

Awards for Planning Excellence

South Australia

PIA

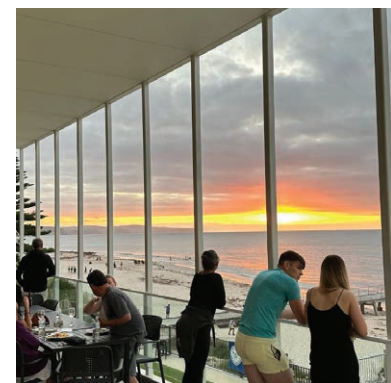
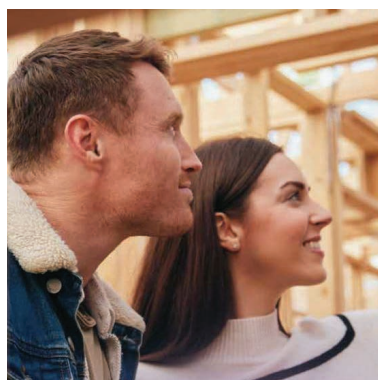
Planning
Institute
Australia



20 AWARDS FOR
24 Planning
Excellence

South Australia

PLANNING INSTITUTE
OF AUSTRALIA



Contents

Contents

Message from the Awards Convenor	04
Message from the SA President	05
2024 PIA SA Awards Sponsors	06
2024 PIA SA Division Committee	06
2024 PIA SA Judging Panel	07
Award Winners & Commendations	08
President's Award	09
Minister's Award	10
Young Planner of the Year	11
Climate Change & Resilience	12
Improving Planning Processes	13
Planning Champion	14
Planning Research	15
Stakeholder Engagement	16
Technology & Digital Innovation	17
Strategic Planning Project	18
Community Wellbeing and Diversity	19
Planning with Country	20
Great Place	21
Tertiary Student Project	22
2024 Award Winners	22

Convenor

Message from the Awards Convenor

04 Once again it was a privilege to be asked to convene the PIA SA Awards Judging Panel. We had thirty-three nominations this year, an impressive number of entries. Not only was the number of entries impressive but the quality of the nominations even more so.

Planners and associates make South Australia and Adelaide one of the most liveable states in Australia, and the world. Planning covers a diverse range of areas, and the Awards categories reflect this diversity. From urban planners who are creating more liveable cities to environmental planners who are planning for climate change to planners who are engaging completely with Aboriginal people to improve connectedness to country when place making. Every one of

the nominees has made a significant contribution to planning.

The judging panel all commented on the quality of the projects nominated and this is reflected in the number of awards and commendations given. Each submission contained a depth to it making judging an extremely lengthy process this year.

If the quality of the award nominations is anything to go by planning in South Australia is definitely leading by example. We got nominations across all categories and have awarded an award in all but one category. In several cases, as we must only award one award per category, hot debate ensued and conferring with extra judges was needed as the quality was so good.

So for those of you who received commendations this year know that it was close, very very close.

We acknowledge the amount of work that goes into the preparation of Awards nominations and that the time to prepare award nominations takes time away from business tasks. We hope this time and effort culminates in a fantastic evening of celebration and recognition.

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 2024 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. The pressure on the profession continues and this year we have seen the government commit to a significant repositioning of urban development for the Adelaide greater region, and establishment of regional plans, commencing with Kangaroo Island. We need to emphasise the absolute criticality of addressing climate change in this and I urge the government to embed this in current and future strategies. Planners are change agents and influencers, and play a significant role in developing

sustainable 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 continue to drive change across the planning sector, and I thank him for his commitment to planning, and particularly in respect to the establishment of the new Flinders University degree in Planning.

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 2024.

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 Darwin.

Cate Hart RPIA (Fellow)



Cate Hart RPIA (Fellow)

Sponsors

2024 PIA SA Award Sponsors

06 PLATINUM SPONSOR:

Kelley Jones

SILVER SPONSOR:



Government of South Australia

Department for Housing
and Urban Development

BRONZE SPONSORS:



PEWTER SPONSOR:



Government of South Australia

Department for Environment
and Water

Committee

2023–2024 PIA SA Division Committee

President

Cate Hart RPIA (Fellow)

SA National Board Director

Stephen Smith RPIA (Fellow)

SAYP Co-convenors

Julien Beauvillier PIA (Assoc.)

