

AILA Queensland

First Nations Connection to Country Committee (FNCC)



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

Terms of Reference

Existing Strategic Link

Sustainable AILA Strategic Pillar

The committee will strive to increase the diversity and cultural literacy of the AILA QLD membership whilst bolstering culturally safe strategies.

Membership Strategic Pillar

The committee looks to create a culturally safe space to support the AILA QLD membership and understanding First Nations perspectives.

Education Strategic Pillar

The FNCC aims to provide opportunities and resources for its members to improve their cultural literacy, this could be through providing clear pathways through CPD frameworks to improve members cultural knowledge.

Profile Strategic Pillar

Provide recommendations to AILA QLD to build the profile of the industry's cultural literacy and positioning.

Positionality of the Committee

As Landscape Architects who are positioned within an industry that has the power and privilege to shape, impact, and modify the human and non-human environment, we have a deep foundational responsibility to care and advocate for Country, culture, and community.

The committee acknowledges its position on Country, and its responsibility to it. Its peoples, lands, waters, skies, in all its relational being. As the committee moves forward all decisions, actions, and aspirations will revolve around and aim to give back to Country.

Purpose & Objective of the Committee

The First Nations Connection to Country Committee aims to draw from our collective lived experience, external relationships, and industry expertise to bridge the gap in learnings and communication for all AILA Members. Through culturally focused initiatives and endeavours, the committee aims to amplify the learnings, hold to the commitments, and help foster

relationships between the broader AILA Community and the Traditional Custodians of the Countries in which they operate.

Objectives & Responsibilities

- Provide a platform to amplify agency of First Nations voices within AILA QLD.
- Provide advice to AILA QLD to assist in building a First Nations Performance Criteria
- Provide advice to the AILA QLD Executive for state directions that centre First Nations knowledges, values, and aspirations.
- Through conversations with First Nations peoples, identify key gaps in learnings/understandings of the AILA QLD membership in relation to First Nations perspectives, the colonial project, and broad cultural sensitivities.
- Formulate, identify, and action industry wide learning opportunities lead by First Nations voices to encourage truth telling.
- Build relationships wherever applicable between the committee and Traditional Custodian groups to raise awareness of landscape architecture industry, its involvement in urban city making, and identify key concerns/opportunities for collaborative endeavours.
- Create opportunities for leaders within the AILA QLD membership to form relationships with Traditional Owner groups within the wider industry community.
- Formulate a yearly recommendation report for AILA QLD on areas for improvement or investment to outline ways in which AILA may keep to its commitments outlined within the AILA RAP
- Encourage and foster interest in First Nations perspectives, Designing with Country, and Reconciliation within the AILA QLD membership
- Advocate to the AILA QLD Executive and AILA Connection to Country Committee (to raise with the AILA Board) to consider adding the following to the AILA Strategic Plan:



- AILA Understands its responsibility to Country and the Traditional Owners of the lands, waters, and sky that they operate within.
- AILA Acknowledges that its governance exists on lands that have always had governance and aims to work in support of these traditions and cultures to work towards co-governance opportunities.

Membership

- Membership open to First Nations peoples within the AILA membership
- Committee will call for members as required.
- Submissions to be reviewed by committee on cultural engagement and proactive intercultural learning to ensure cultural safety for all committee members, First Nations relationships formed by the committee.
- 4-8 First Nations AILA members including Chair/ Co-Chairs (Excluding QLD Executive Member)
- Minimum quorum of 3 committee members
- Term of appointment for chair position will be two years and a maximum of two consecutive terms with the option to continue after two terms at the discretion of the Chapter Executive and Committee.
- Each committee may co-opt up to two people to join the committee from outside the AILA membership. Such co-opted members shall hold office for one year but may be co-opted again for a maximum of four years in succession. These appointments are to be endorsed by the AILA Queensland Executive.

Accountability

- The Committee must adhere to cultural protocol and Traditional Owner aspirations/customs of the localities in which it is operating wherever possible.
- The Committee must acknowledge, respect, and support the individuality of the cultures, practices, and values held by its varied First Nations membership.
- The Committee must, wherever reasonable, seek the endorsement/approval/collaboration of the Traditional Owner groups of the localities in which it is operating for all applicable endeavours.
- The Committee must work in relation to the frameworks outlined within the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The Committee must adhere to adopted National and State Policies and strategies including AILA's Code of Conduct.

- The Committee will liaise with Queensland Chapter Executive, other Chapter Committees and working groups as required and report to the Executive throughout the year (outlined under role of chair)
- To facilitate its work the Committee is to hold face to face or online meetings at least quarterly and up to every six weeks.
- Each member must attend at least 50% of meetings to remain on the Committee.
- No formal minutes from meetings required, action points to be recorded and circulated to Committee members and AILA Chapter Manager.

Review of Terms of References

- The meeting schedules and agendas are to be set by the Chair in consultation with the Committee members.
- The Committee Chair or representative will provide an update to the Queensland Chapter Executive at the following times:
 - Annual President's Breakfast/ Planning Meeting.
 - Annual Chapter Meeting (update to Chapter members)
 - Attendance (online or in person) at one Executive meeting per year.
 - A verbal update at other times may be required.

Review of Terms of References

Terms of Reference will be reviewed as considered necessary, but at least every two years.

Approval Process

Approved By	Queensland Executive
Approved On	
Next Review	