



The Lord Mayor - Ms Sandy Verschoor
PRESIDING MEMBER
GPO Box 2252
Adelaide SA, 5001

31 August 2022

The Kadaltilla / Park Lands Authority: Review of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy

Dear Lord Mayor,

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, South Australian Chapter (AILA SA) extends its appreciation to Kadaltilla / Park Lands Authority for the opportunity to provide feedback and our expertise to inform the review and revision of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy (the Strategy).

About AILA

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

We work together to create healthy communities, connected urban green infrastructure, and liveable, sustainable cities and regions. Our 2,800+ members are driven by AILA's values and our advocacy, driven by our Strategic Plan core values of Connection to Country, Climate Change and AILA SA is committed to creating **'A greener, healthier, inclusive and climate resilient South Australia'** which is further embedded in our advocacy approach and highlighted in our Election Manifesto, attached for your information.

The work of South Australian landscape architects is recognised for creating more liveable cities, healthy active spaces, and sustainable design outcomes for everyone. It is fair to say many of our members have helped shape the Adelaide Park Lands, creating the vibrant community spaces for all members of the public.

Feedback on the Strategy

AILA SA supports of the overarching vision of the current 2015-2025 Strategy that "the Adelaide Park Lands will be a globally recognised park system which surrounds and permeates our city and is central to our identity."

We recommend that the first part of any review is an analysis of the objectives and targets outlined in the current Strategy and how the Strategy has performed. This should form part of establishing the next Strategy and to learn from the current successes and issues.

We support and highlight the successful outcomes achieved as a direct result of the current Strategy including the City Skate Park, 'Newmarket' Urban Park, Central Park in the South (Pelzer Park/ Pityarilla), Victoria Park – Final stages and Wayfinding + interpretive signage and many other initiatives completed over the life of the current Strategy.



Our feedback on the current Strategy is that there is a heavy emphasis placed on the objectives, and we question the relevance of the remaining big moves.

We also note there are a range of issues that have become heightened during the recent worldwide pandemic, and these include:

- Increasing tree canopy loss in our cities
- equitable and safe access to quality, local, and green parks and open spaces
- equipping our cities, towns, and regions to be climate resilient in a warming, dry climate
- supporting more people walking and cycling
- authentic and effective reconciliation with First Nations people

In response to these key issues, AILA SA has identified the following four strategic recommendations:

1. Recommendation 1: Develop a concise Strategy

We recommend the revised Strategy includes a more concise summary to highlight and strengthen the impact of the strategic objectives and actions.

We also recommend a simplified structure so there is a clearer hierarchy within the strategy from Vision to Strategic Objectives (ideally measurable) to Actions. A 'strategy on a page' approach will enable simpler messages as an outward-facing community document, reaffirming the strong advocacy role the Strategy will have.

The hierarchy of the Strategy extends to this positioning of the Strategy amongst other City of Adelaide Strategic documents such as the Community Land Management Plans. These documents should present a united overarching vision for the future of the Park Lands.

2. Recommendation 2: Develop a clear and concise Vision for the future of the Adelaide Park Lands

We recommend that two key questions are posed to commence the process – and these include “what is the future of the Park Lands?” and “who are the Park Lands for”? These questions are a critical starting point and should guide the review of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy post 2025.

3. Recommendation 3: Acknowledgement of First Nations

We recommend an authentic and inclusive acknowledgement of traditional owners throughout the Strategy, advancing respectful and authentic reconciliation through the design of our places, links to the cities and connection to the regions.

We also recommend a new approach to designing on Country to provide genuine and meaningful partnerships with First Nations, highlighting the cultural history and relevance within our green publicly accessible open spaces.

4. Recommendation 4: Highlighting and capitalising on the value of green public accessible places

The value of green publicly accessible places for all should be strengthened within the vision for the Strategy.



To capture the value, we recommend including metrics to measure the usage, activity, and modes of access to determine appropriate service levels, amenity provided and create diversity within the Park Lands offering. We question if a review of the current strategy has been undertaken and recommend that an analysis of use and access be undertaken before considering the addition of smart technology, approval of new buildings (public, civic or private) or events (free or ticketed) and locations for new publicly accessible amenities.

We note that the question around smart technology is a granular and detailed question, given the importance of the 10-year plan. Our view is that the use of smart technology is an outcome not a strategic objective nor a good starting point.

Summary

Our four strategic and important recommendations are based on many years of advocacy from AILA and our members across Adelaide and South Australia.

We are very keen to see the next Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy enable even greater appreciation of the Adelaide Park Lands, foster greater use, encourage greater First Nations acknowledgement and inclusion, and the role of the Park Lands in shaping a more climate resilient and greener Adelaide.

We look forward to presenting and answering any questions on our recommendations to Kadaltilla on 22 September. Thank you again for the opportunity to be involved with this consultation process.

Sincerely,

Daniel Bennett

AILA SA State President

Fellow, Registered Landscape Architect 1183



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

South Australian State Election 2022:
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Manifesto

'A greener, healthier, inclusive, and climate resilient South Australia.'

Landscape Architects live and work on the lands of Kaurna people, Peramangk people, Ngarrindjeri people, Nukunu people, Narangga people and for all First Nations people across South Australia.