Michael Jaensch PIA (Assoc.)

WIPN Co-Convenors

Eleni Kiamos MPIA

Darshi Gohel PIA (Assoc.)

2023–24 Division Committee

Dr Alpana Sivam MPIA – Vice
President

Ben Victory RPIA

Cate Hart RPIA (Fellow) – President

Craig Doyle RPIA

David Bills RPIA – Vice President

Eleni Kiamos MPIA

Gavin Leydon PIA (Hon Fellow)

Matt Ballard MPIA – Vice President

Nick Wilson MPIA

Rick Hutchins RPIA

Sally Roberts RPIA (Fellow)

Skyy Anderson MPIA

Terry Sutcliffe PIA (Fellow)

Victoria Shute

Stephen Smith RPIA (Fellow) –

SA Board Director

Judges

2024 PIA South Australia Judging Panel

Welcome to the 2024 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) -
Convenor*



Taren Brockhouse MPIA



Paul Johnson RPIA (Fellow)



Brad McCormack MPIA



Cheryl Pedler RPIA



Johannes Pieters MPIA



De-Anne Smith MPIA



Chris Zafirooulos RPIA

Award Winners & Commendations



20 AWARDS FOR
24 Planning
Excellence

South Australia

PLANNING INSTITUTE
OF AUSTRALIA

Category

President's Award

AWARD

Flinders University

Project: Bachelor of Urban and Regional Design Course SA

Following five years without an Urban and Regional Planning Undergraduate course in South Australia, Flinders University embarked on an ambitious pathway to introduce a new course to assist in filling the deficiency of planners in this State.

Through an exacting and challenging process to create a complete planning course from scratch in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, and through a year-long collaboration and significant support from Planning and Land Use Services staff within the Department for Housing and Urban Development, the Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning was launched and will welcome its first students in 2025.

The Department's support, both financially from Minister for Planning, Hon. Nick Champion MP and including support in successfully applying for federal funding, has been integral to the success of this amazing opportunity for those wishing to join the exciting realm that is Planning.

Throughout this time, Flinders University has also been working with Planning Institute of Australia staff to achieve alignment with PIA's Accreditation Policy

to enable the course to gain accreditation status in the future, and their dedication to see this success was also fundamental in developing the course outline and elements.

Congratulations to Flinders University for their tenacity and determination in launching the Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning once more in South Australia – an achievement of which they can be justly proud!

09

President's Award



Category

Minister's Award

10 AWARD

MINISTER'S AWARD

Sarah Melin

Sarah's dedication and the energy she brings to whatever she applies herself to have been significant assets for the Planning and Land Use Services Division, inside the Department for Housing and Urban Development.

Her most notable achievement must be her work in the BEET, leading the charge to achieve the restoration of a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning degree in South Australia after its closure five years ago and steadily diminishing numbers of planners in the State. Her determination to the success of this project was infectious and has led to the course commencing in 2025.

She was also the leader in the establishment of the hugely successful TAFE SA Certificate IV in Local Government (Planning), or Para Planner course, which will deliver much needed support to the planning fraternity, especially in local government, in the coming years.

In addition, Sarah achieved much-needed variations to the Accredited Professionals Scheme, working through its complexities to engineer significant changes for improvement.

Sarah deserves this recognition due to her boundless enthusiasm and attention to detail, which has brought such outstanding results for planning and our future.



Young Planner of the Year

AWARD

YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR

Michael Jaensch

Michael is a young planning professional who despite having only a few years' experience is operating well beyond his years. It was apparent to the judges that he is very well respected in his workplace for his technical skills and his ability to build relationships, but more than that, he also brings a positive attitude and kindness which has translated into a more positive workplace.

