



Australian
Institute of
Architects

Australian Institute of Architects

Policy Position Request

**Key Policy Positions on
Architects and Architecture**

February 2014

SUBMISSION BY

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PURPOSE

- This submission is made by the Australian Institute of Architects – SA Chapter (the Institute) to major political parties, seeking their policy position on key issues impacting architect's and architecture.
- This submission has been prepared SA Chapter State Chapter Council.

INFORMATION

Who is making this submission?

- The Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) is an independent voluntary subscription-based member organization with approximately 12,000 members Nationally and 900 within South Australia. Members are bound by a Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.
- The Institute, incorporated in 1929, is one of the 96 member associations of the International Union of Architects (UIA) and is represented on the International Practice Commission.

Where does the Institute rank as a professional association?

- At approximately 12,000 members, the Institute represents the largest group of non-engineer design professionals in Australia.



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We all benefit from a built environment in South Australia that is more productive, sustainable and liveable. This becomes even more critical with downward pressures on our economy.

The Australian Institute of Architects promotes policies and reforms that advance our built environments and enhance our lives. We aim to help improve the quality of that built environment for the improved wellbeing of the residents of South Australia.

Architects play an important role in shaping our future, working to raise design standards across the state and to make South Australia a better place for all of us.

We wish to inform our members of key policy positions held by major political parties, to assist our members in placing their votes in the upcoming South Australian election. Your responses will be distributed to our members prior to the state election.

Can you please provide the Institute with your policy positions on the following key issues by Wednesday March 5th.

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1. Design Quality

The key to the best designed cities and towns is having the best people involved at the right times and supported by good processes. Adelaide can celebrate a history of good design outcomes and it is important this continues so as to both retain and attract talented people and to grow the economy.

- 1. Will your party maintain the role of the Government Architect supported by a multi-disciplinary design team such as ODASA?*
- 2. Do you support a legislated role for design review as an important part of design quality in the built environment?*
- 3. Will you undertake to develop measures beyond the current development plan to ensure design quality in the built environment?*
- 4. Will you significantly increase resources for expert and qualified heritage advice to local government and communities?*

2. Industry Participation

The Institute supports the objectives of the SA Industry Participation Policy. The policy principles are designed to apply above a project threshold of five million dollars. As many projects undertaken by architects and allied design professionals fall under this threshold there is a risk that these principles fail to be applied to projects of lower value thereby disadvantaging the architectural profession (and procurers funding projects under this threshold).

1. *Will you apply the principles advocated by the SA Industry Participation Policy to the architectural profession and the procurement of design services?*

3. Professionalism

There is an expectation today, by Government, the public, consumers and insurers, that the providers of professional services are maintaining their knowledge, skills and competencies. This is also reflected in many Acts of Parliament that regulate certain professions and their governing bodies. Architects are no different and are mandated under legislation in many Australian states to undertake continuing professional development (CPD). This is one way architects can ensure their knowledge, skills and competencies are current.

There is a high level of risk involved in the complex process of creating the built environment which is addressed by a range of professional service providers. A number of these disciplines are legislated to manage risk (eg structural engineers and certifiers). Architects are most often the profession initially engaged to commence and then facilitate these projects. The involvement of architects in projects should be legislated to ensure better quality outcomes for the people of SA.

- 1. Will your party legislate the role of architects in buildings?*
- 2. Will your party commit to amending the Architectural Practice Act 2009 to mandate CPD for the architectural profession?*

4. Planning

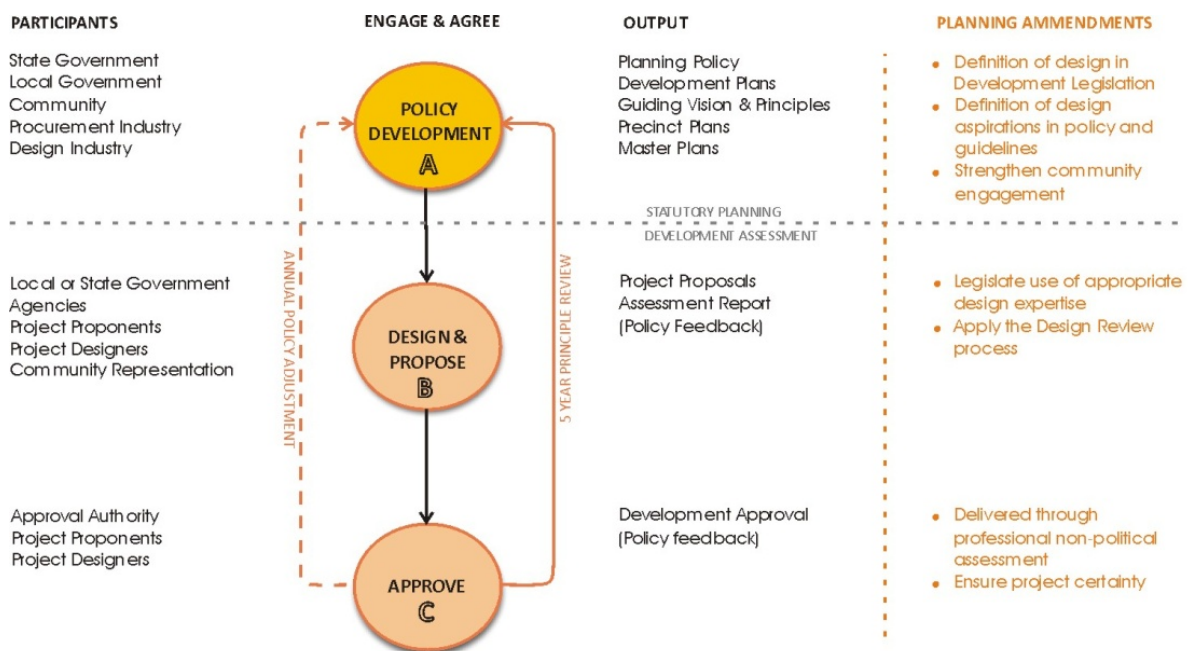
The Institute believes that good planning starts with a design-led engagement process to generate better development policies, design guidelines and stated outcomes for the built environment and the community. This process should ensure community engagement along with all levels of government and the design and procurement industries.

With better and clearer development policies in place, projects can be more efficiently facilitated by appropriate professionals.

This paves the way for a more straightforward approval process undertaken by approval bodies (staffed with appropriate professionals) that may include a community representative (elected member). This clarifies the role of professional and non-professional and delivers greater efficiency and certainty for participants.

A review mechanism, providing ongoing review and accountability throughout the cycle, reinforces community engagement and ensures ongoing policy correction to achieve the best long term outcomes.

This model is shown below:



1. Do you support the process of design led engagement, through shared vision and guiding principles?
2. Do you support the creation of better development policy and guidelines through broad consultation with Government, community and industry (designers and procurers), that focuses on performance outcomes thereby removing non-professionals from project assessment and certification?
3. Do you support the ongoing planning reform?