Natural Disasters
We have all witnessed the devastating scenes of flood ravaged communities in Queensland, as well as New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia; Cyclone Yasi wreaking havoc in Far North Queensland; and more devasting bushfires in Western Australia.

PIA has responded rapidly to this series of natural disasters through the development of a resources page on the PIA website for planners www.planning.org.au/policy/flood-recovery; setting up a volunteer registration of interest; and supporting the planning profession through speaking out in the media.

As our country braces for more frequent and severe natural disaster events, from floods to bushfire; the power of nature and the potential impacts of climate change are forefront in our minds. PIA is continuing to explore further ways that we can support the planning profession in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from such events.

Stay tuned to PIA communications for more information about the PIA response to natural disasters facing our community.

Policy chair farewell note
More than ever, PIA’s work in the field of National and State policy is so important. To be effective, the organization must articulate a position on the many critical issues facing our profession and our communities today.

Over the last four years that I have been chair of the National Policy Committee, PIA has made at least 197 submissions to government at both federal and state level; has introduced 22 policy positions about key national policy issues and has supported 19 state policy positions. We have issued more than 150 media statements around these policy issues. These statements have helped the National President speak in the media about our policy position, and have helped state presidents present positions to their members, and have demonstrated to the development industry that our professional organisation understands the issues facing the industry. They have raised PIA’s profile on behalf of our members.

When we do this, we speak as one voice. We are much more influential when we do.

Five years ago, we did not have a National Policy Committee. Now we have a network of state and territory Policy Committees that not only supports the development of national policy positions but also does an amazing job addressing the key issues in their state, territory and communities. PIA is enormously more powerful as a result and I’d like to thank all those who have given their time and effort to bring this about. In particular, I’d like to thank Liz de Chastel and Kirsty Kelly who, as PIA’s policy managers, have driven this effort and worked tirelessly to bring all the states and territories together with great thinking.

Policy is at the heart of the planning profession. It’s about the future and right way to shape our cities and regions.
It’s about getting both the traditional and emerging issues onto the agenda of those working in our exciting profession and our political and community leaders.

I step down as National Policy Committee Chair in March and hand over to Neil Savery, who retires as National President. I appreciate the opportunity to have developed this important role within PIA and encourage all members to get involved!

Sue Holliday FPIA CPP

PIA: Professionalism, Integrity, Advocacy.

PIA in Action - Policy & Advocacy

PIA as a whole has been very active in the policy and advocacy arena in the past 6 months. The following is a summary of just some of the policy and advocacy related activities at the National and Division level in which PIA has been or is currently actively engaged on behalf of the planning profession and PIA Members.

National

A Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia


National Urban Policy - Discussion Paper


Cities are everyone's business

PIA supports the development of a National Urban Policy to inform a long-term strategic vision for Australia’s urban centres. A joint statement was put out in The Australian newspaper by a consortium of interested organisations and individuals and PIA also sent out a media release - both documents can be viewed at: [www.planning.org.au/policy/policy-news](http://www.planning.org.au/policy/policy-news).

Federal Election 2010


MoU between PIA and the Green Building Council of Australia

PIA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to affirm our commitment to collaborate on the Green Star Communities project. For more information about the project visit: [www.gbca.org.au/green-star/green-star-communities/](http://www.gbca.org.au/green-star/green-star-communities/).

Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation: Planning, Zoning and Development Assessments

**Possible Reforms to the Lobbying Code of Conduct and Register of Lobbyists**

*Discussion Paper*

PIA has made a submission highlighting that planners should not be considered a "lobbyist" in the context of the national Lobbying Code of Conduct and Register of Lobbyists - see www.planning.org.au/policy/submissions

**Healthy Spaces & Places**

PIA continues to work in collaboration with the Heart Foundation and Australian Local Government Association on ensuring Healthy Spaces and Places is a useful up-to-date tool for built environment and health professionals to assist in promoting and designing healthy sustainable communities. Healthy Spaces and Places recently won the President’s Award and Urban Design award in the PIA ACT Division Planning for Excellence 2010 Awards and was also named a finalist in the ACT 2010 Health Promotion Awards. These awards recognise outstanding achievements and innovative contributions to health promotion practice in the ACT. To access Healthy Spaces and Places click here www.healthyplaces.org.au

**Australian Planner - NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

PIA is delighted to announce, as an exclusive member benefit, that all members can now access Australian Planner on-line at no cost. This includes back issues of the journal.

