



Australian Institute of Landscape Architects  
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Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

via email. [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)

24 April 2015

Dear Committee,

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) provides this letter to show support for the current Senate Inquiry into the future management of stormwater in Australia.

AILA represents Australian Registered Landscape Architects. Their charter is to lead the planning, design and management of natural and built environments. In so doing, they recognise the complex, multidimensional and interdependent values of landscapes; implement decision-making strategies that protect existing environmental features and ecosystems, enhance existing resources in a sustainable manner, and regenerate lost or damaged ecosystem services; and use innovative, adaptable and responsive processes to design landscapes that respect context and can accommodate change.

The quality of the landscape underpins the viability of life on earth. This quality of landscape is critically reliant on the water cycle and as such AILA welcomes the Senate Inquiry into Stormwater Management in Australia. AILA is committed to the implementation of Green Infrastructure within Australian cities, towns and settlements, integrated urban design, climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental stewardship and community engagement. All these issues pertain to sustainable urban stormwater management.

AILA advocates integrated management of all urban water and waterways, and supports the goals and objectives of the National Water Commission and its National Water Initiative blueprint for water reform, 2014. The blueprint warns against complacency in reforming water governance in Australia and calls for strong leadership to achieve the full benefits of water reform and to embed proven National Water Initiative principles into decision-making at all levels of government. AILA believes that sustainable stormwater management is an important aspect of this water reform. It can be achieved through implementing water sensitive urban design principles as Green infrastructure.

“Green infrastructure is the network of natural landscape assets which underpin the economic, sociocultural and environmental functionality of our cities and towns—i.e. the green spaces and water systems which intersperse, connect and provide vital life support for humans and other species within our urban environments” **Adapting to Climate Change ‘Green Infrastructure’, AILA.**

Green infrastructure includes the networks of planted green spaces and water systems that deliver multiple environmental, social and economic benefits to our towns and cities. Green infrastructure assets include wetlands and waterways, green walls, facades and roofs, trees, parks and reserves, vegetated green areas, etc. Green Infrastructure can harvest, treat and store stormwater as a fit-for-purpose water source in addition to potable water. It can improve water quality of receiving waterways, reduce urban flooding, enhance visual, physical and recreational amenity of urban landscapes, improve thermal comfort, and contribute to intergenerational equity in our cities.

Sustainable stormwater management and Green Infrastructure will contribute to the optimisation of water in our economy, environment and communities. It is fundamental to the sustainability, resilience and liveability of our urban and regional landscapes.

AILA looks forward to the findings and recommendations of the Senate inquiry when the committee reports later in the year. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss please contact Shahana McKenzie, Chief Executive Officer, AILA on 02 6248 9970 or [shahana.mckenzie@aila.org.au](mailto:shahana.mckenzie@aila.org.au)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Frisby', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Frisby

AILA National President