

# Awards for Planning Excellence

*South Australia*

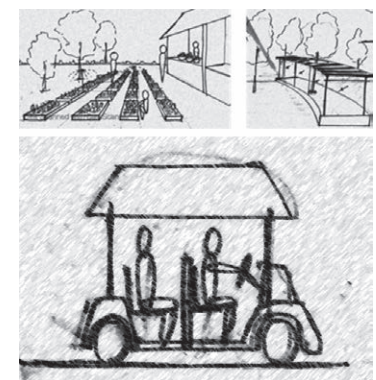
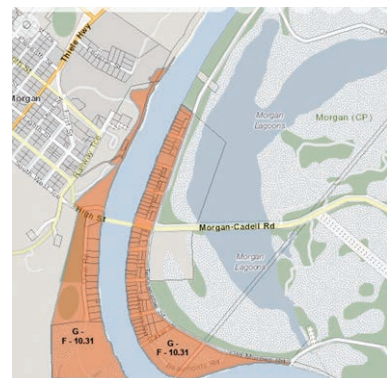
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**20** AWARDS FOR  
**23** Planning  
Excellence

South Australia

PLANNING INSTITUTE  
OF AUSTRALIA



# Contents

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Message from the Awards Convenor .....	04
Message from the SA President .....	05
2023 PIA SA Awards Sponsors .....	06
2023 PIA SA Division Committee .....	06
2023 PIA SA Judging Panel .....	07
Award Winners & Commendations .....	08
President's Award .....	09
Minister's Award .....	10
Fellow Award .....	11
Young Planner of the Year .....	12
Climate Change & Resilience .....	14
Improving Planning Processes .....	15
Planning Champion .....	16
Planning Research .....	17
Stakeholder Engagement .....	18
Technology & Digital Innovation .....	19
Tertiary Student Project .....	20
Strategic Planning Project .....	21
2023 Award Winners .....	23

# Message from the Awards Convenor

I always feel privileged to be asked to convene the PIA SA Awards Judging Panel and this year is no exception. The number of nominations this year was less than usual, probably due to great extent to industry workloads and some bigger projects not being award ready but the quality was nonetheless excellent, with very worthy projects and planners.

It was a source of great satisfaction to the judges that there was significant input from our young planners this year, with good numbers for both the Tertiary Student and Young Planner categories, all with outstanding quality, giving us all heart that the future of planning is in excellent hands.

Several of the categories proved difficult to judge with the panel being kept very busy coming to their decisions, with some very close Commendations being awarded.

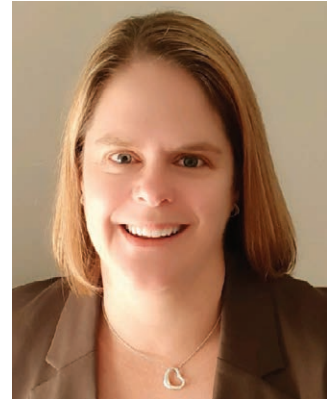
We understand the amount of work that goes into the preparation of Awards nominations and that time to prepare award nominations takes time away from business tasks. Thank you for all your endeavours as without these entries we would be unable to celebrate our outstanding profession.

These Awards are a testament to planning and the planners who influence our wonderful world, making our communities better places to live. We need to celebrate our profession.

To my fellow judges, thank you for the time and effort you put into your deliberations. It's such a pleasure working with you on the panel, and to Jane Strange for her support to the panel.

Congratulations to all the Award and Commendation winners

**Kym Pryde RPIA (Fellow)**



*Kym Pryde RPIA (Fellow)*

## Message from the SA President

I congratulate all the nominees and Award winners for the 2023 South Australian Planning Institute Awards for Planning Excellence.

In so doing, I commend the profession and allied professionals for their approach to supporting and pursuing exemplary strategic and statutory planning. This year, and the years to come, has seen pressure across the profession, as we grapple with skills shortages, and challenges in delivering sustainable and affordable development within our towns, regions and cities. Planners are change agents and influencers, and play a significant role in fostering creative places in which our communities live and work.

PIA's State Awards provide us an opportunity to showcase the breadth and depth of work undertaken throughout the year and across our profession, and to celebrate excellence.

