

Mr Ben Willsmore
SA Chapter President
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
sally.bolton@aila.org.au

Dear Mr Willsmore

I refer to your letter to the Hon Jay Weatherill MP, Premier of South Australia, regarding the 2018 State Election, dated 28 February 2018. We thank the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects for outlining your key priorities ahead of the election.

Labor has a bold and confident plan for the future, one that puts our state, our people, first. Building on our proud record of innovation and progressive reform, we will create new jobs and industries, and make this an even better place to live, work, visit, do business and raise a family. You can read our policies at [Standing Up For South Australia](#) and download our full [2018 Policy Document here](#).

We hope that you will continue to work with us to build upon everything we have achieved, making South Australia more prosperous and harmonious for all.

Please see **attached** the South Australian Labor Government's response to the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects' key policy issues.

Kind regards
Stakeholder Response Team

10/03/18

DESIGN PROCESS AND QUALITY

The State Labor Government developed the Design Review program to assist with projects of varying scales and remits. The government is currently working to embed early engagement with Office for Design and Architecture SA (ODASA) into project management processes for all Government projects.

Design will be a key component of our new planning system. It is envisaged that accredited professionals undertaking development assessment will have knowledge of good design principles, which may be supported by an ongoing professional development program including modules in design. The detail of the accredited professional scheme will be developed in consultation with industry and professional bodies over the next 12 months.

The Government Architect and ODASA play an important role in promoting and supporting good design in South Australia. They should play a hands-on role in providing progressive certainty by shaping and influencing design in significant construction projects, in collaboration with proponents. This work is complemented by an advocacy role in embedding design quality in government and planning policy, and promoting good design and design innovation within the development industry and the wider community.

The government created ODASA and developed the Design Review program to promote good design in the planning system. We support the continuation of this program under our new planning system.

Design practitioners and relevant institutes will be consulted (together with the broader community) on the development of the new Planning and Design Code under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. This will include development of good design principles under the Code and how they should be applied through development assessment processes.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The State Labor Government established the *Healthy Parks, Healthy People SA* initiative in June 2016 and we are committed to the ongoing work and principles behind the program.

We recognise the fundamental connections between human health and environmental health and want to ensure South Australians have every opportunity to experience the wellbeing benefits of nature. There is growing evidence that shows spending time in nature is good for mental and physical health and improves our ability to concentrate, learn, be creative and form positive connections with others.

That's why we have established a partnership between the Department of Health and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources to build stronger links to improve the wellbeing and health of the community through policies, programs and initiatives aimed at encouraging more people to be active in nature and to build green infrastructure in urban settings.

Health Parks, Healthy People SA has guided our approach to creating opportunities for all members of the community to connect with nature and parks. This has included significant upgrades to metro parks, including new camping facilities at Onkaparinga River National Park, Nature Adventure Playgrounds at Cobbler Creek and Morialta Conservation Park, wheelchair and pram walking trails at Hallett Cove Conservation Park.

We have also created new partnerships with Autism SA to encourage and support people with autism to visit parks so they too can experience the physical and mental wellbeing benefits of nature.

A re-elected State Labor Government will continue to collaborative and identify new opportunities to promote the importance of nature as a place of mental and physical wellbeing. This includes new opportunities for urban communities to have access to quality green public space that supports environmental and public health outcomes.

We are committed to providing high quality public realm and green open spaces for the community to enjoy. South Australia currently requires 12.5 per cent open space for new developments, which is the highest in the country, with other States ranging from 6 per cent to 10 per cent. Where 12.5 per cent cannot be provided, money must instead be paid into a fund which is then invested into creating new and better open spaces in other strategic locations.

Currently funds from the Planning and Development Fund are applied on a strategic basis, taking into account many factors including support for State Planning Strategies. This includes targets and priorities in the 30-Year-Plan for Greater Adelaide, like the creation of walkable neighbourhoods and a green, liveable city. In metropolitan areas, projects which support infill and higher density housing are also given priority.

For example, the State Government, working in partnership with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield, has invested \$4million into the creation of additional and high quality green spaces in Kilburn and Blair Athol, which would also better manage stormwater through water sensitive urban design. This investment supports recent rezoning allowing more medium density development and renewal in the Kilburn and Blair Athol area. Similarly, \$3 million was recently invested into upgrading the Northern Parklands, to support the uplift in medium and high density developments along Prospect and Churchill Roads.

We are supportive of a proposal to formalise this process to better align the allocation of funds to areas which are undertaking significant subdivision or uplift development (and where contribution towards open space would be most beneficial).

However, it is important to retain the ability to allocate funds to strategic projects which have statewide benefit, but which may fall outside of high fund contribution areas.

A re-elected Labor Government has also committed to delivering an expanded network of trails throughout metropolitan Adelaide's coastal and urban riverside parks for walking, running and

cycling. We will complete the 70 kilometre stretch, improving coastal access to areas from North Haven to Sellicks Beach.

Our commitment to linear parks will see safer, better-connected trails along Adelaide's waterways, building on the success of our popular River Torrens Linear Park, and creating new walking trails and open green spaces for the community.

Our first priority will be to open up inaccessible parts of the Sturt River in Glenelg North for walking, running and cycling. Other projects along our metropolitan rivers and creeks will be developed in consultation with local councils, stakeholders and the community.

Breakout Creek will also be rehabilitated into wetlands to encourage a healthier, more biodiverse River Torrens. Our commitment to Breakout Creek will see improved trails for walking and cycling, with better lighting to make the area safer for use at night.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The State Labor Government supports the work and partnership of the Green Infrastructure Project currently led by the Botanic Gardens. The Project brings together government, industry and the community to ensure South Australians live in healthy and resilient communities that sustain and connect people with plants and places.

Our Building Upgrade Finance initiative supports Green Infrastructure principles, as partners with local councils and building owners to improve the environmental performance of existing buildings.

A re-elected State Labor Government will also be implementing the State Adaptation Plan, which will guide our priorities to address climate change. Green infrastructure will have a significant role in key action areas identified in the plan, including:

- Education and awareness raising
- Planning and policy
- Climate resilient buildings and spaces
- Biodiversity management and restoration
- Emergency management
- Modelling and mapping to inform risk assessments
- Integrated Water Cycle Management
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- Urban greening
- Embedding climate risk in all that we do
- Bushfire management.

Just last year, the State Labor Government also updated the 30-Year-Plan for Greater Metropolitan Adelaide. The update acknowledges the importance of Green Infrastructure for creating safe, healthy and connected neighbourhoods, supporting biodiversity and responding to climate change.

The update also seeks to ensure that new developments are aligned with the provision of appropriate community and Green Infrastructure.

The inclusion of Green Infrastructure will also be considered in the development of the new Planning and Design Code, as foreshadowed in the 30-Year-Plan Update. The Code will be developed in consultation with relevant industry bodies and the community.

The State Labor Government is always listening to the sector and the wider community on how to develop and implement better infrastructure outcomes. We look forward to engaging with you about green infrastructure targets.