



# Australian Institute of Architects

## Policy Position Request

### Key Policy Positions on Architects and Architecture

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#### 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 architects and architecture. This submission has been prepared by the SA 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 11,000 members nationally and over 800 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 11,000 members, the Institute represents the largest group of non-engineer design professionals in Australia.

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, with quality of lifestyle being a key attractor for new enterprise and investment

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 the built environment for the improved wellbeing of the residents of South Australia

Architects play an important role in shaping our future and delivering high quality design and design led thinking across the state to make South Australia a better place for all of us.

We have identified three key areas affecting our members

- 1. Design Quality and Planning Reform**
- 2. Industry Participation and Procurement**
- 3. Professionalism and Public Safety**

and would appreciate your response to these issues 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 election.

## **1. Design Quality + Planning Reform**

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 excellent design outcomes and it is important this continues in order to retain and attract talented people and to grow the economy.

- 1. What is your party's position in relation to the planning reform process currently underway and what do you believe are the key tasks to achieve effective implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016?*
- 2. Does your party support the role of the Government Architect operating in conjunction with a multi-disciplinary design team such as the Office for Design and Architecture SA and what do you believe their primary remit should be?*
- 3. Will your party ensure that review of building design is undertaken by architects whether through Design Review or through engaging architects as 'accredited professionals' responsible for design based assessment in the new planning system?*
- 4. Do you support the expansion of the design review process to include all government projects?*
- 5. Does your party support the value of design led thinking and the involvement of architects at the feasibility stage of built environment projects?*

## 2. Industry Participation + Procurement

The Institute supports the objectives of the SA Industry Participation Policy and believe that Government should be an exemplar in the procurement of services.

6. *Will you apply the principles advocated by the SA Industry Participation Policy to the architectural profession and the procurement of design services?*
7. *Will your party support an independent review of recent procurement methodology for government projects to determine which contracting arrangements are delivering the highest benefit on multiple bottom line assessment?*
8. *Does your party support the engagement of local architects at project inception, brief establishment and feasibility analysis for all government projects in the built environment to optimise delivery of the IPP?*
9. *Further to Item 7, will your party consider the value of continuing roles for the managing architect in government projects through contract administration to provide independent expertise which will optimise the delivery of built outcomes that satisfy design intent and IPP specification?*

## 3. Professionalism and Public Safety

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. Architects are no different and are mandated under legislation in many Australian states to undertake continuing professional development (CPD).

Recent Australian and overseas examples of life safety issues resulting from non-conformant/ non-compliant built outcomes has heightened the focus on the control of importation and use of building products. However, non-conformance/ non-compliance is a highly complex issue that extends beyond specific materials and needs to be addressed by multiple stakeholders including all levels of government

10. *Does your party recognise the value of a system which requires design and documentation validation by a registered architect at key stages of complex building projects?*
11. *Will your party commit to amending the Architectural Practice Act 2009 to mandate CPD for the architectural profession?*
12. *Will your party support a system that mandates independent inspection by registered professionals at key stages during construction as opposed to self-certification by contractors?*