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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Built environment professions want next Queensland government to #BuildBackBetter**

Queensland's major professional institutes for the built environment have urged the next Queensland Government to ensure the COVID-19 recovery is an opportunity to "build back better".

The Australian Institute of Architects (AIA), the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) and the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) have called for the economic recovery to focus on designing and building a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future for Queensland.

AIA, AILA and PIA have come together to support five key priorities for Queensland:

1. A new *State Settlement Strategy* to support jobs and coordinate the economic recovery
2. New investments and planning for green infrastructure and open space to meet community expectations
3. Increased resources and authority for the Office of the Queensland Government Architect to prioritise good design
4. New initiatives and investments in housing diversity and affordability, including social and public housing, to support local jobs and community need, and
5. Prioritisation of investment in active and public transport to support an active and healthy community.

PIA Queensland President Wendy Evans said effective planning would strengthen communities, promote equitable economic development, and improve people's choices on where and how they live and work.

"Best practice planning is essential to a strong recovery and a future-ready Queensland. We want to ensure public investment supports this, to deliver better communities," Ms Evans said.

AILA Queensland President David Uhlmann said the COVID-19 pandemic had increased Queenslanders' appreciation for high-quality local open space and green infrastructure.

"In recent months, the value of green infrastructure has been front-of-mind, with people spending increasing time in our parks, reserves, streetscapes and public spaces. It's time for more state government investment to deliver more resilient urban landscapes, achieve water outcomes, increase biodiversity and improve community health," Mr Uhlmann said.

AIA Queensland President Michael Lavery said good design was a powerful tool for the economic recovery that could ensure we remain economically competitive, culturally robust, and environmentally responsive.

"Good design matters, and the Office of the Queensland Government Architect needs more resources so that it can fulfill its role supporting the lifestyles and livelihoods of Queenslanders. The benefits of good design impact our economy, environment, and wellbeing – and the next Queensland Government should invest in the state's design champion," Mr Lavery said.

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