



## RE: INVESTMENT IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND QUALITY OPEN SPACES AS PART OF STATE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM

Via email

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP

cc: Deputy Premier, Relevant Ministers and Industry Stakeholders

Dear Premier,

We recognise and understand the challenges in balancing both the health and financial well-being of Queenslanders to be of most pressing and immediate concern. The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) on behalf of its members makes an offer to *help the industries hardest hit by Covid-19*. In particular, ours and allied professionals who enjoy the benefits from the design and delivery of **Quality Public Places**, in addition to all those engaged in the Construction, Tourism, Entertainment, Sport and Recreation sectors.

The economic challenges we are facing today are not unfamiliar to the property and construction industries. During the Global Financial Crisis, many experienced a significant downturn in project work. After the 2011 floods, an increase in restoration work and with rising population saw an increased workload across all industry sectors i.e. Health, Education, Tourism, Entertainment, Residential, Infrastructure and Environmental. Our members' varied project experience allows us to see and navigate a 'course' that can best help those in need and provide a critical conduit between numerous allied professionals, contractors and industries. This supports the delivery of projects that can have not only immediate short term but also long-term community benefit.

Our members are distributed across the State in both the capital and in many regional centres. They range from individuals to large internationally recognised companies, all supportive of creating significant and profound community impact and variety in the scale of the work that can be delivered.

AILA's member community are here to help as our mission focuses on **the design, delivery and management of**;

1. **Quality Public Places**, for example, *Southbank, Howard Smith Wharves, Hastings Street Noosa*,
2. **Stronger Communities**, for example, *public open space networks, parks, sporting complexes, and*
3. **Environmental Stewardship**, for example, *ecological restoration (flood, fire, weeds and contaminated waterways)*

We suggest urgent activation by government for the design and delivery of quality public places to improve **Local Visitor Offerings** as one method of contributing to and supporting *Stronger Communities*. There are many types of projects that Landscape Architects can *design and deliver*. These may include, but are not limited to;

- *Streets* – e.g. Quality and inviting environments for retailers, walkable and shaded streets, footpath and street tree upgrades,
- *Central Parks* - adding major & minor regional centre experiences e.g. the wine region of Stanthorpe, agricultural region of Toowoomba, hinterland regions of Tamborine, Maleny and many more,
- *Marine Facilities* - bridges, wharves, waterfront resting points, marinas, surf clubs, waterfronts and public space,
- *Community Facilities* – Playgrounds, schools, outdoor education places, memorials and places of community interest,
- *Sporting Facilities* – Grounds, clubhouses, irrigation and energy efficient lighting for grounds,
- *Public Safety Programs* – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment and improvement programs at public facilities



- *Nature Based Tourism Facilities* – controlling access ways, connecting people to the State’s unique landscape assets, e.g. sand islands such as Moreton and Stradbroke, Daintree forest walks and regional trail networks,
- *Active Travel Infrastructure* – shared footpaths and bikeways, new footbridges and new community connections, and
- *Care of Places* - erosion and weed management and native landscape restoration works.

We also recognise that it takes time to mobilise projects to ensure they are effectively scoped, are sustainable and offer maximum long term social and financial benefit to the community. Providing a range of projects from small to larger scale would enable practices to respond quickly to easy wins while responding to more complex project briefs. This also assists government agencies in releasing funds quickly in compliance with procurement arrangements to keep Queensland companies viable and workers employed throughout the planning, design, construction and maintenance phases of projects.

It is with urgency we seek an opportunity to meet and discuss how Landscape Architects can work for Queenslanders in the *design, delivery and management of Quality Public Places*.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Uhlmann'.

**David Uhlmann**

AILA Queensland President

## ABOUT AILA

**The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)** is the peak national body for the 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 over 3,500 landscape architects and promotes excellence in planning and designing for life outdoors. Committed to designing and creating better spaces in Australia, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation’s livability through a unique approach to planning issues via innovative integrated solutions. In doing so, landscape architects contribute towards better environmental, social and economic outcomes for all Australians.

## AILA POSITION STATEMENTS

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.