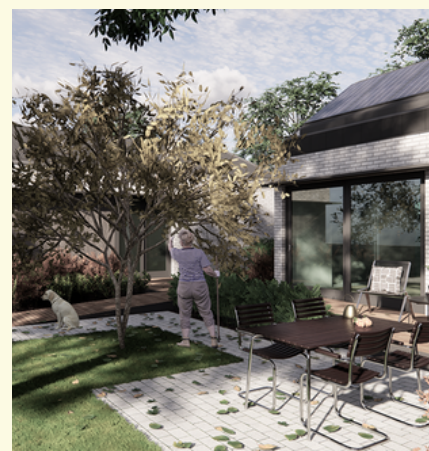
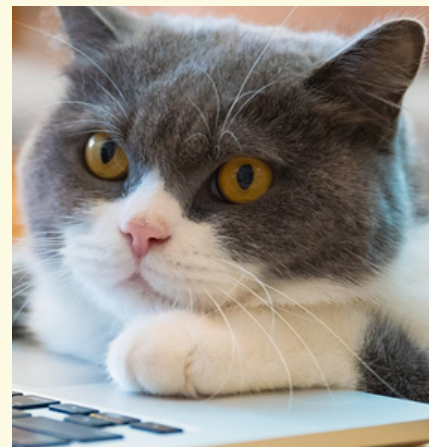
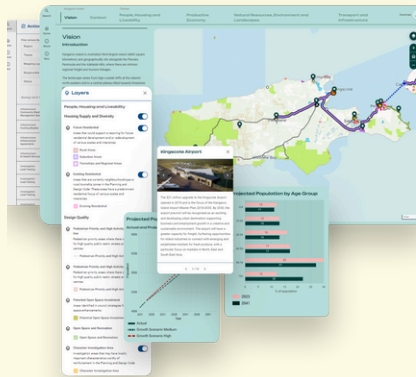


Planning
Institute
Australia

2025
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**AWARDS FOR
PLANNING
EXCELLENCE**



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Convenor

Message from the Awards Convenor

It is with great pride 🥰 that we present this year's Planning Awards, celebrating the brilliant work and high calibre of contributions across South Australia's planning profession. The nominations received reflect the depth of talent, innovation, and commitment to excellence that define our industry.

This year's entries exemplify originality and innovation, showcasing visionary approaches to addressing complex planning challenges. From workforce development to community engagement, nominees have demonstrated bold thinking and practical solutions that respond to real needs across our state.

The quality of outcomes achieved is exceptional. Each nomination reflects a dedication to best practice, with projects delivering tangible benefits for communities, councils, and the broader planning system. These are not just ideas—they are implemented, impactful, and enduring.

Importantly, the work recognised this year aligns with strategic planning priorities at local, regional, and state levels. Whether advancing housing supply, improving planning systems, or enhancing environmental outcomes, these initiatives reinforce the vital role planning plays in shaping South Australia's future.

We also celebrate the implementation and transferability of these projects. Many have the ability to be adopted beyond their original context, offering scalable models and methodologies that can be replicated to further the cause of good planning across jurisdictions.

Finally, the spirit of collaboration shines through. Meaningful engagement with government, industry, and community stakeholders has been central to the success of these initiatives. The techniques used have not only contributed to positive outcomes—they've strengthened



Kym Pryde RPIA

trust, built capacity, and elevated the profession.

Congratulations to all nominees and award recipients. Your work inspires us and sets a benchmark for excellence in planning. Thank you for your contribution to a more sustainable, inclusive, and well-planned South Australia.

Kym

President

Message from the State President

I know many have had a fabulous year over 2025, and there are some special highlights and impressive work happening within the sector, much of which is showcased by the award submissions for the year.

It is incredibly important that we celebrate those, as well as the enormous amount of work undertaken across the whole industry, whether it be by local or state government or the private sector— so congratulations to all for a comprehensive and fulfilling year.

A clear highlight for 2025 was the commencement of the Flinders University Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning degree. This was the culmination of many years of advocacy, and I thank all those involved in their dedication to this outcome. I have no doubt that this course and its future graduates will contribute significantly not only to our profession but importantly to the future development of South Australia and beyond. I look forward to showcasing work from these young planners in the future!

