



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

16 February 2018

Response to the Review of the State Public Health Plan South Australia: A Better Place to Live

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects - SA Chapter (AILA SA)

AILA SA is the local chapter representing the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, the growing national advocacy body representing over 3,000 active and engaged landscape architects across the country. We are committed to creating a better Australia that acknowledges the benefits that natural systems can provide for our physical and mental health.

Landscape architects have the skills and expertise to resolve a diverse range of complex issues with innovative, integrated solutions demonstrated in many award-winning projects across Australia. [Click here](#) to view recent AILA National Award-winning projects.

South Australian Landscape Architects value the importance of;

- planning and design in the realisation of high quality outdoor spaces appropriate for our unique climate and landscapes;
- building stronger healthier communities that represent local needs and interests; and
- the stewardship of the broader Australian landscape.

We can contribute leadership, creativity and innovation as landscape architects collaborate with many varied disciplines and stakeholders striving to achieve better, healthier environmental, social and economic outcomes for the built environment. Projects include varying scales from citywide strategies to the redesign of local parks. Landscape architects within government and in private practice work alongside other government and allied professionals in building stronger communities through making places and spaces more sustainable, productive and enjoyable for all.

AILA SA thanks SA Health for the opportunity to be involved in the review process and would welcome the opportunity to be involved in future developments of the State Public Health Plan. We provide the following feedback in relation to the consultation questions provided.

1. How familiar are you with the State Public Health Plan and its purpose?

- AILA SA has been working with the Department of Health and Ageing (DHA), Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on the Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPHP) - Quality Green Public Space - Action Plan 2 as part of the HPHP Framework and acknowledge the deliverables of this work support many of Government's priorities, such as the State Public Health Plan including the Health in All Policies approach
- AILA members involved at government level may be aware of the State Public Health Plan and be aware of the higher level collaborative policy relating to it
- AILA members in private practice are less likely to be aware of it unless projects specifically relate to the health sector

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS – SA CHAPTER

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- AILA members have noted that even working with other key government agencies including education, health, aged care, planning and infrastructure, the State Public Health Plan has not been referenced

2. The State Public Health Plan's vision is South Australia: A Better Place to Live (p51). What feedback do you have about this vision?

- The intent of the vision is qualified however the wording should be refined to reflect current health and well-being terminologies
- As an example, AILA SA suggest it reads “good health is part of our lives and it helps us achieve all that we want”
- We note that the six factors simply articulate a normal process of decision making and are not necessarily helpful in a document like this - it is much more useful to skip to the next paragraph where there is a helpful example
- Final paragraph under Vision – could this suggest actions and more measurable targets
- It is always important to have policies that underpin the planning, design and maintenance of quality public spaces and places

3. The State Public Health Plan is supported by four strategic priorities (p52). These are:

- Stronger and Healthier Communities and Neighbourhoods for All Generations
- Increasing Opportunities for Healthy Living, Healthy Eating, Being Active
- Preparing for Climate Change
- Sustaining and Improving Public and Environmental Health Protection

What feedback do you have about these strategic priorities? Are there any additional priorities you would like to see included in the future?

- The four priorities seem to be disconnected to the vision
- Priority 1 - We note that the “stronger and healthier communities” language is in line with the Updated 30 Year Plan which is a very important connection
- Priority 2 - suggest rewording to **“Increasing Opportunities for Healthy Eating and Being Active leading to mental resilience and wellbeing”** We suggest deleting healthy living as it encompasses all
- Priority 3 - needs wording to be more proactive and highlight actions around climate change adaptation – suggest replacing with **“responding to climate change by embracing green infrastructure to achieve a better place to live”**
- Priority 4 - Suggest the word sustaining is deleted and **“Improving Public and Environmental Health Protection”**
- AILA SA believes that supporting the mental health and well-being of our people is critical
- There did not seem to be obvious mention of mental health and the role that access to nature can play in improving that aspect of people’s lives or the role of place making in building communities
- Green Infrastructure is a critical element to embed in future polices to support the visions and priorities of The State Health Plan
- In looking to the future, we suggest the following ideas for priorities are reviewed and considered

- Inclusivity, ageing, smart cities, technology, culturally sensitivity health practices, diversity, indigenous health, accessibility
- AILA SA suggest more clarity is needed on how The State Health Plan acknowledges people and communities in disadvantaged socio-economic areas. As it currently stands The Plan seems to be heavily focused on metropolitan Adelaide