We have seen our Planning Minister, Nick Champion MP driving change across the planning sector, and I thank him for his commitment to the Awards and to the support he has provided to planning within South Australia.

I would like to thank the Awards Convenor, Kym Pryde for her commitment to the role as well as the Planning Institute, together with all the judges who have offered their valuable time to review and consider the nominations. It is no easy

task given the excellence of projects across the State and I know there has been significant deliberation in order to identify those being recognised in 2023.

Finally, I thank the PIA staff who have worked to support our members across the year, and for the overall management of the Awards. We would like to wish everyone well and thank all nominees for their ongoing work. Eligible Award winners will go on to represent SA and compete in the National Planning Institute Awards for Planning Excellence to be announced in May next year when the National Congress will be held in Melbourne.

**Cate Hart RPIA (Fellow)**



*Cate Hart RPIA (Fellow)*

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# 2023 PIA SA Award Sponsors

06 PLATINUM SPONSOR:



**Kelley Jones**

GOLD SPONSOR:



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Department for Trade  
and Investment

SILVER SPONSOR



BRONZE SPONSORS



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Environment  
and Water



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# 2022–2023 PIA SA Division Committee

## **SA Division Committee**

Sky Anderson PIA (Assoc.)  
Matt Ballard MPIA  
David Bills RPIA  
Craig Doyle RPIA  
Gate Hart RPIA (Fellow)  
Rick Hutchins (RPIA)  
Gavin Leydon PIA (Hon. Fellow)  
Sally Roberts RPIA (Fellow)

Victoria Shute PIA (Assoc.)  
Dr Alpana Sivam MPIA  
Taylah Slattery PIA (Assoc.)  
Terry Sutcliffe MPIA (Fellow)  
Ben Victory RPIA  
Nick Wilson MPIA

## **2024 SAYP Committee**

Julien Beauvillier MPIA –  
Co-convenor  
Kate McNab PIA (Assoc.) –  
Co-convenor  
Arsham Bassiri Abyaneh PIA  
(Assoc.)  
James Bradley PIA (Assoc.)  
Benjamin Brice PIA (Assoc.)  
Mahima Dhoka PIA (Assoc.)  
Darshi Gohel PIA (Assoc.)

Jack Holmes PIA (Assoc.)  
Michael Jaensch PIA (Assoc.)  
Brendan Le Poidevin MPIA  
Anita Mandia PIA (Assoc.)  
Sindhuja Mahadevan PIA  
(Assoc.)  
Aravind Saju Kachappillil PIA  
(Assoc.)  
Ken Tam PIA (Assoc.)  
Zahra Yousefi PIA (Assoc.)  
Shubham Vasudev PIA (Assoc.)

# Judges

## 2023 PIA South Australia Judging Panel

Welcome to the 2023 PIA SA Awards for Planning Excellence. The Awards are an opportunity to share achievements and celebrate the value planning brings to our communities.

They are a chance to showcase leading practice across a range of planning disciplines and sectors and to publicly recognise commitment to advancing the planning profession.



*Kym Pryde RPIA (Fellow)  
– 2023 Awards Convenor  
– Department for  
Environment and Water*



*Paul Johnson RPIA  
(Fellow)*



*Brad McCormack MPIA  
– Office for Design and  
Architecture SA*



*Cheryle Pedler RPIA –  
District Council of Loxton  
Waikerie*



*Dr Hans Pieters MPIA –  
UniSA*



*De'Anne Smith –  
Department for Environment  
and Water*



*Chris Zafiroopoulos  
– City of Salisbury*

# Award Winners & Commendations



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## President's Award

### AWARD

#### RIVER MURRAY FLOOD PLANNING AND BUILDING WORKING GROUP

The 2022-23 River Murray flood event occurred between November 2022 and February 2023, as a result of heavy rain and flood events interstate.

This flood event was the largest since 1956, and the third highest flood ever recorded in South Australia, with an unprecedented number of impacted homes, shacks businesses and infrastructure. It peaked on 22 December with approximately 4,000 hectares

of agricultural land and 3,500 private residences affected over the course of the event.