Cate

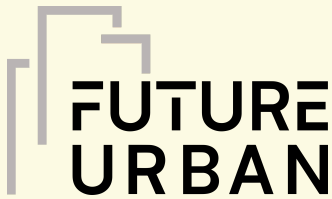


Cate Hart RPIA (Life Fellow)

Sponsors

2025 PIA SA Award Sponsors

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Committee

2025 PIA SA Division Committee

President

Cate Hart RPIA (Life Fellow)

Vice Presidents

Sky Anderson MPIA
Matt Ballard MPIA

Committee Members

Rick Hutchins RPIA
Ben Victory RPIA
Gavin Leydon PIA (Hon. Fellow)
Victoria Shute PIA (Hon. Fellow)
David Bills RPIA
Stacey Mills MPIA
Nick Wilson MPIA
Sally Roberts RPIA
Jason Cattonar MPIA
Jordan Hunt RPIA
Eleni Kiamos MPIA (Women in Planning Network Convenor)

Board Director

Stephen Smith RPIA (Fellow)

Sponsors

2025 PIA SA

Award Sponsor Information

Silver Sponsors



Future Urban is a boutique planning and development consultancy specialising in the delivery of urban planning and development services to developers, property owners, local and state governments (including government agencies) and the not-for-profit sector. Their team has been responsible for major planning initiatives at both a policy and practical level, from inner city urban regeneration and city towers to new community planning and rezoning.

Website: FutureUrban.com.au

Phone: (08) 8221 5511



Kelledy Jones is unique. It is the only law firm of its kind in South Australia. It provides dedicated legal, strategic and business support exclusively to South Australian councils and public authorities.

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LGA South Australia is here to help local government build stronger communities. Since 1896, their work has backed local decision-making and today supports councils across South Australia.

They do this in many ways, leading advocacy and discussions with state and federal decision-makers and key stakeholders, and ensuring the issues affecting our communities are heard, loud and clear.

Website: lga.sa.gov.au

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Judging Panel

2025 PIA SA Awards Judging Panel



Kym Pryde RPIA (Fellow)



Chris Zafiropolous RPIA



De-Anne Smith MPIA



Gerti Szili MPIA



Taren Brockhouse MPIA



Cheryle Pedlar RPIA



Brad McCormack MPIA



2025
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AWARDS FOR
PLANNING
EXCELLENCE

Award Winners and Commendations

Category

Performance and Innovation in Development

Sponsored by



AWARD

City of Playford Council, Walker Corporation and Catholic Education South Australia

PROJECT

District Level Sporting Complex, Community Hub and Xavier College, Riverlea Park

The Judges congratulate the City of Playford, Walker Corporation and Catholic Education South Australia for their outstanding achievement in planning the Riverlea Park District Level Sporting Complex.

This tri-party partnership demonstrates vision and innovation by integrating education, recreation and community facilities within a single development in a greenfield context. Through aligned governance, cost-sharing and planning frameworks, the partners have established a transparent and equitable foundation that enables the timely delivery of essential community infrastructure.

Collaborative decision-making, shared risk management and open communication have built trust and lasting collaboration between local government, the private sector and education.

By planning for high-quality facilities early in the life of the community, the project lays the groundwork for a place that will nurture learning, connection and wellbeing, and sets a benchmark for collaborative, integrated and future-focused planning in South Australia's growth areas.