To access the on-line version, go to www.planning.org.au and log in with your username and password. Select ‘member resources’ and ‘PIA journals’.

**Australian Planner in the media**

The *Cities and Oil Vulnerability* special issue of Australian Planner hit the streets in late December amid a flurry of media interest. PIA put out three media releases www.planning.org.au/news/media-releases regarding key issues, all of which received media attention throughout the country including the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age www.planning.org.au/news/media-stories

**As a PIA member, you have a key advantage**

**You can become a Certified Practising Planner**

Employers and clients are looking for people who use their judgment to make good decisions, who demonstrate their technical skills and who can take a strategic view. They want professionals who are focused, who know the current trends and are committed to providing value and service.

Being a member of the profession requires a continuing commitment to education and it is essential to continuously refresh knowledge and skills as new practices, techniques and policies are developed.

Certified Practising Planner (CPP) is the accreditation awarded to planning professionals who have demonstrated a commitment to continued learning through the undertaking of the CPP course.

The CPP course is an initiative of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) which aims to provide nationally consistent, professional development opportunities, written specifically for planning practitioners. The course is a key element of the Certified Practising Planner (CPP) scheme and provides a means for practicing planners to update the skills and knowledge they have gained through their practice.

Members of the PIA may earn up to 30 PIA professional development points per unit.

We know you have a full time job to do, so we have made the course units available online, face to face, via an intensive course and they can even be conducted in-house.

**Get noticed, get CPP**

www.planning.org.au
New South Wales

**Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036 (released 16 December 2010)**

The Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036 [http://www.metroplansydney.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.metroplansydney.nsw.gov.au/) is a significant step in planning for the Sydney region into the future. The Plan takes a more whole of government approach than the previous Strategy and the Plan addresses a number of the issues which the Institute raised in its submissions on the Review Discussion Paper, including the important issues of agricultural land use in the Sydney Basin, urban design and the integration of transport with land use planning. The document broadly addresses the issues that PIA called for its submission regarding details on both the implementation and the monitoring of the Metropolitan Plan. To view the PIA submission visit: [www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw-2](http://www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw-2)

**Environmental Planning and Assessment Further Regulation 2010 - NSW**

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Further Regulation makes miscellaneous changes to the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation in relation to fees and charges, development control plans, smoke alarms in moveable dwellings, BASIX completion receipts, fire safety alternative solutions, compliance cost notices and existing use rights. The NSW Division prepared a submission on the Draft Regulation in November 2010: [www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw-2](http://www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw-2)

**Draft NSW Biodiversity Strategy 2010 – 2015**

The draft Strategy [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/nswbiostrategy.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/nswbiostrategy.htm) outlines key objectives, actions and targets to guide investment and work in biodiversity conservation in NSW over the next 5 years. The draft Strategy is on Public Exhibition until 11 February 2011 and a submission is being prepared by the NSW Division.

**Draft SEPP (Competition)**

In July 2010 the Department of Planning placed on public exhibition a draft SEPP on Competition. A submission on the draft SEPP was prepared by the NSW Division and sent to the Department in August 2010: [www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw-2](http://www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw-2)

**Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Report November 2010**

Investigation into Corruption Risks Involved in Lobbying [http://www.icac.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.icac.nsw.gov.au/). The President of PIA NSW, Tony McNamara has written to the Premier to express concern at some of the recommendations of the above report, and in particular the recommendation to classify consultants, including town planning professionals and industry bodies, such as PIA, as lobbyists. The letter requested a meeting with the Premier.

**PIA NSW State Election Issues**

In November 2010 the NSW President wrote to NSW Premier (cc: Minister for Planning), the Leader of the Opposition (cc: Shadow Minister for Planning), the NSW Greens Party, the NSW Nationals Office and the Australian Democrats (NSW Division) regarding Key Strategic Planning Issues for the State Election proposed for March 2011. Read more: [www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw](http://www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw)

**PIA NSW New Planning Act Discussion Paper**

Members of the NSW Division have prepared a discussion paper on a New Planning Act for NSW and a copy of this is available on the PIA NSW website: [www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw](http://www.planning.org.au/policy/nsw)

**PIA NSW Policy Review**

The NSW Policy pages on the PIA website are currently under review and will be updated to include 8 key policy headings as follows:

- Metropolitan Strategy
- NSW Settlement Policy
- Competitions Policy
- Second Sydney Airport
- Riparian Corridors
- Strategic Planning at the Local Level
- NSW Planning Act
- Sustainable Environment
South Australia

