

Social Planners Network of South Australia

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DPTI.ODASAconsultation@sa.gov.au

Dear ODASA

Local Design Review Scheme – Universal Design - Social - Flexibility

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Local Design Review scheme.

About the Social Planners Network of South Australia

The Social Planners Network of South Australia (SPN) is a group of professionals from a wide range of fields with an interest in high quality social outcomes for communities across the state. In the main SPN members are urban planners, social planners and community services staff working in local government. SPN also includes representatives from State agencies and private consultancies with expertise in these disciplines. There are more than 100 members.

The views expressed in this submission are those of the SPN members who contributed to it, reflecting their specialist expertise, and are not necessarily reflective of the views of the organisations our members are employed by.

Overall Comment

SPN commends the innovative work and progress in getting the framework and approach to local design review to this proposal stage. We also acknowledge the opportunity to hear about the proposed scheme through the joint Planning Institute of Australia and Australian Institute of Urban Studies seminar.

Much of the scheme adopts lessons from the State equivalent scheme and puts forward goals, guidelines and processes which would enable the scheme to operate effectively.

The primary point SPN wish to make is that the role of expertise in universal design, Aboriginal voice, and the social and cultural aspects of design needs augmenting.

Terms like 'community' can sometimes mask the diversity of understanding, need and experience of a diverse community.

Recognition that communities are highly diverse and that expertise in understanding that and then applying that to the relevant 'design' is important.

Universal Design Expertise

Noting disability impacts around 20% of the population, Universal Design also benefits a wider range of people such as people who are older, injured, or with prams.

The Draft Local Design Review Scheme for SA appropriately recognises the PDI Act Section 12 'that support or promote universal design for the benefit of people with differing needs and capabilities.' We note there are professionals who specialise in access access.asn.au/

This should be recognised explicitly in 2.5 Design Panel Selection Process under section 2 such as by reference to professionals with expertise in universal design and access

Aboriginal Cultural Voice

We note the number of Aboriginal people practicing architecture, landscape architecture and many professions are low. We note these professions and tertiary educational institutions are working to increase this.

Where projects have an impact on aboriginal communities, those communities and individuals with cultural knowledge and standing could not be recognised as having 'design expertise' as currently proposed within the draft Scheme.

Professional practices like this Scheme need to recognise and enable non-professional 'cultural authority' to find voice.

Suggest section 2.5 point 2 be refined to enable the designated entity flexibility to select Panel Members who possess qualifications and/or cultural expertise sufficient to provide 'cultural authority'

Social and Community Expertise

There are professionals who specialise in social and community planning and development. Cultural planning – including around Aboriginal connection to country and culturally and linguistically diverse communities – forms part of this.

Sports and recreation design expertise would also not be recognised in the description of qualifications as currently drafted.

Note this points reference to 'development' relates to developing 'community' rather than the planning system definition of 'development'.

This expertise should be recognised in 2.5 Design Panel Selection Process under section 2 such as by a reference to professionals with expertise in social and community planning and development, including design expertise for sport and recreation.

Less Stringent Guidance Around Qualification

SPN notes section 2.5 point 2 states 'All panel members and Chairs must have at least

a) a tertiary degree in a relevant field, such as— i. Architecture; ii. Ecologically Sustainable Design; iii. Landscape Architecture; iv. Urban Design; and

b) 10 years of professional experience relating to that field.'

Architecture and Landscape Architecture have tertiary level accredited courses. However, Ecologically Sustainable Design and Urban Design have people from a variety of tertiary level qualification backgrounds with expertise in these areas. The same can also be said for social and community planning, and for universal design and disability access.

Suggest section 2.5 point 2 be refined to enable the designated entity flexibility to select Panel Members who possess qualifications and expertise from practice sufficient for that purpose.

SPN notes 2b refers to '10 years professional experience' and 3a refers to 'highly experienced within their field'. 'Highly experienced within their field' is preferred as this can recognise diversity of experience – First Nations cultural authority or lived experience of disability - rather than solely paid work.

Suggest 2b be reviewed to provide flexibility with respect to 'highly experienced within their field' rather than constrained solely to a particular 'professional' experience.

New Communities

SPN notes a suggestion via the seminar that this scheme may be useful for new green-fields subdivisions. As urban and regional planners' expertise is around planning towns and communities, this expertise should be envisaged for use with regards to new land divisions and communities being created.

If this scheme to be extended to proposed larger land divisions and master planned communities, be it greenfield or brownfield, urban and regional planning expertise should be added to section 2.5 point 2

Conclusion

On behalf of the SPN, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the development of this important scheme. SPN looks forward to the successful preparation of a Local Design Review Scheme for South Australia.

Yours sincerely

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On behalf of the **Social Planners Network South Australia**

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