



Australian Institute of Architects

MEDIA RELEASE

17 June 2015

Local developers urged to use local architects

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) has given evidence to the Legislative Council's Inquiry into Built Heritage Tourism, urging governments and developers to use local architects to ensure the right balance between development and conservation.

The Immediate Past President of the Institute in Tasmania, Mr Andrew Williamson, gave evidence to the inquiry this afternoon, saying Tasmania's reputation as a leading tourism destination has grown enormously over the past decade, with the state's built heritage assets playing a major role in attracting visitors from interstate and overseas.

Many of these have become much-loved icons of the state's tourism industry and are wonderful examples of the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, said Mr Williamson.

The Institute supports the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, Mr Matthew Groom's recent comments that heritage experts have long recognised that Tasmania's built heritage will be better protected if we can become world leaders in adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, particularly in tourism.

However, the challenge for governments and developers is to provide sensitive, well-considered developments that are in accordance with the *Burra Charter: Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*.

With the increasing regulation of the building industry, successful adaptive reuse is a highly skilled design process. Tasmanian architects are uniquely placed to ensure high quality architectural outcomes for the state's built heritage, having an unparalleled understanding of the Tasmanian built and natural context. Living in this beautiful state, they have skin in the game ensuring sensitive long-term destinations for national and international tourists and the success of the industry as a whole.

For further information or to organise an interview with Mr Williamson, please don't hesitate to contact Jennifer Nichols on 6214 1505 or at jennifer.nichols@architecture.com.au.

For media enquiries contact:

Jennifer Nichols

**Manager, Tasmanian Chapter,
Australian Institute of Architects**

P. + 61 (3) 6214 1505 | M. +61 (0) 0409 216 526

jennifer.nichols@architecture.com.au