infrastructure as an asset to support liveability, health and wellbeing, and to mitigate against climate change.

Green Infrastructure policies are critical in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Green Infrastructure is defined by AILA as "the network of natural landscape assets, which underpin and provide for the economic, socio-cultural and environmental functionality of our cities and towns." Green Infrastructure, when planned well and integrated into our cities, towns and suburbs can contribute to improving the comfort, quality and health of people and the environment.

AILA SA believes that the thoughtful design of both soft and hard infrastructure is equally critical to the success of planning and reshaping our cities and regional centres to address the challenges of population and economic growth.

Informed development of Australia's natural infrastructure assets is key to tackling the major issues facing Australia's cities, towns and regions including; an ageing population, rising obesity and diabetes rates, reduced fitness particularly in young children, social exclusion and the increasing importance of positive mental health, major transportation challenges, climate change and heat-related deaths.

At a national level AILA has been advocating to the Federal Government on the need for greater focus on a living and green infrastructure policy to support making cities greener, more liveable and healthier for people that inhabit them.

Please [click here](#) to read the AILA Greener, Liveable & Healthier Cities position and the [click here](#) to read the AILA Green Infrastructure Position Statement to support our submission.

AILA SA notes that other cities in Australia are preparing policy to support investment in soft infrastructure, and we reference the City of Perth Social Strategy which is currently under development. This document will aim to address the social resilience, health and wellbeing needs of Perth's residents. The Strategy will guide future planning, decision making, resource allocation and provision of community infrastructure across the city. The City of Perth is currently undertaking research via a survey to inform this Strategy and are intending to launch it in mid-2020.

Detailed Feedback

AILA SA offers the following tailored feedback on the Discussion Paper for consideration.

Introduction Page 4

AILA SA supports the introduction of a broad and inclusive definition of infrastructure, however the definition listed does not contemplate green infrastructure. AILA SA believes it should be amended to include this important aspect as a component of the holistic infrastructure system.

Emerging Pathways to Growth Page 9

AILA SA supports the future focus of this chapter and applauds the acknowledgement of the creative industries as a key example of growth opportunities in the State. The landscape architecture profession sits within this employment sector and our members work both within State and Local Government and in private practice.

Importantly we note the importance of tourism as a super growth sector and a key contributor to the State's economy. It is worth noting the contribution our members make to the design and development of tourist areas in South Australia. Recently there has been a focus on nature-based tourism in South Australia focussed on the rejuvenation of national parks, and also the planning for a new national park at Glenithorne. Landscape architects have been and continue to be involved in projects of this nature. We note that Glenithorne could be listed as an example of a recent development under Infrastructure Sector Considerations – Culture, Sport and Tourism section on page 25.

Our Place – Page 15

AILA SA strongly supports the intent of this chapter, particularly the last paragraph which speaks to the importance of green infrastructure, the benefit of better and improved movement and public transport systems and a customer centric approach to the state's infrastructure planning. This needs to be strengthened throughout the document.

AILA SA has been active in the health and wellbeing space with both the Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and has co-produced a guidance document to assist with the design of green spaces. Titled, "Creating Greener Places for Healthy and Sustainable Communities", the document is currently in draft format awaiting approval from the DHW and DEW Ministers. The draft document is available on the SA Health website - [click here](#) to view.

AILA SA believes a link to this document as a supporting policy for green infrastructure is worthwhile in this chapter.

AILA SA notes that walking and cycling is considered in this chapter but are not considered more broadly in the Discussion Paper. Infrastructure to support walking and cycling should feature more prominently in the paper.

Cross-sectoral considerations: a systems approach – Page 20

AILA SA is particularly supportive of the integration of land use and infrastructure planning in support of the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide targets. We note the focus on urban infill and the creation of walkable communities in the 30 Year Plan, which is referenced in the Discussion Paper.

The inclusion of a case study to demonstrate better integration of land use and infrastructure planning is commended. We do however recommend local case studies wherever possible and suggest both the Bowden and Tonsley redevelopments undertaken by Renewal SA as benchmark urban renewal projects. Both are key economic development projects for the State that integrate good land use planning with transport thinking through a design lens. Landscape architects have helped to design and deliver these projects, and they feature prominently in recent AILA State and National awards.

Infrastructure sector considerations – Health – Page 29

We strongly support the notion that the health and wellbeing of South Australians equates to quality of life and a strong social fabric. We would further add to this that health infrastructure should support an urban form that is more efficient, liveable and resilient to a changing climate and helps to preserve the ecosystems that help safeguard the economic prosperity, vitality and sustainability of South Australia.

To assist with a more holistic discussion, there is opportunity to broaden the content of this chapter to include more discussion on soft infrastructure, particularly in relation to wellbeing and the importance of green infrastructure in mitigating urban heat island health related issues.

For example, evidence shows that urban heat is increasing during the days and nights as we lose local tree canopy cover and replace open green space with urban infill and increased paved surfaces. Rising urban heat directly impacts on the annual cost of living for local communities and at times of extreme heat can have fatal effects on the youngest, eldest and sickest in our society. We refer you to the AILA Position Statement – [Liveable Cities - Cooling Cities – Urban Heat Island Effect](#).

We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and commend Infrastructure SA on this important work and look forward to informing the State's vision for more integrated, greener, and customer centric infrastructure.

Please contact me if you have any questions or contact Sally Bolton – AILA SA State Manager by email - [DELETED] if you require any additional information.

Yours Sincerely,

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Daniel Bennett
AILA SA State President