Category

Strategic Planning Project

Sponsored by



AWARD

Department for Housing and Urban Development

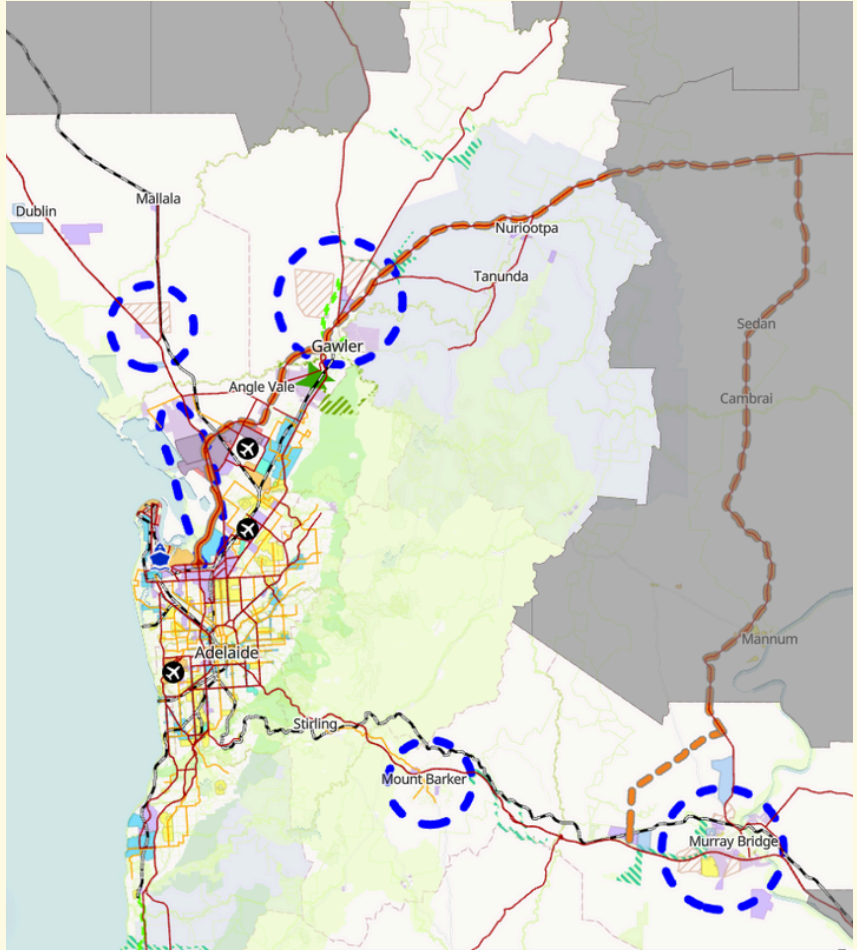
PROJECT

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan

This Australian-first, web-based regional plan delivers a fully digital, interactive platform that transforms how planning is accessed and applied. It identifies land for 316,000 new homes and 254,000 new jobs, aligning with the National Housing Accord and guiding infrastructure planning across South Australia.

With 56 implementation actions—many already underway—the Plan is transparent, dynamic, and responsive, providing for real-time updates. Developed through an 18-month consultation process and over 70 engagement events, it reflects strong collaboration across government, industry, and community.

Innovative, high-quality, and strategically aligned, it sets a new benchmark in digital planning with clear potential for national transferability.



Commendations

City of Adelaide

Project: Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy- Towards 2036

Green Adelaide

Project: Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide

Category

Planning Champion

Sponsored by

JENSEN
PLUS

AWARD

TAFE SA

PROJECT

TAFE SA – Development and Implementation of the LGA50120 Diploma of Local Government (Planning)

The Judges congratulate TAFE SA for its outstanding leadership in advancing planning education, workforce development and the promotion of planning as a vital profession in South Australia.

In response to the state's critical shortage of planning professionals—particularly in regional areas—TAFE SA has shown vision and innovation through the development and delivery of the LGA50120 Diploma of Local Government (Planning), launched in July 2023. This nationally accredited qualification creates a sustainable pathway for para planners, a growing professional cohort that supports planners through administrative technical functions.

The program has already delivered measurable

benefits for communities, councils and planning projects. Graduates are contributing meaningfully from day one, helping to streamline processes, increase housing supply and support more responsive planning systems. By equipping para planners to complement qualified professionals, TAFE SA has strengthened the planning workforce and generated tangible benefits for the broader community.

Importantly, TAFE SA has delivered a realistic, scalable and replicable education model that is now being adopted beyond South Australia, demonstrating national leadership in planning workforce development. This initiative provides a sustainable talent pipeline, enhances professional capability and strengthens the planning profession's long-term capacity.

TAFE SA exemplifies the spirit of the Planning Champion Award—innovative, impactful and deeply committed to advancing the planning profession for the benefit of all South Australians.



Commendation

Ellen Liebelt

City of Adelaide

Category

Emerging Planner of the Year

Sponsored by



AWARD

Saba Adil Malik

Saba Adil Malik exemplifies excellence and innovation in the planning profession through the way she combined her expertise in both architecture and planning to blend technical skill with strategic vision. With diverse experience in government policy, spatial data analytics, and development assessment she is at the forefront of how technology and data can support and enhance the planning profession. The judges were impressed by how she is able to apply technical excellence with an emphasis on community-focused, adaptable and forward-thinking solutions while navigating complex regulatory frameworks.

