



Australian Institute of Architects

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## Cities Minister opens up Tasmanian opportunities

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute), has welcomed the appointment of Australia's first Minister for Cities and the Built Environment, saying it is an opportunity for Tasmania to take a lead role.

The State President of the Institute, Mr Brad Wheeler, says the appointment of the Honourable Jamie Briggs MP to the role is a huge step forward in the planning and development of the cities where the majority of Australians live.

"As the new Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, pointed out when appointing Mr Briggs to the role, it is vital for our future and competitiveness that every level of government works together, constructively and creatively, to ensure that our cities progress," Mr Wheeler said.

"We are also encouraged by Mr Turnbull's comments that liveable cities, efficient, productive cities, and the environment of cities, are economic assets. We agree that this is often overlooked and that ensuring our cities and regional centres are positive and productive places to live should be a key priority for every level of government.

"With Mr Briggs working within the Ministry of Environment, we believe this is an excellent step forward in driving reforms that better connect built environment policies and programs across all levels of government. The Institute is confident this will lead to a more cohesive approach to developing a new agenda for the nation's cities, including those in Tasmania which are so critical to the state's future prosperity. We believe there is a real opportunity for Tasmania's cities to be used as test cases for programs that could then be implemented in other regional cities around Australia.

"I would also encourage the new Prime Minister to consider appointing a Federal Government architect office to further promote high-quality buildings and public spaces, and provide expert, high-level strategic advice; adopt an urban design policy; and develop strategic planning for the built environment to promote globally competitive, sustainable and socially inclusive urban centres and towns."

For further information or to organise an interview, please contact Brad Wheeler at [wheelerfamily@netspace.net.au](mailto:wheelerfamily@netspace.net.au) or Jennifer Nichols on 6214 1500.

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The Australian Institute of Architects is the peak body for the architectural profession, representing 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](http://www.architecture.com.au)