The judges were impressed with Michael's approach to getting good planning outcomes, especially for the local community; he is often praised for his exemplary customer service. As a development assessment planner, Michael is skilled at effectively communicating the complexities of the development assessment process. He has a can-do attitude and is meticulous in his approach to assessing development applications, two things his workplace values very highly.

Through his ongoing involvement as the Co-Convenor of the SA Young Planners Committee, Michael shows his passion and dedication to the planning profession and his desire to give back. Michael constantly promotes the voices of other young planners and he also volunteers with the Commonwealth Association of Planners, serving on the Governance and Projects Committee and contributing to advancing town planning nationally.

The judges were impressed with Michael's commitment to delivering a professional and customer-focused planning service for his employer and the local community. His workplace considers that he has natural leadership tendencies which are characterised by his empathic listening skills, exceptional patience, and ability to develop inclusive and positive relationships with others. These, 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.



11

Young Planner of the Year

COMMENDATION

Jack Holmes

Category

Climate Change and Resilience

12 AWARD

Kangaroo Island Council, Meridian Urban and Water Technology

Project: Preparing Kangaroo Island: A Whole-of-Island Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Plan

The judges were impressed by the insightfulness of the Kangaroo Island Council in recognising the need to develop a clear framework to address current and increasing threats from changing climate.

The development of the Preparing KI: A Whole-of-Island Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Action Plan, with Meridian Urban and Water Technology, has provided the Council with a roadmap of practical actions that will assist in mitigating future risk, adapting to climate change and building resilience.

The judges considered that the development of the plan involved a comprehensive process that included a 5-stage project methodology, and community and stakeholder engagement, that managed to achieve a balance of technical, practical and community aspirations while recognising that funding opportunities and level of

effort are critical to a small council with limited resources.

The judges liked that the methodology for the development of the plan applied a National and State lens to ensure consistency with best practice approaches to risk mitigation and reduction across Australia, while also being cognisant of the need to use local knowledge and tailor the outcomes specifically to Kangaroo Island.

Stakeholder engagement during the development of the Plan used a variety-of-engagement process across the year-long project. This process acknowledged the importance of drawing on local knowledge but was mindful of the recent bushfire trauma experienced by the Kangaroo Island community.

Cleverly, the Plan identifies the top 20 priority actions for disaster risk reduction and mitigation along with cost estimates. This information is invaluable for the Kangaroo Island Council so that it can prioritise future works and opportunistically apply for funding and grants from the State and Commonwealth to support the delivery of these priority actions over time. The judges were impressed that the Plan has already shown success, having guided over \$2 million in funding applications.



COMMENDATION

City of Adelaide

Project: City of Adelaide Integrated Climate Strategy 2030

COMMENDATION

Alexandrina Council, in collaboration with the Coast Protection Board, URPS, Hatch Design

Project: Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan for the Goolwa and Mundoo Channel Communities

Improving Planning Processes



AWARD

Wattle Range Council in collaboration with Future Urban

Project: Grow a Planner

The Judges congratulate Wattle Range Council for their innovative and strategic Grow a Planner initiative, which is actively addressing the shortage of planners in regional South Australia.

This program redefines workforce development by cultivating new planning talent through hands-on experience, mentorship and collaboration with UniSA and Future Urban. By establishing itself as a 'Training Council', Wattle Range Council has created a pathway for recent graduates to gain invaluable experience across a broad range

of planning disciplines—from statutory planning to community engagement. Graduates from this program emerge as skilled, well-rounded planners who are ready to contribute to the profession.

The Judges were particularly impressed by the program's innovative approach to addressing challenges faced by rural councils, promoting cultural diversity, nurturing a sense of community and creating an adaptable, replicable model for other regional councils to consider.

Wattle Range Council's Grow a Planner program is an exemplary initiative that enhances planning capacity in regional areas and enriches the planning profession, making it highly deserving of this Award for Excellence.

Category

Planning Champion

14 AWARD

Planning Champion

Sarah Melin

Sarah has spearheaded the establishment of locally delivered tertiary education planning qualifications in South Australia to ensure pathways exist from entry level courses, through an undergraduate Bachelor degree to Masters degrees. Sarah's advocacy has resulted in Flinders University committing to introducing a new Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning degree.

