



Department of State Development,
Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

Via Email: SIP@dsgmip.qld.gov.au

19 May 2021

Re: State Infrastructure Strategy and Regional Infrastructure Plans

The Queensland Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) congratulates the Queensland Government on the implementation of a new State Infrastructure Strategy and Regional Infrastructure Plans and welcome the opportunity to provide feedback.

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) leads a dynamic and respected profession: creating great places to support healthy communities and a sustainable planet' The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (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 landscape architects and promotes excellence in planning and designing for life outdoors. Committed to designing and creating a better Australia, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation's liveability through a unique approach to planning issues via integrated design solutions. In doing so, landscape architects contribute towards better environmental, social and economic outcomes for all Australians.

AILA's national position statements on [Green Infrastructure](#), [Child Friendly Cities](#), [Healthy Communities](#) and [Active Travel](#) all examine how an integrated approach can be used to shape the health and wellbeing of a community. Landscape architecture plays an important role in developing these strategies.

While there are minor mentions of Green Infrastructure projects within the State Infrastructure Strategy and Regional Infrastructure Plans, the crucial importance of Green Infrastructure warrants its own separate category. As Landscape Architects, we believe that Green Infrastructure and biodiversity/environment should be a priority.

Green Infrastructure is the network of natural landscape assets which underpin the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental functionality of our cities and towns. Therefore, this provides vital life support for humans and other species within our urban environments. Human settlements are complex, evolving social-ecological systems which are dependent on the health of their associated natural environments for ongoing sustainability.



Green Infrastructure is fundamentally different from other aspects of built infrastructure, in that it has the unique, inherent capacity to enhance and regenerate natural resources, rather than simply minimise the damage to environmental systems.

Green Infrastructure and landscape performance is crucial to underpin the quality of life on the planet.

Prioritising Green Infrastructure within the urban environment will:

- enhance urban ecosystem functionality
- directly impact human performance, health, and well-being
- enhance the effectiveness of responses to climate change at local and regional scales.

Our cities and towns are currently the focus of intensive efforts to reduce resource use and maximise efficiency, in response to escalating social, environmental, and economic pressures from global development, urbanization, population growth and climate change.

How Green Infrastructure assets are managed, at both local and regional scales, can significantly influence the effectiveness of our responses to such challenges.

AILA is currently leading the development of an interim standard for Urban Green Infrastructure and the development of an associated handbook with Standards Australia.

Due to the importance of Green Infrastructure, we encourage the Queensland Government to adopt a separate category for this important aspect of the State Infrastructure Strategy and Regional Infrastructure Plans.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss further, and request that we remain involved in the ongoing development of this strategy. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss, please contact Melanie West, AILA Queensland Chapter Manager on 0417 666 622 or melanie.west@aila.org.au

Yours sincerely,

David Uhlmann
AILA Queensland President