As a certified TAFE SA assessor and educator, Saba champions knowledge transfer and professional growth for emerging planners. Her leadership extends through impactful research presentations,

published works, and active roles in the Planning Institute of Australia SA Emerging Planners Committee and the National Association of Women in Construction, promoting diversity, inclusion, and collaboration. Saba's commitment to mentoring, advocacy, and fostering inclusivity demonstrates her emerging leadership in shaping a progressive and equitable future for planning across South Australia.

Saba's technical excellence and deep commitment to advancing the planning profession through educating and supporting emerging planners makes her a very worthy recipient of the Award for Young Planner of the Year.



Commendation

Shreepriya Birajdar
URPS

Category

Climate Change & Resilience

Sponsored by

Kelley Jones
Lawyers

AWARD

LGA South Australia, together with Department for Environment and Water, SA Coast Protection Board, SA Coastal Councils Alliance, Adelaide Coastal Council Network, BRM Advisory, HATCH

PROJECT

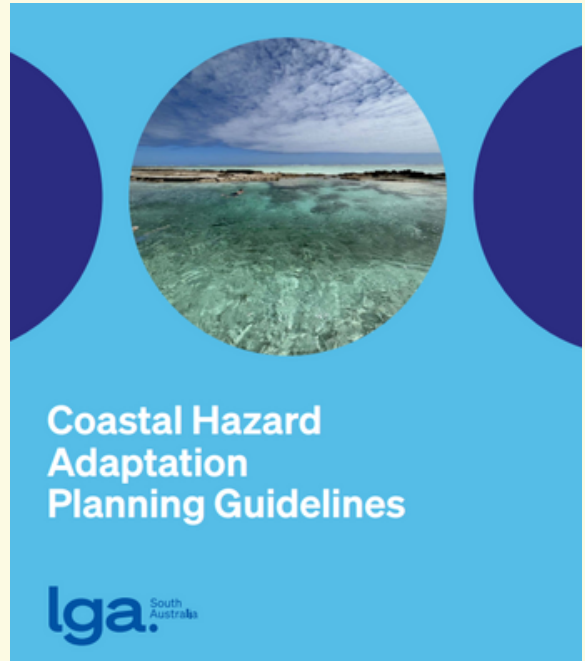
SA Climate Ready Coasts: Accelerating Coastal Hazard Adaption Planning

The Judges congratulate the Local Government Association of South Australia and its partners for their outstanding leadership in advancing coastal climate adaptation through the SA Climate Ready Coasts program. This initiative represents a landmark shift in how South Australia plans for and manages coastal hazards, moving from reactive responses to a proactive, evidence-based framework for long-term resilience.

Through close collaboration across government and alignment with national initiatives, the program has delivered consistent Coastal Hazard

Adaptation Planning Guidelines, an expert review process, a prioritisation framework for investment, and South Australia's first comprehensive statewide coastal erosion assessment. These achievements provide a robust foundation for risk-informed planning, transparent decision-making and equitable resource allocation across South Australia's 34 coastal councils.

The Judges were particularly impressed by the program's depth of collaboration, rigorous methodology and scalability. By building technical capacity, embedding quality assurance and creating a shared language for adaptation, SA Climate Ready Coasts establishes a new standard for integrated climate resilience planning in South Australia and offers a model for national consideration. It exemplifies how sound evidence, strategic governance and shared vision can strengthen communities and safeguard South Australia's coasts for generations to come.



Commendation

City of Adelaide, Aurecon

Project:
Performance on Waste and Resource Recovery (PWRR) Tool

Category

Community Wellbeing and Diversity

Sponsored by



AWARD

Department for Housing and Urban Development

PROJECT

Future Living Code Amendment: new planning rules to create greater housing diversity

The Future Living Code Amendment exemplifies how a strong research base and collaboration can result in a visionary and innovative policy response to the evolving housing needs of South Australians.

By introducing a new form of housing, co-located housing, the amendment challenges traditional development models by enabling multiple dwellings on a single allotment where the existing home is retained. Not only does this approach provide for diverse and affordable housing choices that are community-oriented there is also flow on benefits such as social and environmental sustainability and preserving heritage and character of established neighborhoods.

