



Climate Positive Working Group

Purpose

To provide advice and support to the AILA Board in setting and implementing policy and activity that supports climate positive design outcomes for the profession.

Background

In August 2019 AILA declared a *Climate and Biodiversity Emergency*. In April 2020 AILA released their *Climate Positive Design Position Statement*. The statement provided three key objectives for members. These were to:

- **Understand** the environmental and carbon impacts of what we do through evidence-based research.
- **Manage and mitigate** these impacts through good planning and design.
- **Advocate and educate** for better understanding of carbon neutral and climate positive design with our clients, colleagues, collaborators, stakeholders and Government.

The position statement commits AILA to the objectives of climate positive design and support for AILA members in adapting to achieve climate positive design objectives. Refer appendices for full statement.

Specifically, it covered:

- Advocating to Government
- Support of AILA members
- Working Co-operatively with others *and*
- Supporting measures that rapidly reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

Scope

The Working Group will assist AILA in the development and implementation of actions which support climate positive design in landscape architecture. Recognising that there are a many area outlined in the AILA in the position statement the working group will need to prioritise and focus activity. Key areas are:

Support for AILA members

- Set the big picture for climate positive design initiatives for AILA across State and Territory groups
- Provide a national point of contact for State and Territory environment and climate committees
- Provide overall guidance and help focus climate positive design initiatives of AILA State and Territory groups to best utilise resources and avoid duplication
- Identify the priority areas that need further development, for actions, tools and resources will make the most difference to members in the short, medium and long term through member engagement
- Investigate means of rewarding members for embedding climate positive design in their work
- Consider ways for members to set targets and measure the impacts of their work
- Investigate opportunities for continuing professional development (CPD) education
- Review if there should be minimum annual CPD points required on climate positive design. (like the Landscape Institute in the UK)
- Examine options for embedding climate positive outcomes in the AILA awards process



Terms of Reference – July 2020

- Identify and delegate the immediate priority tasks on climate positive design to the appropriate State and Territory groups
- Investigate opportunities for a landscape architectural focused climate positive design Wiki page.
- Establish an AILA member roadmap to 2050, with likely time frames and success indicators for the development of AILA Climate positive design initiatives with a focus upon the next 5 years.

Work cooperatively with others

- Engage with international landscape architectural colleagues and climate committee members and groups within IFLA, ASLA, CSLA, NZILA, towards common goals and best use of resources.
- Review best practice development in these agencies and advise on relevance to AILA
- Provide support and advice to the AILA Board and the CEO on climate positive outcomes to build upon existing relationships with ASBEC, AIA, Engineers Australia, PIA, the Landscape Contractors Association and other relevant associations and bodies
- Help establish or build upon existing working relationships for climate positive design between AILA and the CSIRO, the Centre for Co-operative Research for low carbon living, Climate Works Australia, the Climate Council, Beyond Zero Living, the University of Western Sydney Eucface and TERN.
- Research options for certified biodiverse carbon sequestration services for AILA members.
- Develop industry contacts for the development of carbon neutral materials eg concrete, steel etc.
- Investigate opportunities for relationships with agriculture / land sector managers.

Advocate to Government

- Help AILA establish relationships with key political figures regarding climate policy at Federal, State and local levels via relevant local AILA members
- Provide guidance on climate positive design communications with all levels of government

Support measures that rapidly reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions

This component of position statement sets out support for other measures in line with our Paris agreement. These measures have significant impacts on greenhouse gas emissions such as land clearing, land use change and fossil fuel extraction. As it is a large but peripheral area, for the purpose of this initial taskforce, the scope here should focus upon:

- Guidance to AILA on matters relating to support measures listed in the position statement as it arises.

Guidance to AILA

- Advise how AILA itself could be a sustainable leader and become carbon neutral or climate positive and look at how to provide guidance and support to member practices becoming climate positive.
- Provides feedback and advice to the Board on the climate positive design implications on AILA's strategic plan 2018-2022, its policies, position statements, plans and services and any implications for other national committees.
- In line with the above, advise on alignment of climate positive design in other AILA policy statements, other national committees, education programme, code of conduct, strategies etc.
- Provide guidance to AILA on climate positive design messaging in AILA communications
- Investigate funding sources and opportunities for AILA climate positive design initiatives
- Identify areas of potential future research



Terms of Reference – July 2020

- Contribute to the promotion of AILA activities that support and promote climate positive design

Key focus areas and activities

- Early priority to identify key immediate gaps in resources and training for members
- Guiding, delegating and co-ordinating State and territory climate working groups
- Support for members to help with their understanding of their environmental and carbon footprint
- Progressive development of educational resources and continuing professional development outcomes for members including recommendations on priority training modules
- Support the CEO and the AILA board in developing points of contact and relationships with similar committees in other institutes, government agencies, and political figures.
- Provide an initial draft action plan report for AILA within 6 months and a final within 12 months.
- Provide an updated action plan at the end of the two-year term incorporating any updates and learning from actions, implementation and member feedback.

Membership:

- Between 7-10 current financial AILA members
- One AILA Director
- Working group can co-opt members with particular expertise
- Diversity, and gender equity will be considered in the appointment of the working group members
- Geographic spread of members will be considered in the appointment of the working group members given breadth of climate across Australia
- Chair will be appointed by the AILA Board
- Term of appointment two years

Quorum

Four members.

Communications

- Chairperson to communicate regularly with AILA national and the relevant state and territory groups.
- Communications between the taskforce chair and other relevant agencies, associations and bodies to be with approval of the AILA CEO and email communications cc'd with AILA National.
- Media liaison and communications to be by/through the AILA CEO

Accountability / reporting

Report to the AILA Board quarterly.

Provide regular updates to the National Advocacy Committee

Meetings

Quarterly. The meeting of the working group will not necessarily be minuted, however an action list will be maintained and an archive of completed action kept in a central register (e.g. Trello).

Secretariat

AILA Staff member; Primarily limited to setting invites for meetings and group emailing working group as required.