The response to this event required strategic thinking and action. It required commitment and passion. It required hundreds of hours of support and it required and still requires support from Councils and particularly the planning staff at each of the Councils to work with property owners to address their development and replacement needs. The collaborative approach taken by government agencies and the LGA in supporting councils and their communities during this period was outstanding and is one that is worthy of this award.

Without planners at the forefront of these events, working alongside emergency response staff, the recovery would be much longer and more difficult, with a far greater impact on communities and individuals.

The team of councils and their planning staff who worked collaboratively and demonstrated significant leadership included:

- ◆ Renmark Paringa Council
- ◆ District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- ◆ Berri Barmera Council
- ◆ Mid Murray Council
- ◆ Rural City of Murray Bridge

Importantly, the working group established across these Council's with DTI PLUS – the River Murray Flood Planning and Building Working Group – worked tirelessly and the efforts of the planning staff from each of these councils has meant that the needs of their property owners have been considered every step of the way, not only as they initially tackled the flood waters, but importantly now the rebuild is underway.



# Minister's Award

10

Minister's Award

## AWARD

### MINISTER'S AWARD

#### Brendan Le Poidevin

This year's Planning Ministers Award goes to the PIA Young Planner of the Year,

Mr Brendan LePoidevin, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the profession.

The Minister for Planning has selected Brendon as the recipient of this year's honour for his exemplary dedication, innovative approach, proactive engagement along with his promotion of the planning profession.

The Minister Champion was impressed by the enthusiasm Brendan demonstrates in his work with Fyfe and his willingness to share his knowledge of the State's new planning system with colleagues and the broader industry.

Acknowledging Brendan's involvement in PIA SA's Young Planners Committee, the UDIA SA Young Professionals Committee, and his commitment to advocating for the reinstatement of an undergraduate planning course in SA, the Minister thanks Brendan for his outstanding contribution.

This award also symbolises the State Government's appreciation for the impressive work of all young planners in our State, underscoring the importance of fresh perspectives and proactive initiatives in shaping the future of our communities.

The Minister congratulates each of tonight's award winners for their exceptional service to the South Australian planning profession and commends all those nominated in their categories as their work and contributions are recognised.



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# Fellow Award

# Category

## AWARD

### GREG VINCENT

Celebrating over 35 years as a practicing qualified town planner, Greg is a well-known and highly respected, diligent and proficient town planner. Greg possesses a rare combination of technical expertise and outstanding interpersonal skills, that has enabled him to find innovative solutions to deliver quality outcomes across a wide range of planning policy and land use developments.

Greg's professionalism and respect within the industry is evident through the relationships formed with clients and allied professionals.

Greg is committed to furthering the profession, all with the highest of professional integrity and is a worthy recipient of the award of Fellow of PIA.



# Category

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## Young Planner of the Year

12

Young Planner of the Year

### AWARD

#### YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR

##### Brendan Le Poidevin

Brendan is a young planning professional who has quickly developed an understanding of the South Australia's relatively new planning system. Since becoming a practicing planner, Brendan has been proactively contributing to complex development applications requiring refined problem solving and negotiating skills.

Through his ongoing involvement in the UDIA SA Young Professionals Committee and PIA SA Young Planners Committee, Brendan shows his passion and enthusiasm for the planning profession and his drive to share his knowledge. For example, through his involvement in these committees he has been advocating for the reintroduction

of an undergraduate planning course to create a pathway into the profession for young people.

Brendan is committed to his professional development both through his involvement with professional institutes, mentoring programs and upskilling courses. He also actively seeks out opportunities for on-the-job training and leadership experience in his workplace. Brendan is also a role model in his workplace by sharing his understanding and knowledge of planning with his colleagues in other professions.

The judges were impressed with Brendan's commitment to delivering a professional planning service for his employer and clients. This along with his commitment to professional development and being an active contributor to the planning profession make him most worthy of the Award for Young Planner of the Year.



## Young Planner of the Year

### COMMENDATION

#### YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR

##### Kate McNab

Throughout her formative working career to date, Kate has exhibited strong planning qualities, an emerging and rapidly evolving understanding of contemporary planning practices, and strategic thinking in her position as Regional Liaison Officer for the Yorke Peninsula and Mid North Regional Plan (the Regional Plan).