30-Year Plan Implementation

Recent approvals of ministerial DPA's to implement direction outlined in the 30-Year Plan, including controversial developments at Mount Barker in the Adelaide Hills and Buckland Park in the state's north. PIA SA has been contacted by media recently in relation to potential flooding concerns at Buckland Park. The SA Division has a policy related to the 30-Year Plan and has worked with Government to assist with implementation of agreed recommendations. The Plan recently won the Urban Planning Category of the PIA SA Awards for Planning Excellence. View the 30-Year Plan PIA SA submission here: www.planning.org.au/policy/sa-2

DAOnline – DA Planners On-line Mentor and Induction Kit - SA

Further funding approved for DA On-line from the Local Government Association Research and Development Scheme. This will contribute to the further development of the DA Planner’s On-line Mentor & Induction Kit, an on-line information and support service for DA Planners, particularly new graduates. This project will add to the existing range of useful material on the website, which would have traditionally been passed down through workplace mentors, who are now often too busy or limited in their own experience to assist new planners. The project includes the development of a range of new information and training material to add to the existing material available on the website. See www.daonline.net.au

Workforce and Retention Study Finalised - SA

The Workforce and Retention Study (June 2010) was prepared by Harrison Research in conjunction with Natalie Fuller and Associates, Parsons Brinckerhoff and Locher Human Resources for the Planning Institute of Australia (SA Division). The study was funded by the Local Government Research and Development Scheme.

The study provides a clear picture of the built environment workforce and of workforce best practices more generally, with the profiling, behaviours, attitudes, attraction and retention strategies covered in the study all contributing to future workforce planning. What has emerged is a built environment workforce that is not, or is no longer, in crisis (as had been determined from various studies conducted up to 2007), but one that does retain clearly proclaimed needs and opportunities for improvement. Documents available here: http://www.planning.org.au/policy/workforce

Victoria

Time Stamping for Native Vegetation in Victoria

The expansion of Melbourne’s Urban Growth Boundary created the need for the ‘Time Stamping Project’, led by the Department of Sustainability and Environment. This project aims to capture and “time stamp” native vegetation information in areas identified as potentially suitable for urban development. This will establish a definitive native vegetation dataset which will be used to calculate offset liabilities for future development proposals within these areas. PIA Victoria understands the strategic basis for undertaking the project; however the Division had serious concerns which were outlined to DSE secretary Greg Wilson in a recent meeting. Potential solutions which arose from the meeting included the extension of consultation time and opportunities for landowners to undertake their own vegetation assessments, along with the assistance of PIA in public and professional education regarding the program.

VicUrban Board Membership

VicUrban is the Victorian Government’s sustainable urban land development agency, playing a central role in developing, testing and delivering the implementation of Melbourne’s overarching planning strategies. The resignation of Dr Marcus Spiller in 2009 from the VicUrban board created a significant absence of an appropriately qualified and experienced planner. PIA Vic strongly advocated for the appointment of another planner to the agency’s board, given the direct relationship between planning and the role of VicUrban, and subsequently nominated a senior PIA member to replace Dr Spiller, but received no response. VicUrban has failed to appoint an adequately qualified planner to their board since 2009. PIA Vic intends to follow up on the original nomination made early in 2011.
Planning Pathways in Victoria

The Planning Pathways project is an initiative of former Victorian Planning Minister Justin Madden, in response to Victoria’s technical planning skills shortage. PIA Victoria is part of a standing committee established as part of this initiative. In particular, PIA Vic plays an important role by delivering its various highly successful cadetships programs. This year PIA Victoria:

- Has successfully concluded the first round, and secured funding to run a second round, of internships and planning assistant short course for local councils in Metropolitan Melbourne.
- Has delivered a third round of internships and planning assistant short course for local councils in provincial Victoria.
- Have submitted a project proposal to run further internships and planning assistant short courses in provincial Victoria.
- Secured funding for, and are midway through delivering, a second round of internships for international post-graduate planning students from the University of Melbourne.
- Is anticipating our first student application for the Indigenous ‘Planning Pathways’ scholarship/internship program.

In addition PIA Vic is running or involved with various other initiatives such as a mentoring program, a planning careers resource website (www.planning4success.com.au), a program of members giving presentations to their alma maters, a high school work experience program and on-going support to the VYP network.