Central to the co-located housing concept are shared open spaces which will help to foster social cohesion and support diverse living arrangements such as aging in place, multi-generational households and cooperative housing models. By introducing an alternative housing model, which can easily be adopted by other jurisdictions within South Australia and nationally, South Australians have gained a more flexible housing choice that can adapt over time to fit their stage in life and accommodation needs.

The judges were impressed with how the Future Living Code Amendment sets a new benchmark for addressing the needs of the community with a visionary and practical housing solution that promotes inclusivity, social and environmental sustainability, and innovative community-oriented outcomes.



Commendation

URPS, Outback Communities Authority

Project: Voices of the Outback: Co-Creating a Strategic Blueprint

Category

Stakeholder Engagement

Sponsored by

Kelley Jones
Lawyers

AWARD

Dr Zinan Chen, co-created with 30 older residents of Unley, with the support of the University of South Australia and in partnership with the City of Unley

PROJECT

Transforming to an Age-Friendly World: Models of Co-design for Creating Age-Friendly Public Green Spaces in Urban Neighbourhoods

The Judges commend Dr Zinan Chen and her collaborators for redefining stakeholder engagement through the Transforming to an Age-Friendly World project. With collaboration and empowerment at its core, the initiative placed community members in decision-making roles usually reserved for professionals - a fundamental innovation in participatory practice.

This initiative empowered older residents as citizen scientists and co-designers, using immersive virtual and augmented reality tools to audit, redesign, and

advocate for age-friendly public spaces. Ultimately, this collaboration led to co-design outcomes being integrated into park upgrades now implemented by the City of Unley.

In addition, older residents developed new digital skills and confidence in design processes. Council gained new methods for engaging harder-to-reach cohorts and the project created a new civic pipeline, with nine participants continuing as community leaders in other council programs. This is structured, documented, and adaptable for other contexts, setting a new benchmark for inclusive engagement.

By embedding age-friendly principles into planning practice, the project addresses one of the most urgent strategic challenges for the planning profession: designing cities that enable healthy, active, and connected ageing populations.



Commendations

City of Onkaparinga

Project: Local Heritage Code Amendment and City-wide Heritage Review

Department for Housing and Urban Development

Project: Greater Adelaide Regional Plan - a blueprint shaped by community

Category

Improving Planning Processes

Sponsored by



AWARD

Department for Housing and Urban Development

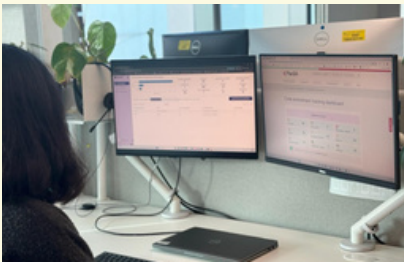
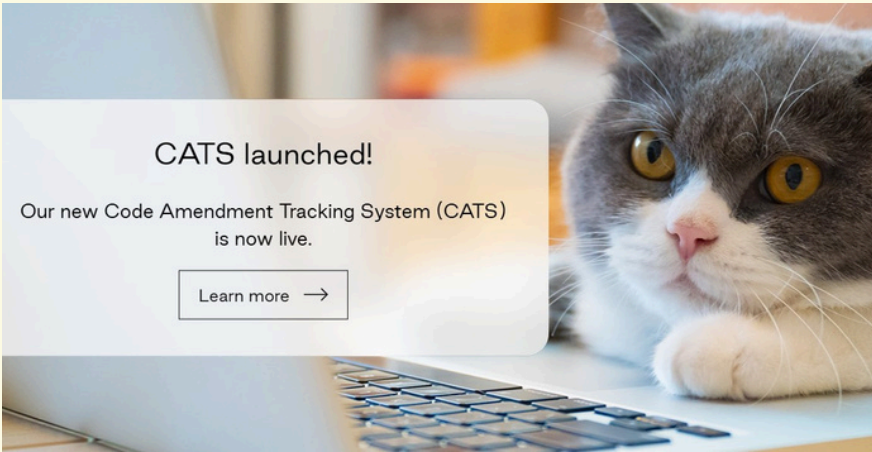
PROJECT

Code Amendment Tracking System (CATS)

The Code Amendment Tracking System (CATS) is a first-of-its-kind digital platform that brings innovation and transparency to planning processes by enabling real-time submission and tracking of Code Amendments.

It provides a clear, accessible interface for both proponents and the community, ensuring up-to-date information and promoting informed engagement.