The judges were impressed by Sarah's drive and initiative. Sarah continually advocated for graduate programs collaborating across all levels of government and with the private sector until new educational pathways for planners became reality. Sarah's persistence has resulted in the delivery of the Para Planner Cadet Program at TAFE SA and the commitment by Flinders University to deliver a new degree. This is an outstanding achievement.

Sarah was instrumental in the establishment of the Para Planner Cadet Program in South Australia.

She worked with the private sector and Councils to encourage them to offer cadetship placements, which provide organisations opportunities to support young people as well as addressing the current skills shortage in urban and regional planners.

Though hard work and effective collaboration, Sarah has created genuine enthusiasm and momentum around pursuing a career in urban and regional planning. Her efforts will have a lasting impact on the planning profession and will assist in addressing the critical shortage in the longer term. Sarah's nomination was accompanied by several outstanding testimonials.

Planning is essential for South Australia's future, and our state needs more trained planners who can continue creating great communities for the future. Sarah's hard work, persistence and vision has resulted in new and fresh pathways for tertiary planning education in South Australia.

Congratulations Sarah.



Planning Research

AWARD

Enhancing Active Travel for Older Adults: Local Governments' Initiatives for Active Ageing

Project: Zahra Yousefi

This research project addresses the pressing need for age-friendly active travel planning and initiatives in South Australia and showcases the transformative role of local governments in promoting healthy active lifestyles and inclusive communities.

This project provides a unique perspective on the intersection of transport policy, urban planning and active ageing that is underpinned by socio-ecological and policy frameworks. By focusing on local government policies and practices, the study provides a valuable, context-specific understanding of how South Australian councils can improve mobility for older residents. The project's qualitative approach, including case studies from six local councils and insights from a diverse range of stakeholders, has produced in-depth findings with clear, practical and achievable recommendations.

The Judges were particularly impressed by the commitment to advancing active travel through



sustainable design, collaboration and policy innovation. While this study offers a significant contribution to academia, it also provides effective guidance

for local governments aiming to create inclusive and age-friendly communities and is a worthy recipient of this Award for Excellence.

COMMENDATION

Regional Development Australia – Eyre Peninsula, URPS

Project: Infrastructure Challenges and Options Paper – Eyre Peninsula

Category

Stakeholder Engagement

16 AWARD

Stakeholder Engagement

Alexandrina Council, in collaboration with Coast Protection Board, URPS & Hatch

Project: Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan for the Goolwa and Mundoo Channel Communities

Alexandrina Council's approach to engaging with the relevant affected community on the Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan was clearly targeted, appropriately responding to the nature of the challenge at hand.

The engagement process has a clear and significant place in the broader coastal adaptation strategic framework which was reflected in the feedback received by the community and key stakeholders which indicates this engagement process has the potential to be used as an exemplar for similar coastal hazard risk projects across the state.



Technology & Digital Innovation

AWARD

Planning and Land Use Services division (PLUS) within the Department for Housing and Urban Development

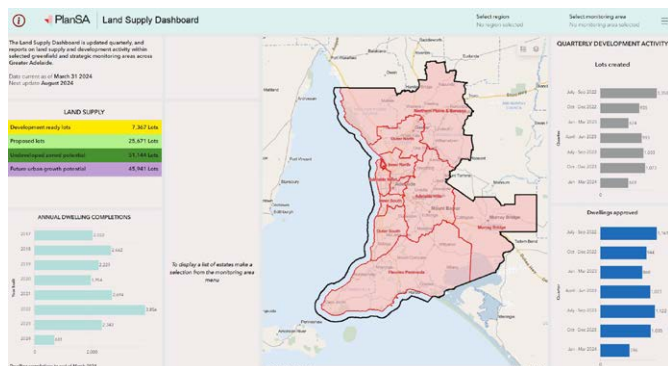
Project: Land Supply Dashboard

The Land Supply Dashboard is an Australian first, digital solution providing up to date, easily accessible information on land supply and rezoning activity, in the greater Adelaide region.

