



MEDIA RELEASE
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DESIGN PROFESSION MAINTAINS CALL FOR PARLIAMENT TO COMMIT TO A MORE LIVEABLE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects - SA Chapter (AILA SA) urges members from both Houses of Parliament to return in 2016 with a renewed focus on planning reform. "AILA SA commends the Minister for the ambition to transform the planning system, and in particular the greater focus and central position design is given in the new framework for planning, development and infrastructure in South Australia" said AILA SA President, Ben Willsmore.

The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Bill is the first step in the transformation of the planning system. The Bill identifies a number of key 'tools' that are yet to be detailed, including the Planning Commission, Planning and Design Code, Design Standards and Design Review. The strength of these 'tools' will determine the effectiveness of the Bill and its impact in unlocking the next generation of development that collectively contribute to a more liveable and resilient South Australia.

The Urban Growth Boundary is proposed as one of these 'tools' to drive reform. AILA SA is disappointed at the recent decision by the Upper House to block the changes proposed by the Planning Minister. "AILA SA recognises the long term importance of our natural environment and agricultural lands and supports the greater protection provided by the State's proposals" he said.

Similarly, AILA SA also recognises the wider strategic importance the boundary provides in supporting a more sustainable urban form across Adelaide and its regional areas.

"When Parliament resumes in early 2016, AILA SA urges members to give greater attention to how the Bill can aspire to creating affordable living across South Australia rather than limiting debate to singular and subjective perspectives," said Mr Willsmore.

Affordable living and increased liveability recognises the quality of lifestyle that can be provided through new development. It considers the financial, environmental, social and economic opportunities for people to live within their means. It also considers the equity and diversity of the lifestyle and increasingly its impact towards climate change and a more sustainable and resilient future.

Without limitation of sprawl, new expanding developments may make housing affordable but the resident's lifestyle may be poorer due to increased travel time and cost commuting greater distances between work and home as well as lost productivity (congestion), isolation from family and friends, increased food costs (due to loss of local agricultural land) and limited access to local services and infrastructure (public transport, schools, shops, clinics) and increase the state's carbon footprint. Sprawl significantly impacts on the costs to government and the community in infrastructure supply and the subsequent long term liabilities to service the expanding lower density suburbs. The loss of natural environment and agricultural land also has a significant impact to lowering state productivity, biodiversity, tourism appeal and sustainability.

An Urban Growth Boundary provides greater certainty to investors, industry and the community. Its existence would provide a catalyst to develop a more compact and sustainable urban form within South Australia's existing metropolitan footprint. The limitation of sprawl would drive innovation to new affordable forms of housing.

AILA SA urges the Minister to expand the opportunity for engagement across government, industry and communities in 2016 to ensure the aspirations of the Bill can be realised.

"The resilience of our cities, towns and suburbs to climate change will underpin their long term economic future. The Bill must develop tools that focus on liveability through the design of high quality and sustainable built environment. The next generation of suburbs, buildings, public spaces and streetscapes must be better enabled through a planning system that positively contributes to the long term sustainability of South Australia" concluded Mr Willsmore.



Australian Institute
of Landscape Architects

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About the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is the growing national advocacy body representing 2500 active and engaged landscape architects, and promoting their crucial role in shaping the world around us. AILA provides its members, based in urban and rural Australia, and overseas, with a wealth of continuing professional development and support services, and positions landscape architects at the forefront of developing the policies that shape our towns, cities and regions. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. Alongside government and allied professions, AILA works to improve the design, planning and management of the natural and built environment. www.aila.org.au