Kate has further demonstrated a commitment to the planning field and reinforced her emerging capabilities in leadership in her role as co-convenor of the South Australia Young Planner Committee. This role further illustrates Kate's meaningful involvement in the planning profession and her role as a young leader.

It is evident that Kate is a role model for young planners across the state, and there is no doubt as to her desirable qualities indicating a promising and flourishing career ahead.





## Improving Planning Processes



**AWARD**  
**CITY OF UNLEY**  
**Project: Transitioning to the PDI Act**

This project demonstrates a considered and structured approach to improving the City of Unley's service standards during the implementation of the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. The transition team took the unique opportunity presented by the Act's implementation to undertake a broad review of their existing processes and to

implement change, setting an example for local government authorities across the state.

These changes have resulted in the team being able to consistently meet legislative timeframes, reduce customer complaints and receive regular positive feedback.

The project can be successfully transferred to other assessment authorities and shows how leadership and creative thought in planning can help to address challenging tasks.

The Council's pro-active and systems-oriented preparation for a transition to a complex new planning system is a standout performance, not just in improving planning processes but in managing change within local government.

**COMMENDATION**

**CLOVER GREEN SPACE, GREEN ADELAIDE, STATE PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Project: Adelaide Gardening Guide for New Homes**



# Category

## Planning Champion

16

Planning Champion

### AWARD

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Local Government Association of South Australia's (LGA) Planning Reform Program demonstrates exceptional dedication to South Australia's local government sector and supporting good planning processes.

To assist Councils with transitioning to their significantly different role within the state's new planning system, the LGA developed a Planning Reform Program featuring comprehensive resources, training, and ongoing communication. The Program helped to equip Councils with the knowledge and tools to adopt necessary internal procedures, while collectively contributing ideas to enhance the design of the system itself.

The LGA's collaboration with Norman Waterhouse Lawyers ensured that the resources, templates, webinars and training programs were informed by expert technical and legal advice. The positive impact of this program is evident as councils have continued to



utilise the LGA's materials, leading to cost savings, improved efficiency and overall enhancements to procedures and decision-making within the context of the new planning system.

Early recognition of the constraints faced by many rural and regional councils in adapting to change with limited resources, further exacerbated during COVID-19 pandemic,

saw strategies and weekly webinars put in place to listen and respond to issues raised by these Councils.

The LGA's commitment to advocacy, resource development and fostering collaboration has left a profoundly positive mark on the local government planning sector in South Australia, a sentiment echoed in testimonials from local government staff.



## Planning Research

### AWARD

**ARSHAM BASSIRI  
ABYANEH, ANDREW  
ALLAN, JOHANNES  
PIETERS, SEKHAR  
SOMENAHALLI AND ALI  
SOLTANI – RESEARCH  
PROJECT TEAM AT  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA**

**Project: Walkable for Who?  
Applying a GIS-based  
Walkability Assessment  
Tool at the Metropolitan and  
Local Levels by Sex and Age  
in Australia with the Focus  
on the Greater Adelaide  
Metropolitan Area**

The research undertaken is the first of its kind to conduct a comparative strategic walkability analysis between different jurisdictions in all eight States and Territories of Australia. The research is comprehensive and thorough and is clearly a very sound and transferable piece of work. The research methodology provides a basis for additional research of this type to be conducted in the future to help inform evidence-based decision making, strategic planning and policy development.

The quality and robust nature of the work is founded upon: the



use of ABS data sets ensuring adaptability and a solid basis for analysis; the inclusion of criteria for selecting specific ABS statistical areas enabling the balanced representation of regions; and by focusing on different age and gender groups, the study recognizes the importance of addressing varying demographic needs when analysing walkability and commuting behaviors.

The study makes a significant contribution to the improvement of local urban planning by providing a highly useful analysis of walkability. The outcomes

of this national analysis can be used by Local Governments and strategic planners to understand the walkability performance of their various jurisdictions.

It is anticipated that the work will also be adaptable for various planning scenarios stemming from the research and findings to date. Application of this tool has the potential to extend far beyond initial application, finding relevance in a variety of planning contexts.

This planning research and its findings are most worthy of an Award for Excellence.



# Stakeholder Engagement

## AWARD

### ADELAIDE PLAINS COUNCIL

#### Project: Equine Strategy Engagement

The judges are pleased with the effort that the Council made to engage with stakeholders on the Equine Strategy, which was sensitively considered in view of the varying community views and expectations.

