



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

14 June 2018

Response to the Summary framework for consultation - DRAFT State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 *Australian Institute of Landscape Architects - SA Chapter (AILA SA)*

AILA SA thanks SA Health for the opportunity to comment on the Summary Framework for consultation - DRAFT State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 and we are grateful for the ongoing and authentic engagement process being undertaken by the Department. We provide the following feedback in relation to the three key consultation areas as requested.

AILA SA provided a response to the review of the Plan in February and it is clear that some of our ideas and advice have influenced this Summary Framework document. We look forward to ongoing involvement in the finalisation of the Plan.

General Feedback

We find the overall legibility and usefulness of the Summary Framework to be clear and concise. The info graphics and flow diagrams help to better articulate the key principles and depict in a one-page flow diagram what the vision is through to the outcomes of the Plan.

We acknowledge and support a stronger connection and regard for wellbeing in the Summary Framework, however would like to see a stronger reference to mental health alongside the term wellbeing throughout the plan.

AILA SA also supports the need for partnerships across Government and into the private sector to support the vision and deliverables of the Plan. The implementation and Governance structure around who administers and enforces (and delivers) the Plan will be vital to the realisation of the outcomes. Partnerships across Government such as the Health In All Policies (HiAP) initiative that is led by SA Health are encouraged and supported to garner support for the Plan and assist in delivering shared outcomes.

Additionally, we are pleased to see that the Summary Framework suggests the Plan should focus on priority populations first (low socio economic and disadvantaged and indeed indigenous populations) who are most at risk and have the most to gain from the new Plan.

Vision (p9)

AILA SA believes the vision detailed in the Summary Framework clearly articulates the importance of design in shaping stronger healthier communities for people in SA. Landscape Architects can contribute significantly to supporting this vision through the project work our members do in the public realm, and we look forward to continued involvement with shaping The Plan.

A healthy, liveable and socially connected community for all South Australians
Imagine a South Australia where communities and neighbourhoods across our state are

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS – SA CHAPTER

ACN No. 008 531 851 ABN 84 008 531 851

Email: sa@aila.org.au Phone: 0415 555 344 GPO Box 1584, Adelaide SA 5001

friendly, well-designed places that make it easy for people to be active and make nutritious food choices, where it is easy to walk or cycle to access local services, and access public transport to larger centres. The neighbourhoods are vibrant and there are plenty of things to do for people of all ages. Residents of all ages have a say in community life, feel safe and included, celebrate their cultural diversity and look out for each other. This is a vision for South Australia's future and this Plan aims to guide us towards achieving this vision.

Four Strategic priorities: Promote, Protect, Prevent and Progress (page 10)

Promote - Create healthier neighbourhoods and communities

AILA SA recommends re wording the Promote Priority to: *'Create healthier people and places'*. This would simplify the language and bring people to the forefront of the messaging. .

Protect - Protect against public and environmental health risks and adapt to climate change

AILA SA recommends adding some words to the Protect Priority:

'Protect against public and environmental health risks and mitigate and adapt to climate change'

AILA SA believes there needs to be acknowledgment of both the need to mitigate climate change as well as to adapt to it. Mitigation techniques involve a reduction in urban heat island effects through increased protection of the natural environment and increasing our levels of green infrastructure, and through other sustainable design practices. These could be listed as possible indicator areas in the Protect section of the Summary Framework document.

Prevent - Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury

AILA SA wishes to clarify whether the Prevent Priority needs to be specific about including mental health in the description, or whether it is implicit in the term 'chronic disease'.

Progress - Further develop and maintain the state-wide public health system

AILA SA strongly supports strengthening collaborative efforts across the health system and across the government and non-government sector to garner support for the Plan and assist in achieving the deliverables under each of the priority areas.

Deliverable action areas (pp12-16)

We would like to reiterate some key points from our previous correspondence and suggest some focus areas that we believe could be further strengthened or explored in the new Plan, supporting deliverable action areas.

Alignment with the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

AILA SA believes that the Plan could be strengthened even further if it aligns some key targets with those of the 30 Year Plan. There is undoubtedly some cross over priorities between these two plans specifically in creating healthier neighbourhoods and communities, and in adapting to climate change.

This alignment would help in giving the Health Plan an extended life beyond 2024 as many of the outcomes listed in the document will require more time to be actively improved.

Setting Targets for deliverable actions

In relation to targets, it is noted that these are yet to be fully formed. We recommend speaking with DPTI about the process they went through to understand baseline data which then enabled them to set reasonable metric targets in the 30 Year Plan that can be measured over time.

Walkability as a Health Outcome

An area that has been the subject of recent debate is the notion of walkability and the lack of accessible data in South Australia to support and define what makes a place walkable. This is compounded by what AILA SA understands are different walkability index standards from around the world that need interrogation and testing. There are obvious mental and physical health benefits to the community if a place is easy to walk to and through. But the metrics do not exist to measure how and where people are walking, and more importantly where they might want to walk in the future. AILA SA recommends that Health SA meet with the Active Living Coalition who are particularly active and passionate about advocating for walkability data and for a base line to be set to enable real goals to be set to increase people's walking habits, and therefore their health.

