



Australian Institute of Architects

MEDIA RELEASE

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Architects welcome NSW Government design policy

The Australian Institute of Architects has welcomed the launch of the draft design policy *Better Placed* by NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes this morning.

'New South Wales is currently the only Australian state with design legislation. SEPP 65 and its accompanying Apartment Design Guide provide a base level of design excellence that has delivered a major improvement in apartment design quality for the last 14 years', the Institute's NSW President Shaun Carter said today.

'The new policy aims to deliver a similar improvement in the quality of all new development as New South Wales meets the challenges of an increasing population.

'It will inform a new era of design-led planning that has the potential to make the state's towns and cities more individual and interesting.

'It will give them a better sense of place reflecting the values and interests of their communities', he said.

'Creating more interesting and lively places in which to live and work is not just good in itself.

'It will also enable New South Wales to attract the innovative organisations and skilled work force we need to improve our competitiveness in the global economy.

'Architects and other design professionals apply joined-up design thinking in all our projects', Mr Carter said.

'We look at the context of the individual building or place and aim to deliver a result that benefits the whole community, not just the organisation that commissions it.

'The new policy provides the opportunity to apply that kind of holistic problem-solving to the planning and design of precincts, towns and cities', he said.

'Our visualization skills will help to explain to the community how different planning schemes could potentially affect the places they live in.

'We applaud the Minister for this refreshing new approach to the planning challenges of the 21st century.

'The draft policy is a testament to the renewed relevance of the Office of the Government Architect following its move to the planning portfolio.



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It's a fitting celebration of its 200th birthday.

We look forward to the opportunity of working with the Office on the next stage of the policy's development.

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The Australian Institute of Architects is the peak body for the architectural profession, representing almost 12,000 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute actively works to improve the quality of our built environment by promoting quality, responsible and sustainable design. Learn more about the Institute, log on to www.architecture.com.au.