We care deeply and recognise their connection to Country.

We value walking side-by-side with all First Nations people and we acknowledge our role in advancing respectful and authentic reconciliation through the design of our places, cities and regions.



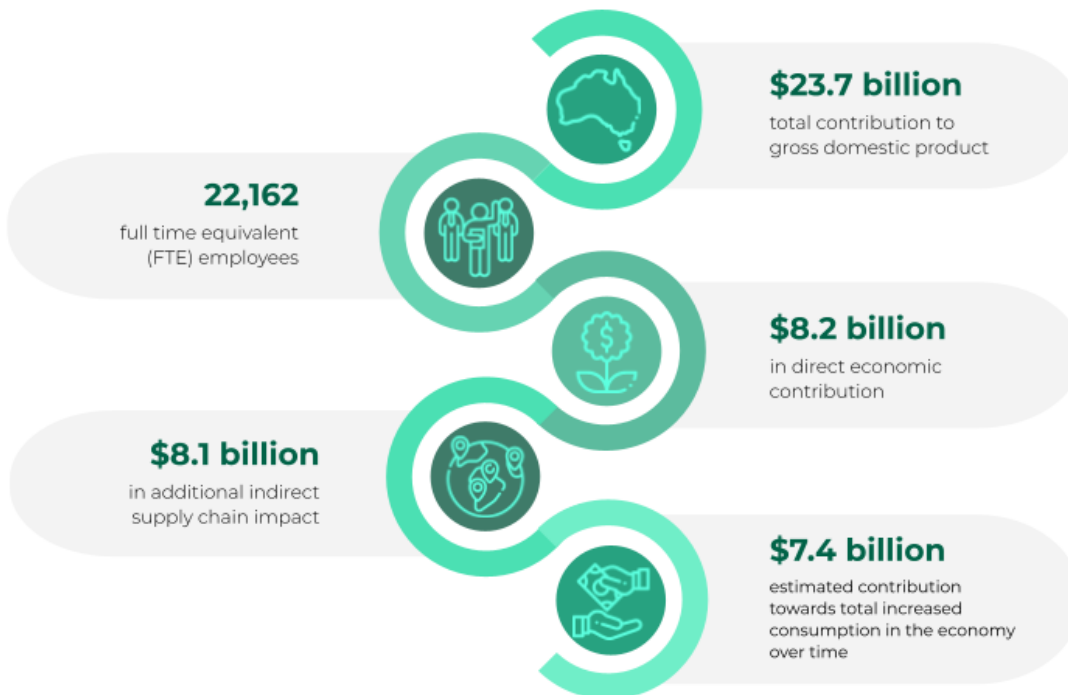
AILA South Australia Election Manifesto

A greener, healthier, inclusive, and climate resilient South Australia



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

Shaping better places: the contribution* of the profession of landscape architecture to Australia's economy:



Additional benefits of

WELL DESIGNED SPACES

Landscape architects generate additional economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits as a result of their work in the design, construction and maintenance of private and public use spaces.



*Draft Economic contribution of landscape architecture industry report, AILA, 2022 (soon to be released).



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Australian Institute of
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We work together to create healthy communities, connected urban green infrastructure, and liveable, sustainable cities and regions.

Our 2,800+ members are driven by AILA's values and our advocacy, driven by our [Strategic Plan](#).

Our Values

1. Climate Positive Design

AILA is committed to supporting our members to achieve Climate Positive Design outcomes. **We adapt with our planet.**

2. Connection to Country

AILA is committed to creating an inclusive and knowledge-diverse profession by encouraging cultural awareness of First Nations people across Australia. **We believe in authentic, practical, and genuine reconciliation.**

3. Gender Equity

AILA is committed to lead a profession that is inclusive, diverse, and equitable for all. **We believe in equal opportunities.**

Our Advocacy

1. Healthy Communities

We advocate for the role parks and open spaces to support people's physical and mental well-being.

2. Urban Green Infrastructure

We advocate for connected open and green places and spaces to improve social, cultural, economic, and environmental outcomes across Australia.

3. Liveable Cities and Regions

We advocate for the critical role open and green spaces play creating culture, belonging, safety, identity, and liveability in our increasingly dense and globalised cities and regions.



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A greener, healthier, inclusive, and climate resilient South Australia



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, South Australia (AILA SA), has been advocating and working with South Australian Governments for over 20 years.

We support positive policies, strategies, and projects that achieve our values and advocacy to create greener, healthier, and climate resilient places for all.

AILA SA calls for the adoption of a range of measures to achieve better lives for all South Australians.

Our state-building priorities are a summary of our advocacy over the last two years on a range of issues.

We are seeking support for four positive priorities:

- 1. Creating a new, single, government agency to coordinate the planning, design, and delivery of South Australia's green infrastructure.**
- 2. Protecting South Australia's Trees**
- 3. Improving South Australia's connectivity by creating better streets for people.**
- 4. A new approach to Designing on Country.**





A greener, healthier, inclusive, and climate resilient South Australia

1. Creating a new, single, government agency to coordinate the planning, design, and delivery of South Australia's green infrastructure.