The Dashboard allows people to be informed about allotments at various stages, from development ready, to future growth potential, and current Code Amendments, in one centralized location. The Interactive Map Viewers

provide easy to navigate spatial services, which change to reflect a monitoring area on selection, including layers containing information about availability of infrastructure and utilities. It interacts with development application activity on the SA Planning Portal. The information provided allows agencies and developers to plan for the delivery of infrastructure in demand areas, and to build capacity.

The judges were impressed with the ease of navigation provided by the Dashboard. A collaborative effort across the sector to provide a central point of information was evident – The Dashboard is a key component of the State Government’s Housing Roadmap, contributing to delivering new homes, and housing affordability.



Strategic Planning Project

AWARD

Rural City of Murray Bridge

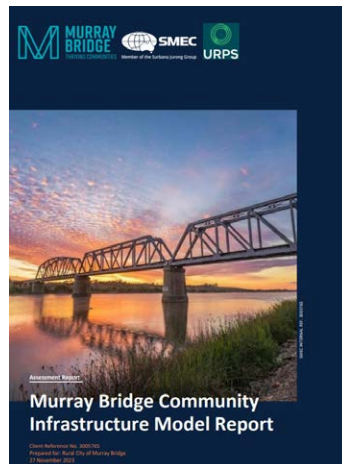
Acknowledgements:
Holmes Dyer Pty Ltd, URPS, SMEC, Dept for Housing and Urban Development – HIPDU and PLUS

Project: Murray Bridge Future City Program

The Future City Program is an umbrella term for several key strategic interlinked projects delivering an ambitious growth scenario for the Rural City of Murray Bridge, from a current population of some 23,000 people to over 39,000 over the next twenty years.

The program comprises three key elements.

- *The Murray Bridge Structure Plan*, which identifies a spatial framework for growth. The structure plan is informed by comprehensive engagement and designed to be dynamic, so it can be updated and reviewed as required over the next twenty years.
- *The Community Infrastructure Model* which determines priority locations for infrastructure upgrades, including the provision



of community services, for the growth scenarios for the city.

- *The Residential Growth Areas Code Amendment* that aligns the fragmented ownership of land within the Code Amendment area to provide cohesive development patterns with the associated infrastructure.

Significantly, the program is facilitated with a governance model that is a whole of council approach providing a line of sight from strategy to informing development application decisions. It brings executive leadership, planners, engineers, community development, and finance into a governance framework for this project.



Furthermore, Council is actively engaging with a range of stakeholders on its ambitious journey, including state government, to pilot mechanisms such as a Basic Infrastructure Scheme to fund the necessary investments for this future community.

The program seeks to ensure that identified growth across Murray Bridge can be delivered in a timely, cost effective and sustainable manner that delivers on its objective of "Thriving Communities"

Congratulations to the Rural City of Murray Bridge for its comprehensive Future City Living Program.

COMMENDATIONS

Alexandrina Council

Project: Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030

District Council of Loxton Waikerie, URPS

Project: Loxton Waikerie Growth Strategy

City of Adelaide

Project: City Plan – Adelaide 2036

Community Wellbeing and Diversity

AWARD

Hatch Design

City of Victor Harbor

Project: The Bluff Master Plan

The Bluff Master Plan established a practical and accessible framework for addressing site challenges involving a collaborative planning and co-design process, drawing upon over 700 community members and visitors for this iconic public space. Partnerships with the Ramindjeri Heritage Association and Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation significantly enhanced the final product and fostered ongoing key cultural connections.

The judges were impressed with the range of engagement tools and mechanisms used to seek feedback, along with the very clearly articulated piece of work with the feedback report and key findings report leading to the Master Plan itself demonstrating the evolution of the project, its objectives and how feedback was incorporated. The layout and design of the document includes effective messaging, imagery, and photomontages to illustrate how current conditions could evolve into preferred future scenarios.



The plan aligns with regional strategies to ensure long-term sustainability by balancing tourism growth with ecological preservation.