Strategically aligned with the Government's Housing Roadmap, CATS supports policy implementation through



streamlined processes and improved oversight. Its thoughtful design and quality execution allow for immediate updates and efficient management, with the potential for replication in other jurisdictions.

The project was underpinned by extensive collaboration with consultants, industry bodies, and Councils, making it a model of effective stakeholder engagement and sector-wide impact.

Commendation
State Planning Commission and Department for Housing and Urban Development
Project: Minor Variations Practice Direction 19

Category

Tertiary Student Project

Commendation
Keith Pennington
Project: Walkerville Terrace Conceptual Master Plan Report

Technology and Digital Innovation

Sponsored by



AWARD

Department for Housing and Urban Development

PROJECT

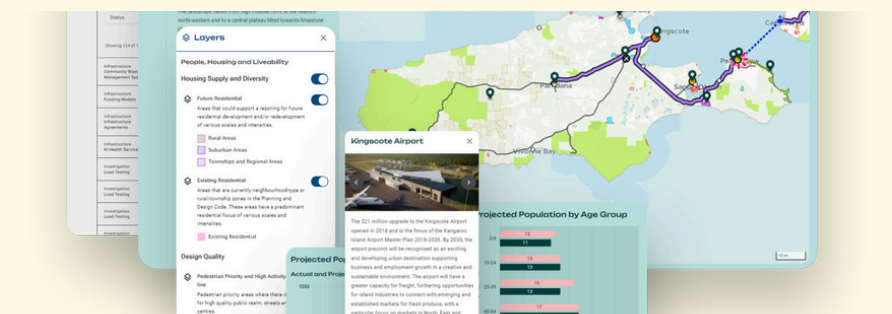
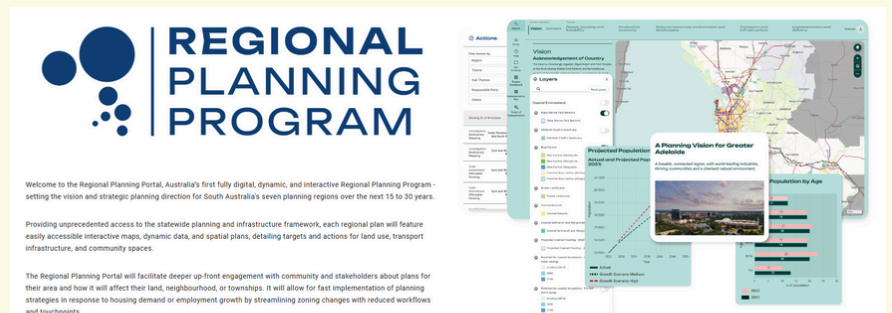
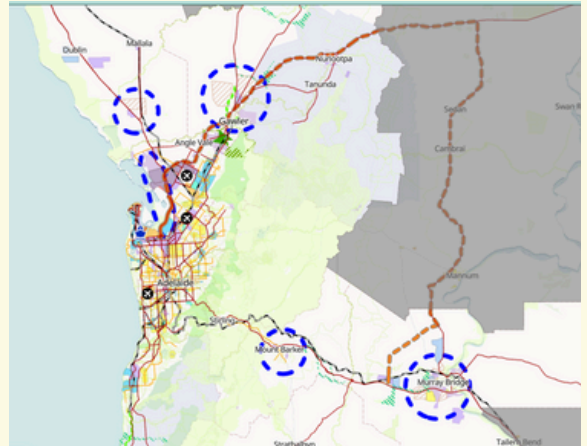
Regional Planning Portal

The Regional Planning Portal is a national-first, innovative online system that delivers comprehensive, up-to-date regional planning information that is accessible to all. The portal provides a digital planning solution that is transparent, updatable and accessible by all thereby encouraging not only planners but public engagement and interaction.

The Portal incorporates a user-friendly design and comprehensive data integration. Strategically aligned with government priorities, it clearly identifies implementation plans and strategic priorities across all levels of government. Successfully rolled out across all planning regions in South Australia, it shows

proven implementation and potential for transferability to other jurisdictions, with cost considerations noted.