1.1. New Green Infrastructure Office

A new single agency with the responsibility to plan, manage, and monitor the design of South Australia's green spaces.

It will have oversight of green aspects of all state-funded infrastructure, health, and education projects to ensure greening targets are initiated delivered, managed, measured, reported and protected over time.

1.2. New State Green Infrastructure Policy

A cohesive green infrastructure policy is developed and owned by the new Green Infrastructure Office with targets and reporting, supporting Green Adelaide and South Australia's Climate Change Action Plan.

1.3. Defined, agreed, and measurable targets

- Minimum tree canopy cover targets - currently 20% in the State's 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide
- Minimum tree canopy retention targets
- Minimum targets for new areas of quality green open space
- Minimum targets for stormwater retention, reuse and treatment
- Minimum targets for biodiversity and habitat increase
- All new State Government-funded capital projects must include these targets, form part of their project briefs, and be mandated for delivery
- Builds on the recently announced 'Green Infrastructure Commitment' by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport.

South Australia's leadership in climate change and mitigation must ensure state-funded projects pull their weight - in many instances there is confusion, value management and only passing acknowledgement of state greening targets.

The new agency will positively work with infrastructure, health and education departments to better shape greening outcomes.

2. Protecting South Australia's Trees

2.1. Law reform

Bringing South Australia into line with similar jurisdictions (as outlined in [this report](#)) in Victoria and New South Wales by changing the definition of a Regulated tree to one that:

- has a trunk circumference of 1m or more measured 1m above the ground, or
- has a height of 6m or more, or
- has canopy of over 9sqm.

2.2. Remove current exemptions

Remove the series of exemptions to planning regulations introduced in 2011 that allow the removal of mature trees without approval, including the 10m rule and the 20m rule.

2.3. Restore requirements for consultation on Government funded projects

Restore the requirement for the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and the Department for Education (and other relevant government agencies) to conduct consultation and planning approval before the removal of regulated and significant trees.

2.4. Mandate the Tree Offset Scheme to reflect the true value of trees

Mandate and increase the tree offset scheme fees to match the costs that are consequently passed on to Councils to plant, establish and maintain replacement trees, benchmarked against the City of Melbourne's *Tree Retention and Removal Policy*.

2.5. Improve the Planning and Design Code

Increase the number and size of trees required by the Planning and Design Code to be planted in new developments, with penalties or higher offset costs as outlined in 2.4 above.





A greener, healthier, inclusive, and climate resilient South Australia

3. Improving South Australia's connectivity by creating better streets for people.

3.1. Create a new Active Transport Plan

We recommend the creation of an integrated active transport plan, that sets agreed and measurable targets across South Australia, to provide connected, easy to access, and easy to use walking and cycling alternatives to private vehicle use.

This will build on the current State Cycling Plan and Walking Strategy, which are not coordinated and lack clear, cohesive, and agreed strategic and local outcomes.

The active transport plan is to be used as a key input to all state-funded infrastructure, health, and education projects to ensure walking and cycling connectivity is integrated and aligned with more effective public transport.

3.2. Ensure integrated streets

For all state-funded infrastructure, health, and education projects, ensure all project planning and scoping of projects creates better streets for people, habitat and biodiversity, as well as their new and existing communities.

This must be more than simply 'making good' - it means integrating active transport, greening targets, water sensitive urban design, habitat, biodiversity, and develop projects to become 'good neighbours'.

Moving beyond minimum requirements is the aim - ensuring universally accessible and enjoyable journeys for all are achieved.

For example, using the Transport for London 'Pedestrian Comfort Level Guidance' for all state-funded infrastructure, health, and education projects places pedestrian comfort at the centre of decision making, to encourage greater walking across our cities and regions.

4. A new approach to Designing on Country.

4.1. Authentic, genuine and meaningful partnerships with First Nations

Develop a new and collaborative design approach to First Nations involvement on all state-funded infrastructure, health, and education projects.

This must be a process that is funded, and acknowledges the difficulty in making time to meaningfully engage with First Nations.

We recommend new pathways and targets for First Nations Landscape Architects to be employed to help shape better projects and advance reconciliation in South Australia are included.



AILA South Australia Election Manifesto

A greener, healthier, inclusive, and climate resilient South Australia



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

Contacts

We would be pleased to discuss any aspect of our positive ideas for a better South Australia.

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Relevant Documents

The following South Australian documents are relevant to the priorities outlined in this manifesto:

- [South Australia Climate Change Action Plan](#)
- [Green Adelaide Regional Landscape Plan](#)
- [South Australia Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan](#)
- [Principles of Good Design, Office of Design and Architecture South Australia](#)
- [Creating Greener Places for Healthy and Sustainable Communities: Ideas for Quality Green Public Space in South Australia, Healthy Parks Healthy People, Government of South Australia](#)
- [Green Infrastructure Commitment, Department for Infrastructure and Transport](#)
- [Walking Strategy for South Australia](#)
- [South Australia Cycling Strategy](#)
- [A Call to Action: Protecting Adelaide's Trees](#)
- [AILA's Climate Positive Design Position](#)

