



9 December 2019

Neighbourhood Planning and Urban Renewal (City Reach Waterfront)
Brisbane City Council
GPO Box 1434
Brisbane Qld 4001

Email submission: cityreachwaterfront@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Project team,

Re: Draft master plan for the City Reach Waterfront

The Queensland Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) congratulates Brisbane City Council on the City Reach Waterfront masterplan and welcomes the opportunity to respond.

AILA is the growing national advocacy body representing over 3,000 active and engaged landscape architects, promoting the importance of the profession today and for the future. Committed to designing and creating a better Australia, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to solve macro issues with innovative integrated solutions. Landscape architects contribute leadership, creativity and innovation as they strive to collaborate to achieve better health, environmental, social and economic outcomes. From citywide strategies to the redesign of local parks, landscape architects are making places and spaces more sustainable and productive.

AILA's national position statements on [Green Infrastructure](#), [Child Friendly Cities](#), [Future Street](#), [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 and these statements should be considered in the planning and design phases of the City Reach Waterfront.

As part of the Healthy Communities position statement, AILA insists that planning policy must provide a sustainable and quality approach to open space design and planning which integrates with the following:

- active transport
- aesthetics
- connectivity
- environments for all people
- mixed density
- mixed land use
- parks and open space
- safety and surveillance
- social inclusion
- amenity
- supporting infrastructure

AILA supports Brisbane City Council's intentions to upgrade the City Reach Waterfront. We agree with the vision to create a showcase waterfront, generous in width, connected to its surroundings, and unified by a consistent approach to design.

AILA makes the following comments regarding the Draft City Reach Waterfront Master Plan:

- There is mention within the Master Plan about creating a space that is comfortable through the inclusion of trees to provide shade. However, when reviewing the detail of the Master Plan, there seems to be



limited areas to provide significant trees. An 8-metre-wide paved space adds more hard reflective surfaces to the inner urban city footprint. Providing significant realistic opportunities for trees should be a priority to assist in reducing the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect.

- Due to the likely nature of construction along the walk, no doubt much of the landscape will be on podium. Therefore, there needs to be provision for deep planting on podium to provide sustainable growth to vegetation and achieve generous amounts of shade. This should be a priority in our Queensland climate.
- After review of the benchmark waterfronts around the world, generally they are all quite similar in terms of function and experience. What is it about this City Reach Waterfront that is unique to Brisbane or expresses the Brisbane character or quality? Currently the Master Plan indicates 'The City Reach Waterfront Master Plan aims to create a memorable waterfront that celebrates Brisbane's outdoor lifestyle and identity as a river city'. This statement is broad and similar to numerous other benchmarked waterfronts.
- The Master Plan aims to achieve six qualities of great waterfronts being - Generous, Connected, Engaging, Adaptable, Consistent and Comfortable. This is commendable, however, is unlikely to differentiate this waterfront from other waterfronts around the world. The Master Plan seems to lack significant differentiation to make it totally unique to Brisbane and therefore achieve the aim it sets out to achieve.
- Currently the Master Plan is broken up into 3 areas – Port Office Section, Customs House section and Admiralty section. We believe this adds an unnecessary level of complexity.
- How does this proposal interact with the existing bikeway/walkway at New Farm and Botanic Gardens? Will there be continuity across waterfront experiences as the waterfront stretches beyond the City Reach?
- The Master Plan aims to improve visual connections from the city edge to the river edge. However, due to the amount of private property, buildings, structures and vegetation at the end of most streets this seems unrealistic. There are limited, if any, vistas from city streets to the river which is unfortunate for a City that should be celebrating its position on the river. Two examples are shown below:



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- Improving aesthetics to achieve a consistent style and improve wayfinding is applauded.
- Providing opportunities for people to interact with the water seems unrealistic and unachievable. Connection to the river is likely to be a safety issue as well as significant risk from river traffic, such as boats and the wake of Brisbane City Council City cats.
- Whilst no doubt indicative, the Master Plan graphic and 3D representation indicates numerous palm trees to the waterfront. We believe there should be more consideration regarding the inclusion of palm trees as we do not believe they are necessarily suitable from a character representation as well as provision of shade.

We encourage Brisbane City Council to deliver solutions that are well balanced, create significant improvements at a pedestrian scale, protect the important historical components of the City and deliver to the community a truly unique experience that differentiates this waterfront from any other waterfront.

We congratulate the Brisbane City Council team on making a concerted effort thus far to develop this vision for the City Reach Waterfront. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss further. 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