4. What aspects of the Plan have been useful to your work?

- Page 20 - The Spectrum of Public Health Action is very useful for landscape architecture professionals, given it is a graphic representation of how our profession can improve public health make evident/clear for an audience
- General diagrams like these are useful for communicating complex ideas to diverse audiences and could be used more throughout
- Imagery used within the documents should reflect the diversity of our communities

5. What aspects do you believe were not useful and how this could be improved?

- The Plan needs to be updated in relation to the current status of the Planning Reform Process in SA
- Page 64 requires a detailed review in relation to current documents, resources, policies that inform The Plan
- AILA SA suggest that the section on Green Infrastructure should be repositioned in The Plan upfront and expanded. It should also be listed as a priority given its importance in achieving many of The Plans priorities (as detailed in the priorities question above)
- Page 72 – we note this section could be reinforced ‘A touch of green is good for you’
- Page 80 – we note this section could be reinforced ‘System Building Actions’ Support the development of governance processes across the State Government sector that specifically incorporate public health factors in planning assessment and policy development

6. What aspects do you believe are missing from the Plan that you would like to see included in the new Plan?

- Page 22 - we note in the Public Health Tool Box - Local Government is listed as a party for delivering public health outcomes through local Government open space provision, parks and gardens action plans etc
- It could be helpful to include other Government agencies/ industry organisations / professions /health professionals
- The inclusion of Case Study examples is always extremely useful to highlight visions and priorities – eg [Living Lab Tonsley, City of Adelaide – Colonel Light Centre Forecourt and Green Wall](#), [New Royal Adelaide Hospital \(NRAH\) – TRACT Consultants](#)
- The Plan could include references / links to clauses within the new Planning System as this evolves, that could then be enforced by Local Government through the planning process of conditioning and approving well designed streetscapes, reserves and other urban places.

7. Any other general comments?

- AILA SA believes this should be a high-level document given to all Government Departments and Agencies to ensure better outcomes for our cities and communities across the State
- AILA SA questions where The Plan sits in relation to the updated 30 Year Plan targets and how this relates to Adelaide?
- A collaborative and coordinated approach is critical to connect the people who implement the vision and priorities eg. researchers, landscape architects, designers, medical professionals and many others
- Collaboration is needed for writing better health plans – partnerships need detailed input from the many people who contribute to the health of our communities
- Landscape architects can act in two roles to assist in the development of healthy communities such as:
 - Designing places which are generally undertaken by private consultants including landscape architects; and
 - Advising, developing and/or reviewing policies, conditions and designs for open spaces which usually lies within the realm of landscape architects operating in public practice, particularly local government.
- AILA SA strongly believes that the briefing process for all projects is critical – access to health professionals involved as end users in these projects is fundamental to support better outcomes for our communities
- AILA SA suggests mandating green infrastructure targets for all state funded infrastructure projects is critical to building stronger healthier communities in our state
- AILA SA suggests that Health Victoria may have visions/targets and deliverables/standards that could be useful to review as part of this review process
- AILA SA is also happy to provide detailed information about other relevant national projects, research initiatives, tools and policies relating to cities and health if this could be of assistance
- Page 59 –We note the detail in this Section 2 – Increasing Open Space and seek confirmation around the details and actioning of this initiative
- AILA SA would like additional information included on the tangible outcomes and how SA Health has started to action the vision and goals since the development of The Plan in 2013
- Suggest rewording title to *South Australia: A Healthier Place to Live* to strengthen the health aspect

AILA SA encourages SA Health to review the AILA policies provided below in Attachment A, to help inform this review and development of the new Plan. Most recently AILA SA has developed [Quality Green Public Space – AILA SA Discussion Paper](#) to inform our work on the Healthy Parks Healthy People - Quality Green Public Space - Action Plan 2.

Our ongoing work with the Department of Health and Ageing (DHA), Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and the Office for Design and Architecture SA (ODASA) on this project is critical to elevate the value of Green Infrastructure as a key mechanism for building stronger healthier communities in SA.

Green Infrastructure principles are fundamental to inform the development of policy, guidelines and technical content as part of the new Planning System and we believe have strong connections to achieving targets and priorities for The State Health Plan.

AILA SA believes the visions of our profession and organisation align strongly with those of SA Health and we welcome the opportunity 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Bolton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

Sally Bolton

AILA SA Chapter Manager on behalf of AILA SA Executive

16 February 2018

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](#)

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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