Call to Action – PIA VIC

In the lead up to the 2010 Victorian State Election, the PIA Victorian Committee determined to identify and advocate key strategic planning issues for consideration in coming years by key political parties and stakeholders. This initiative has been titled the “PIA Call to Action”. The committee nominated 6 issues, each with nominated ‘actions’ to address the PIAs concerns along with an ‘implementation strategy’ which explains how the solutions to the issues can be addressed. The 6 issues can be viewed at: [www.planning.org.au/policy/vic-2](http://www.planning.org.au/policy/vic-2)

Western Australia

Development Assessment Panels (DAPs)

As part of the ongoing planning reform process in Western Australia, the Department for Planning is calling for expressions of interest to nominate for specialist member positions prior to Friday 4 March 2011. Expressions in accordance with the requirements of the “Expression of Interest – Development Assessment Panel, Specialist Members” document which may be found at [www.planning.wa.gov.au/Daps_EOI_Application.pdf?id=2511](http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/Daps_EOI_Application.pdf?id=2511)

The membership structure of DAPs proposed in Western Australia, with presiding members being required to hold at least a tertiary planning qualification, a key outcome PIA advocated, and one likely to contribute to sound planning outcomes.

Tasmania

PIA Tasmania Representation on External Committees

2010 has also seen some positive recognition of PIA with our increased representation on various advisory committees. The Division is now represented on the:

- Premier’s Physical Activity Council (existing)
- University of Tasmania Course Advisory Panel (existing)
- Renewable Energy Advisory Committee (new)
- Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee (new)
- Light Rail Community Advisory Panel (new)
- Hobart Inner City Development Plan External Reference Group (new)
- Building and Construction Industry Advisory Committee (new)
Queensland

**Local Government Career Taskforce (QLD) Findings**

PIA is participating in the Local Government Skills Formation Strategy – Queensland. The strategy is a partnership between government agencies, the local government sector and education and training providers. The Strategy will address skill shortage issues in planning, building certification, engineering and environmental health issues.

Further collaboration between government agencies and key industry organisations led to the establishment of the Local Government Career Taskforce (Qld) in February 2007. PIA is representing our profession at the table. Past President and National Chair of the PIA Local Government Planning Network, Mr Leo Jensen is representing PIA on the Taskforce.

Two reports have recently been released:
- Local Government Skills Shortage Survey Results
- Queensland Planners – Attraction & Retention Survey Results
- A Skills Formation Strategy – Project Information Sheet


**Queensland Flood Recovery and PIAs Response**

PIA Queensland and National Office have been working together to respond to the flood crisis in Queensland. Media releases have been issued including “Planning Industry Examining Flood Disaster” and “Planning Community Assists Recovery” which can be viewed at [www.planning.org.au/news/media-releases](http://www.planning.org.au/news/media-releases)

Media stories arising from those releases and from other media statements made by Queensland Division President Greg Tupicoff can be viewed at [www.planning.org.au/news/media-stories](http://www.planning.org.au/news/media-stories) under National and Queensland.

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- Social Planning
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Australian Capital Territory

Environmental Impact Assessment

PIA committee members undertook a review of the draft legislation - Planning and Development (Environmental Impact Statements) Amendment Bill 2010 - and prepared a submission for the Government’s consideration. A copy of the submission is available at www.planning.org.au/policy/act-2

Review of Residential Codes Draft Variation 303

A submission was prepared by committee members on the raft of variations relating to residential development including Zone Objectives, Development Tables, Solar access requirements, Residential Zones Code, Single Dwelling Code, Multi-unit Housing Code and Leasing Code. A copy of the submission is available at www.planning.org.au/policy/act-2

Estate Development Code Draft Variation 301

A submission was prepared by committee members on the new proposed Estate Development Code. A copy of the submission is available at www.planning.org.au/policy/act-2

ACT Assembly / Planning Committee Inquiry RZ3 & RZ4 Zones


International

Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness

An independent review of Australia’s aid and development program, the first since 1996, is currently underway. This review will examine the effectiveness and efficiency of Australia’s aid and guide the strategic direction of Australia’s aid program.

PIA has been involved in a number of Australian aid programs and drawing upon these experiences has developed a submission to assist the panel in the review of aid effectiveness www.planning.org.au/policy/submissions

To be completed by April this year, the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness is designed to maximise the effectiveness of the aid program, as Australia increases its Official Development Assistance to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income by 2015-16.

Planning Institute of Australia 2011 National Congress

The Congress will be a memorable event with an array of speakers exploring the role of planning in confronting the many challenges in the contemporary world.