The masterplan was well supported and transparently costed with delivery of the key recommendations already underway. The co-design process is now frequently referred to as a benchmark for future collaborations and engagements and is a worthy recipient of this Award for Excellence.



COMMENDATION

Campbelltown City Council, URPS

Project: Campbelltown Cool Spaces for Summer

Great Place

Category

AWARD

District Council of Yankalilla

Project: Normanville Surf Life Saving Club

The Judges were impressed by the Yankalilla Council's well-considered approach to redeveloping the Normanville Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) and Cafe/ Kiosk, which prioritises urban design principles and reinforces Normanville's distinctive coastal character.

This new community asset is integrated sympathetically within the existing dune system, with the cantilevered upper-level creating a sense of weightlessness and reducing visual impact. The building's stepped form establishes an open connection with the plaza, beach and dunes, while multiple access points support inclusivity, accessibility and sense of welcome to the public.

The project incorporates resilient materials suited to harsh conditions, which demonstrate a considered response to its coastal context and character. The sustainability ambitions support both durability and environmental responsibility, including strategic shading, high-performance glass, light-colored finishes and passive



design. The building footprint was also carefully relocated behind the projected coastal erosion line and set further back from northern dunes, enabling dune rehabilitation.

Delivery of the project required successful collaboration with Surf Life Saving SA, the Normanville Surf Life Saving Club, Architects Ink, Oxigen and Partek, who all worked to Council's brief of fostering a sense of community ownership, prioritising the public realm, reducing the building footprint, increasing public shade and maximising the unique location and views.



The Judges believe this project has successfully realised its ambitious goals, serving as an outstanding example of integrated planning, urban design, architecture, place-making and



environmental management, creating a truly great place for the benefit of current and future generations.

Tertiary Student Project

COMMENDATION

Mahima Dhoka, Shubham Vasudev

Project: Heritage Boulevard: Transforming Former West End Brewery through Innovation and Connectivity

COMMENDATION

Sufia Naz, Shilpa Shaji Sreeja Chandra, Un Fat Wong, Tak Li Shing

Project: The West End Brewery Proposal

2024 Award Winners

Presidents Award 2023

Bachelor of Urban and Regional
Planning Course SA
Flinders University

Minister's Award

Sarah Melin

Young Planner of the Year

Michael Jaensch

Climate Change and Resilience

Kangaroo Island Council
Meridian Urban
Water Technology
*Preparing KI: A Whole-of-Island
Disaster Risk Reduction and
Mitigation Plan*

Improving Planning Processes

Wattle Range Council in
collaboration with Future Urban
Grow a Planner

Planning Champion

Sarah Melin

Planning Research

Zahra Yousefi
*Enhancing Active Travel for Older
Adults: Local Governments'
Initiatives for Active Ageing*

Stakeholder Engagement

Alexandrina Council, in
collaboration with Coast
Protection Board, URPS & Hatch
*Community Coastal Flood
Emergency Plan for the Goolwa
and Mundoo Channel Communities*

Technology & Digital Innovation

Planning and Land Use Services
division (PLUS) within the
Department for Housing and
Urban Development
Land Supply Dashboard

Strategic Planning Project

Rural City of Murray Bridge
Acknowledgements: Holmes Dyer
Pty Ltd, URPS, SMEC
Dept for Housing and Urban
Development – HIPDU and PLUS
Murray Bridge Future City Program

Community Wellbeing and Diversity

Hatch Design
City of Victor Harbor
The Bluff Master Plan

Planning with Country

Rural City of Murray Bridge
Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered
Communities (NREC)
Acknowledgements: Sproutt
WAX Design, Exhibition Studios
*Sturt Reserve Master Plan
Implementation – Play space
Precinct*

Great Place

District Council of Yankalilla
Normanville Surf Life Saving Club



20 AWARDS FOR
24 Planning
Excellence

South Australia

PLANNING INSTITUTE
OF AUSTRALIA



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.

Planning Institute Australia – South Australia

PO Box 43,

Elizabeth SA 5112

T (08) 8337 8816

E sa@planning.org.au

W www.planning.org.au