The project is a standout example of collaboration, involving extensive stakeholder engagement in both the regional planning program and the Portal's development



Commendation

City of Adelaide

Project: City of Adelaide Digital Explorer, CoADE

Category

Planning Research

Sponsored by



AWARD

City of Adelaide

PROJECT

Adaptive Reuse City Housing initiative (ARCHI): A Research-Driven Model for unlocking an Additional Mode of Housing Supply through Adaptive Reuse

The Judges congratulate the City of Adelaide for its outstanding contribution to planning research through the Adaptive Reuse City Housing Initiative (ARCHI). This pioneering program exemplifies how rigorous, evidence-based research can unlock new housing pathways, address urban challenges and shape policy with lasting impact.

ARCHI stands out for its integration of applied research, academic collaboration and community engagement. Through a comprehensive building audit and a large-scale housing preference survey, the initiative has generated original data and analytical tools that inform adaptive reuse

strategies and support sustainable urban growth. The application of Discrete Choice Modelling to understand resident preferences demonstrates methodological innovation and a clear commitment to aligning planning outcomes with community needs.

The Judges were particularly impressed by ARCHI's strong alignment with local, state and national planning priorities, its transferability to other jurisdictions, and its capacity to influence housing, heritage and climate policy. By embedding research into practice, ARCHI has advanced the evidence base for adaptive reuse while strengthening cross-sector collaboration and building technical capacity within government and academia.

ARCHI sets a benchmark for excellence in planning research. The project demonstrates how thoughtful inquiry, robust data and shared purpose can drive meaningful change in response to Australia's housing crisis, offering a



replicable model for other cities and reinforcing the vital role of research in shaping resilient, inclusive and well-informed planning outcomes.

Commendation

Richard Brecknock

Project:
www.planning-culturally.com A resource for urban Planners and designers

Category

President's Award

AWARD

City of Salisbury

PROJECT

Salisbury Plus

The "Salisbury Plus" strategy is a comprehensive 25 year strategic and economic growth plan for the City of Salisbury and northern suburbs of Adelaide focused on the economic transformation and urban development of Salisbury and ultimately its adjoining areas.

The Strategy sets out a long-term blueprint, with a four-year action plan to increase productivity, enhance liveability, and drive prosperity across Salisbury and the northern suburbs. In this way, it demonstrates the strong principles of planning for the future whilst addressing the needs of the existing region. Its key goals are to create investment opportunities, deliver new housing, and develop vibrant community hubs, build a business-friendly environment, and unlock industrial and commercial land based

on an ethos of sustainability.

It is worthy of recognition by PIA for its forward-thinking approach, building on the strong links between long term planning and short to medium term delivery of goals and actions to promote and develop a sustainable community and economic outcomes for the northern suburbs. It further develops the requirement for strong partnerships across all levels of government and the private sector, and the role of working collaboratively for the future development of Adelaide and positioning it nationally.

Key outcomes include:

- Unlocking more than 1,000 hectares of industrial and commercial land in the City of Salisbury - in partnership with the State Government and key stakeholders - to attract new businesses and support expansion
- Council development of 1,600 new homes over the next 25 years to accommodate a growing and diverse population.
- Investment in retail and business precincts



- Working with City of Playford to establish an eco-industrial precinct, west of Port Wakefield Road, to align with low carbon industry development

Category

Minister's Award

AWARD

City of Adelaide

PROJECT

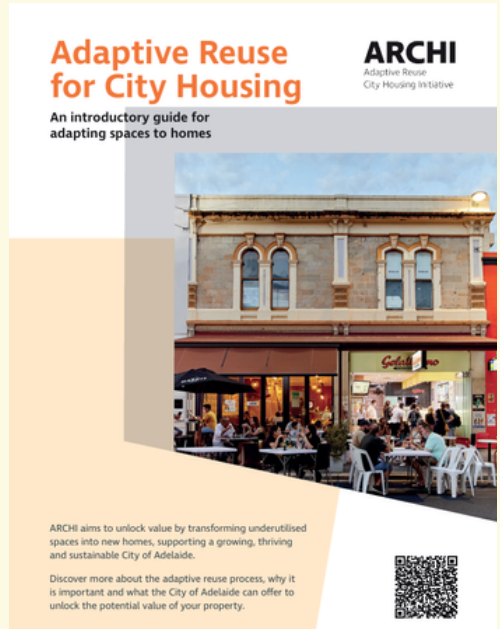
Adaptive Reuse City Housing initiative (ARCHI): A Research-Driven Model for unlocking an Additional Mode of Housing Supply through Adaptive Reuse

In a field of excellent nominations this year, my Award goes to an outstanding, proactive and leading edge project for South Australia.

