



The Hon. Anthony Roberts, MP  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**LETTER OF SUPPORT - RE: PUBLIC EXHIBITION – DESIGN AND PLACE SEPP**

Dear Minister Roberts,

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) supports the Design and Place SEPP and encourages the government to maintain its commitment to implement these important reforms. The significance of quality open space in ensuring the sustainability and health of communities has been highlighted during the last two years of COVID related lockdowns. Equality in the provision of open space, throughout NSW, is of the utmost importance.

It is important that the Design and Place SEPP delivers on:

- Highlighting the value and importance of quality open space
- Building resilience to the negative impacts of climate change
- Reducing the urban heat island effect in our cities, suburbs, and towns
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity in our urban areas
- Providing diversity and appropriate scales of open space to allow for exercise, social interaction, and respite.

It is crucial that the provision of quality public open space is attributed the same value as other significant infrastructure (sewer, water, power, transport etc.)

It is proven that access to quality public open space contributes to the wellbeing of the community and ultimately to the overall economy by:

- Improving the mental and physical health of the community having a positive impact on the reliance on health services and reductions in sick leave.
- Improving the livability and subsequently, property values of areas
- Boosting the economy through their development and subsequent opportunities for adaptable use.
- building social cohesion in diverse communities by creating opportunities for social interaction
- Increasing the productivity of people and the economy through better health and wellbeing
- Increasing opportunities for connectivity and safe active transport.

The current government have an excellent track record in investing in and improving outcomes for open space through such initiatives as the Parks for People Program and Everyone Can Play. We ask the government to continue this momentum and to put the provision of quality open space along with Connection to Country, environmental protection, ecological networks, sustainability, and community, at the forefront of planning.

AILA looks forward to a continuation of our work with government and AILA NSW President, Vice President and Chapter manager wish to extend an invitation to Minister Roberts to discuss and review case studies on the above items.

Yours sincerely,

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Tanya Wood RLA, AILA  
AILA NSW President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Moir'.

David Moir RLA, AILA  
AILA NSW Vice President

# About the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects



Australian Institute of  
Landscape Architects

**The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) leads a dynamic and respected profession: creating great places to support healthy communities and a sustainable planet.**

## Who we are and what we do

AILA is the peak national body for Landscape Architecture. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities, and greater environmental stewardship.

We provide our members with training, recognition, and a community of practice to share knowledge, ideas, and action.

With our members, we anticipate and develop a leading position on issues of concern in Landscape Architecture. Alongside government and allied professions, we work to improve the design, planning, and management of the natural and built environment.

In operation since 1966, AILA represents over 2,500 members Australia-wide and promotes excellence in planning and designing for life outdoors. Committed to designing better places, Australian landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation's liveability through integrated nature-based solutions delivering better environmental, social, and economic outcomes for all Australians.

AILA's national position statements on Green Infrastructure, Climate Positive Design, Child Friendly Cities, Healthy Communities, and Active Travel; examine how an integrated approach can be used to shape the health and wellbeing of communities. Landscape architects play a central role in developing and implementing these strategies.

Our members are distributed across Australia and range from sole traders to large internationally recognised practices and are embedded within local and state government, creating significant and profound community impacts at a variety of scales.

AILA's values focus on the design, delivery, and management of:

### 1. Quality Public Places

Examples include:

- Southbank Parklands, QLD
- Sydney Park and Darling Quarter, NSW
- Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria – Cranbourne Gardens, VIC
- Pelzer Park/ Pityarilla (Park 19) Activity Hub, SA
- Elizabeth Quay and Scarborough Foreshore, WA
- and many more Australia-wide.

### 2. Stronger Communities

Through public open space networks, parks, and sporting complexes.

### 3. Environmental Stewardship

Through ecological restoration (flood, fire, weeds and contaminated waterways).

As landscape architects:

- We resolve to protect and sustain our landscapes.
- We affirm that self-sustaining landscapes are essential to our planet by placing a high value on the protection of living landscapes and taking a thoughtful approach to their change.
- We resolve to restore damaged landscapes to health.
- We recognise each landscape is best cared for by the community as a whole.
- We work to reveal the value of each landscape to all parties so that they can work in its best interests.
- We work collaboratively with the community and with other professionals to ensure the best outcome for each place.