We understand that the Coalition is recommending that the Government undertake a Household Travel Survey to understand the travel behaviour of households, including how and why they travel, at what time of day trips are made and the average trip distance and duration. This data is crucial in informing transport and infrastructure planning and understanding demands. AILA SA supports the intent of a Household Travel Survey but wonders if it is possible to use technology to enable the capture of live data via people's mobile phones as an alternative. We understand that this technology is being trialled within DPTI to track public transport movement.

Furthermore, AILA SA recommends that State considers developing a walking strategy for towns and cities.

Walkability as a health outcome could be included in the Promote section of the Summary Framework.

Again, as designers of the public realm, landscape architects are best placed to advise on what qualities could contribute to making a place more or less desirable from a walkability perspective and recommend design solutions to remedy these issues.

Open Space

AILA advocates that government policy must quantify and qualify the development of open space that focuses on the health of our communities. Landscape architects are uniquely positioned to provide essential input into planning and design of quality open spaces. Whether it be early input into broad scale planning or the detail of specific sites, landscape architects can provide an integrated, holistic approach to the planning, design and development of successful, healthy communities. Greater attention must be given to the planning and design of our local communities, shared between state and local governments, to ensure our neighbourhoods do not further contribute to the rising numbers of our community affected by obesity, diabetes, cancer, social exclusion, mental health and loss of productivity, and the associated economic costs to our society.

AILA SA is pleased to co-sponsor with DPTI and ODASA the [Healthy Parks Healthy People \(HPHP\) - Public Open Space Action Plan](#) as part of the HPHP Framework. The vision for this Action Plan "recognises that the provision of quality green public space is essential, in particular for urban infill and renewal sites due to less private green space being available. It needs to be an integral part of urban planning, design, development and management to achieve the desired qualities and benefits."

AILA SA would be pleased to work with the State Government to develop appropriate policy change and new program directions that reconsider how public and private open spaces can be better enabled through new development and urban infill.

AILA SA is committed to advocating for quality open spaces and last year developed the Quality Green Public Space – AILA SA Discussion Paper to inform the Healthy Parks Healthy People Action Plan 2 - [Click Here](#) to review.

Alignment of the key elements of the summary framework to the strategic priorities of AILA SA

We are most supportive of the acknowledgment that spaces or “environments” do contribute to public health and believe this is where Landscape Architects can make the greatest contribution to the Plan and the general health and wellbeing of the State.

More people are choosing to live in cities and built up areas for employment, education and lifestyle opportunities. Increasingly, Landscape Architects are taking leading roles locally and nationally in the planning and redevelopment of urban and regional areas as well as directing major infrastructure projects. The liveability of cities, towns and suburbs will determine their long term economic success and resilience. Landscape Architects are champions for liveable cities, in particular through the professional respect of place and increasingly the integration of green infrastructure in advancing climate change adaption and mitigation.

AILA fundamentally believes that the thoughtful design of both soft and hard infrastructure is critical to the success of planning and reshaping our cities and regional centres to address the challenges of critical social and economic shifts.

Informed development of Australia’s natural infrastructure assets is key to tackling the major issues facing Australia’s cities, towns and regions including; an ageing population, climbing obesity and diabetes rates, reduced fitness particularly in young children, social exclusion and the increasing importance of positive mental health, major transportation challenges, and heat-related deaths.

For more information on AILA’s polices and strategic priorities please see Attachment A.

AILA SA believes the visions of our profession and organisation strongly align with those of SA Health and we welcome the opportunity to continue to work together and provide expert advice as required to help inform this review process into the future.

Please contact Sally Bolton – AILA SA Chapter Manager if you have any questions or require any additional information by email - sally.bolton@aila.org.au.

Yours Sincerely,



Sally Bolton

AILA SA Chapter Manager on behalf of AILA SA Executive

Attachment A – AILA Policies for consideration

AILA Policies

Published 2017

[Adaptation to the Changing Climate: Building Resilience](#)

Published 2016

[Healthy Communities - Healthy Living Landscape solutions_v1_published 11/16](#)

[Active Travel_v1_published 11/16](#)

[Landscape Architects and Bushfires_v1_published 11/16 \(graphic version being finalised\)](#)

[The Critical Role of Landscape Architects in Local Government_v1_published 11/16 \(graphic version being finalised\)](#)

[Green Walls and Roofs_v1_published 04/16](#)

[Cooling Cities_v1_published 04/16](#)

[Designing for an Ageing Population_v1_published 04/16](#)

[Public Transport_v1_published 04/16](#)

[Light Rail Transit_v1_published 04/16](#)

[IFLA Asia Pacific Region's Landscape Charter](#)

Published 2012

[Green Infrastructure- 2012](#)

AILA SA Advocacy

Further information on the work of AILA SA Chapter and advocacy submission can be found here – [SA Advocacy Webpage](#)

Further information on AILA can be found at www.aila.org.au

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