The engagement was meaningful, focused on the facts and the inter-relationships between the varying issues. In doing so, the strategy delivered a balanced policy outcome.

The project has delivered a strategy that is meaningful and has addressed a long-term issue in the community.



## Technology & Digital Innovation

### AWARD

#### PLANNING AND LAND USE SERVICES – DEPT FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

##### **Project: Reimagining Interactions with the Planning System Through Technology – Interactive Map Viewers and Subscription Services**

The PlanSA platform is providing access to real time information across the state on planning and development matters, in one centralised location. It has become the source of reliable planning information for all South Australians.

The Interactive Map Viewers and Subscription Services builds on this leading platform by providing easy to navigate spatial and subscription services to people so they can track and access information for development applications and rezoning proposals; enabling people to tailor information to their specific interests.

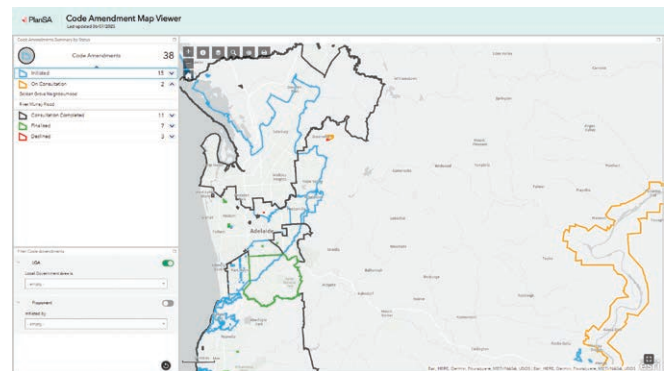
The platform enables people to be informed, and where consultation is undertaken, have ready access to up-to-date information to participate in the respective consultation process. This is fulfilling a key legislative direction to make planning information more



readily available for communities to transact with the planning system.

The judges were impressed with the platform's navigability and unlimited access and noted it was a huge break-through in planning. It assists with understanding the process and the community being engaged at the right stage.

This map viewer and subscription service builds on the ePlanning platform and continues to raise the bar in making planning accessible to members of the public.



# Tertiary Student Project

20

Tertiary Student Project

## AWARD

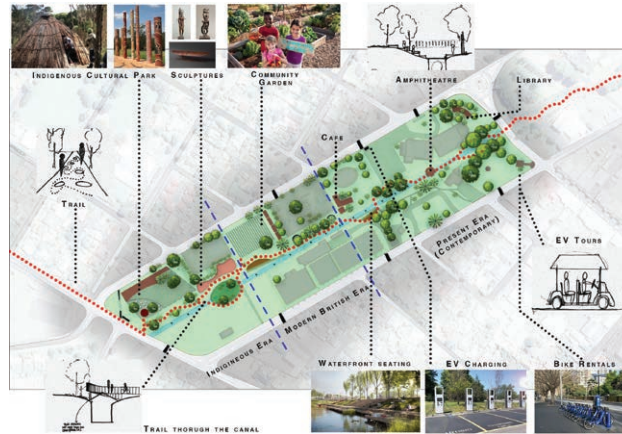
**Anita Mandia, Darshi Gohel,  
Nayan Khairnar, Rajat Bhatia**

### Project: Reviving Millicent Civic and Art Precinct

The judges were impressed with the quality of this project. The project's masterplan was based on the local history of the region combined with a broader analysis, to ensure connectivity of the master plan area with the wider township of Millicent. The project showed a clear vision for revitalisation with activities and interaction for community members and visitors to the region of all ages.

The project includes a detailed plan which demonstrates thought on how the project may be implemented from the client's perspective. This plan was clear evidence the project team built a rapport and ongoing sustained relationship with the Wattle Range Council. From this, the project team demonstrated they had a clear understanding of the project's scope to enable an outcome that meets the client's needs.

The project uses clear rationale and argument to reinforce recommendations and decisions. A truly outstanding tertiary student project.