The depth and breadth of the research has resulted in the production and availability of essential technology which can contribute meaningfully to the housing crisis.

In particular, its approach to partnership with government has been a remarkable benchmark in collaboration.

Additionally, this initiative will assist the City of Adelaide in achieving its Grand Dream of a goal of 50,000 residents by 2036.



Nominations

2025 Award Nominations

District Level Sporting Complex, Community Hub and Xavier College, Riverlea Park

City of Playford Council, Walker Corporation and Catholic Education South Australia

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan

Department for Housing and Urban Development

Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy - Towards 2036

City of Adelaide

Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide

Green Adelaide

Minor Variations

Practice Direction 19

State Planning Commission and Department for Housing and Urban Development

Code Amendment Tracking System (CATS)

Department for Housing and Urban Development

Saba Adil Malik

City of Adelaide

Shreepriya Birajdar

URPS

Tim Mason

Adelaide Hills Council

Performance on Waste and Resource Recovery (PWRR) Tool

City of Adelaide, Aurecon

SA Climate Ready Coasts: Accelerating Coastal Hazard Adaption Planning

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Future Living Code Amendment: new planning rules to create greater housing diversity

Department for Housing and Urban Development

Voices of the Outback: Co-Creating a Strategic Blueprint

URPS, Outback Communities Authority

Greater Adelaide Regional Plan - a blueprint shaped by community

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Transforming to an Age-Friendly World: Models of Co-design for Creating Age-Friendly Public Green Spaces in Urban Neighbourhoods

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Local Heritage Code Amendment and City-wide Heritage Review

City of Onkaparinga

Regional Planning Portal

Department for Housing and Urban Development

City of Adelaide Digital Explorer, CoADE

City of Adelaide

Adaptive Reuse City Housing initiative (ARCHI): A Research-Driven Model for unlocking an Additional Mode of Housing Supply through Adaptive Reuse

City of Adelaide

www.planning-culturally.com A resource for urban planners and designers

Richard Brecknock

Walkerville Terrace Conceptual Master Plan Report

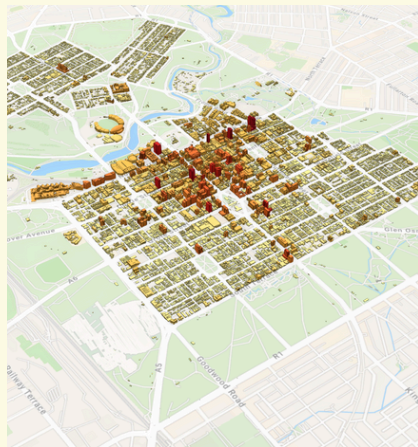
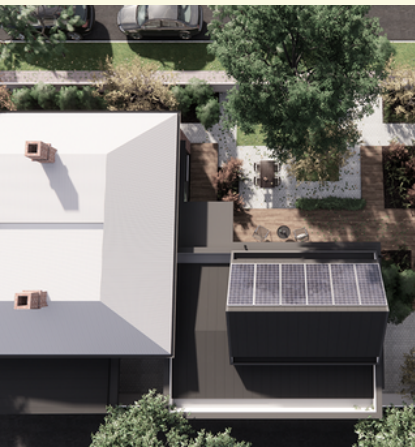
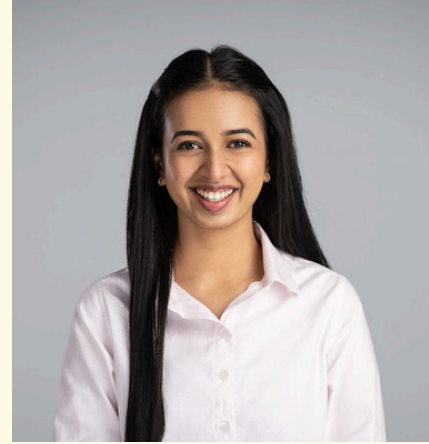
Keith Pennington

TAFE SA – Development and Implementation of the LGA50120 Diploma of Local Government (Planning)

TAFE SA

Ellen Liebelt

City of Adelaide





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 5,600 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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South Australia Division**

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