Hobart, the scenic capital of Tasmania, is the beautiful location for the 2011 National Congress.

The 2011 Congress will seek to look outside the profession and present a lively and informative expose of the way planners engage with the world and how the world perceives planning.

To find out more visit the Conference website www.planningcongress2011.com.au

Critical Mass

Planning engages the world

Planning Institute of Australia

2011 National Congress

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Call for Volunteers:  
International Development Placements

Looking for a new and challenging experience this year? Ready to expand your existing skills while contributing to a developing country? Then this may just be what you are looking for!

The Planning Institute Australia is now calling for volunteers to work in Sri Lanka on 3 to 6 month placements to develop regional plans for Sri Lanka’s northern and eastern provinces that have been affected by the country’s 30 years of civil conflict and identify much needed infrastructure to accommodate the island’s growing population and burgeoning tourist industry.

Volunteers will also be involved with building the local planning capacity through individual mentoring and larger group training when applicable.

Alternatively there are also many ways to contribute as an organisation whilst remaining in Australia, so do not be dismayed if life prevents you from physically being able to work in Sri Lanka. For more information please visit our website www.planning.org.au/international to view a documentary of the Institute’s work in Sri Lanka.

Placements are available for 3 or 6 months, commencing in June, September and December in 2011.

If you have experience in:
- Strategic Planning,
- Community Consultation,
- Project Development,
- Geographical Information Systems; and
- possess excellent writing and interpersonal skills

please contact Micaela Drieberg on 03 9347 1900 or mdrieberg@planning.org.au to express your interest.
Other Planning Policy and Practice Matters of Interest

National

Expert Panel on Cities: COAG reform agenda

The Expert Panel on Cities is now halfway through its task to assess the consistency of the Metropolitan planning systems of the Capital Cities with the agreed COAG criteria.

The COAG Reform Council (the council) was established by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) as part of the arrangements for federal financial relations, to assist COAG to drive its reform agenda. The council is independent of individual governments and reports directly to COAG.

The council aims to strengthen accountability for the achievement of results through independent and evidenced-based assessment and reporting of the performance of all governments under intergovernmental agreements referred to the council.

Members of the Panel are Chair: Brian Howe, Lucy Turnbull. John Denton, Sue Holliday FPIA CPP, Duncan MacLennan, Jude Munro, Rod Pearse OAM and Meredith Sussex AM

The overarching objective is To ensure Australian cities are globally competitive, productive, sustainable, liveable and socially inclusive and are well placed to meet future challenges and growth.

The specific criteria are:

Capital city strategic planning systems should:

1. be integrated:
   a) across functions, including land-use and transport planning, economic and infrastructure development, environmental assessment and urban development, and
   b) across government agencies;

2. provide for a consistent hierarchy of future oriented and publicly available plans, including:
   a) long term (for example, 15-30 year) integrated strategic plans,
   b) medium term (for example, 5-15 year) prioritised infrastructure and land-use plans, and
   c) near term prioritised infrastructure project pipeline backed by appropriately detailed project plans;

3. provide for nationally-significant economic infrastructure (both new and upgrade of existing) including:
   a) transport corridors,
   b) international gateways,
   c) intermodal connections,
   d) major communications and utilities infrastructure, and
   e) reservation of appropriate lands to support future expansion;

4. address nationally-significant policy issues including:
   a) population growth and demographic change,
   b) productivity and global competitiveness,
   c) climate change mitigation and adaptation,
   d) efficient development and use of existing and new infrastructure and other public assets,
   e) connectivity of people to jobs and businesses to markets,
   f) development of major urban corridors,
   g) social inclusion,
   h) health, liveability, and community wellbeing,
   i) housing affordability, and
   j) matters of national environmental significance;

5. consider and strengthen the networks between capital cities and major regional centres, and other important domestic and international connections;

6. provide for planned, sequenced and evidence-based land release and an appropriate balance of infill and greenfields development;

7. clearly identify priorities for investment and policy effort by governments, and provide an effective framework for private sector investment and innovation;

8. encourage world-class urban design and architecture; and

9. provide effective implementation arrangements and supporting mechanisms, including:
   a) clear accountabilities, timelines and appropriate performance measures,
   b) coordination between all three levels of government, with opportunities for Commonwealth and Local Government input, and linked, streamlined and efficient approval processes including under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999,
   c) evaluation and review cycles that support the need for balance between flexibility and certainty, including trigger points that identify the need for change in policy settings, and
   d) appropriate consultation and engagement with external stakeholders, experts and the wider community.
Last October and November, members of the panel visited each State and Territory and met with representatives of the relevant government agencies to discuss their planning systems and how they achieve the desired integration with other relevant parts of the government. While there, panel members also met with industry representatives, the Lord Mayor and other local government representatives, and PIA members to seek their opinions on the way the planning systems work.