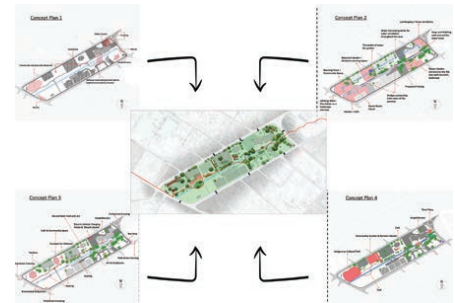
## COMMENDATIONS

**AHMED TARIQ  
ARIPEN, ABEL ELTON,  
SINDHUJA  
MAHADEVAN AND  
KATE McNAB,  
SUSTAINABLE URBAN  
DESIGN STUDIO,  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Project: Conceptual  
Master Plan for the Civic  
and Arts Centre  
Precinct, Millicent, SA**

**FARHANA  
KALAMULLATHIL**

**Project: Community  
Recovery of Flood  
Affected Residents –  
Case of Mid Murray  
Council**



## Strategic Planning Project

### AWARD

#### ADELAIDE PLAINS COUNCIL

#### Project: Two Wells Walking Cycling Plan

The Two Wells Walking Cycling Plan is a modest, yet innovative movement strategy demonstrating excellence in planning, practical thinking, inclusive and achievable outcomes, and strategic alignment across local, regional, and national scales.

The Plan effectively addresses immediate active transport needs while taking a forward-thinking approach to support the town's projected growth. It acknowledges the current low-density and car-dominated context on Adelaide's fringe, which offers little to encourage walking and cycling, and proposes appropriate actions to address this. The Plan's comprehensive and coordinated approach to sustainable movement, with a focus on recreation, health and wellbeing, aligns well with broader planning objectives.

The public consultation process and collaboration with experts helped to identify positive and tangible interventions, some

of which have already been successfully implemented.

The Two Wells Walking Cycling Plan provides an exemplary model for supporting active movement in a peri-urban context, demonstrating the impact of thoughtful strategic planning on improving community well-being and promoting active lifestyles.

Congratulations to the Adelaide Plains Council.



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# 2023 Award Winners

2023 Award Winners

22

## **Presidents Award 2023**

River Murray Flood Planning  
and Building Working Group

## **Minister's Award**

Brendan Le Poidevin

## **Fellow Award**

Greg Vincent

## **Young Planner of the Year**

Brendan Le Poidevin

## **Climate Change and Resilience**

River Murray Flood Resilience  
Code Amendment  
*Planning and Land Use Services,  
Department for Trade and  
Investment and the River Murray  
Flood Planning and Building  
Working Group*

## **Improving Planning Processes**

Transitioning to the PDI Act  
*City of Unley*

## **Planning Champion**

Local Government Association  
of South Australia

## **Planning Research**

Walkable for Who? Applying  
a GIS-based Walkability  
Assessment Tool at the  
Metropolitan and Local Levels  
by Sex and Age in Australia  
with the Focus on the Greater  
Adelaide Metropolitan Area  
*Arsham Bassiri Abyaneh, Andrew  
Allan, Johannes Pieters, Sekhar  
Somenahalli and Ali Soltani  
– Research Project Team at  
University of South Australia*

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

Equine Strategy Engagement  
*Adelaide Plains Council*

## **Technology & Digital Innovation**

Reimagining Interactions with  
the Planning System Through  
Technology – Interactive Map  
Viewers and Subscription  
Services  
*Planning And Land Use Services –  
Dept for Trade and Investment*

## **Tertiary Student Project**

Reviving Millicent Civic and  
Art Precinct  
*Anita Mandia, Nayan Khairnar,  
Rajat Bhatia*

## **Strategic Planning Project**

Two Wells Walking Cycling  
Plan  
*Adelaide Plains Council*





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Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) is the national body representing planning and the planning profession. Through education, communication and professional development, PIA is the pivotal organisation serving and guiding thousands of planning professionals in their role of creating better communities.

PIA currently represents approximately 5300 members nationally and internationally, and connects with more than 10,500 planners annually. We are governed by a National Board of Directors and managed by a professional administration. We are a member-based organisation with its management complemented by volunteers, who support and contribute to our activities on various levels.

Our mission is to champion the role of planning in shaping Australia's future. PIA will do this through strong leadership, advocacy and contemporary planning education.

Our vision is for PIA to be Australia's trusted voice on Planning.

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