The process is a long one. COAG have required a comprehensive consultation opportunity for the States and Territories. They approved a self assessment template on which to provide information and their response to the criteria. The panel will consider a draft report in February, which will then also be commented on by the jurisdictions. A final report, incorporating what each State and Territory is going to do to meet the COAG requirement that they must have a system that is consistent with the criteria by December 2011 will be presented to COAG at that time.

The process has been a really productive one, and the States and Territories have all used the process, the visits and discussions, and the self assessment responses as opportunities for improvement. Importantly, the process has involved many more government agencies than just the planning departments. This has allowed the conversation to really address the way agencies work together or not! The important planning issues for each city and how they are to be addressed are therefore on the agenda in a ‘whole of government’ context.

Each city has many similar problems but equally, each city has unique challenges. By looking at the planning system right across Australia, the panel has noted that we do not share experiences or problem solving approaches very well and would greatly benefit from that collaboration. It has highlighted the potential benefits of more consistent planning systems, while still allowing each jurisdiction to address their specific needs.

**Sue Holliday, Member, COAG Expert Panel on Cities**

**Development Assessment Forum**

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF) met in Brisbane on 12 November, 2010 and received presentations including from the COAG Reform Council Secretariat about the Review of Capital City Strategic Planning Systems and the development assessment reform work under COAG’s Seamless National Economy initiative.

The current work program of DAF includes:

- standard definitions for, and a guide to streamlining and implementing, track-based assessment;
- leading practice case studies and guidelines to identify the appropriate role for the private sector in development assessment and planning;
- a guide to the principles and leading practice approaches to development application referrals;
- a review of the problems associated with development applications and recommendations for improvements;
- the DAF Education Strategy; and
- the DAF Communications Strategy, including progress with the website.

A new project to develop a leading practice model for planning systems reform was approved at this meeting. This model will complement the Leading Practice Model for Development Assessment. A brief for a project examining leading practice approaches to the composition and operation of development assessment panels, is also to be developed for consideration at the next DAF meeting in February 2011.

For more information and to read the full communique go to [www.daf.gov.au](http://www.daf.gov.au)

**Sea Level Rise maps released**


The series of static sea level rise maps have been developed highlighting areas of Australia’s coast which are vulnerable to a low, medium and high sea level rise scenario relevant to the 2100 period. These maps allow community members to identify low lying areas vulnerable to inundation from any number of sea level scenarios.

The link to the maps are: [http://www.ozcoasts.org.au/climate/sd_visual.jsp](http://www.ozcoasts.org.au/climate/sd_visual.jsp)
Environmental water management report released

The National Water Commission has released the Australian environmental water management report 2010, which presents a comprehensive picture of Australia's current environmental water management arrangements. By providing a baseline of our current jurisdictional arrangements, this report is intended to support more transparent and accountable environmental outcomes. The National Water Commission will continue to work with the states and territories to improve environmental water reporting and management over the next two years.


NBN New Developments Policy

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy recently announced the New Developments Policy and implementation plan.

Starting from 1 January 2011, broadacre developments and infill developments with 100 premises or more will have fibre infrastructure installed by NBN Co. NBN Co will cover the cost of fibre infrastructure in newly approved developments with 100 or more premises and developers will be responsible for installing pit and pipe infrastructure. For more information on the New Developments Policy, please visit www.nbnco.com.au/NewDevelopments to access the NBN Co New Developments media release, FAQs and fact sheet.

Australia 2050 - Big Australia?

Brian Haratisis, Macroplan has released a new book that argues that planning for growth is essential as Australia's population is set to reach 36 million and even 40 million by 2050.

The alternative is congested cities and ports, unaffordable homes, unacceptable carbon footprints, regions with little or no social or economic infrastructure, Indigenous disadvantage and one of the fastest-ageing communities in the world.

The book looks at regional and rural areas, roles of each level of government and infrastructure provision. Australia 2050 - Big Australia? is the opening argument for The Australia 2050 project, a collaborative and interactive platform for discussion around nation and city building in Australia from 1950 to 2050.

The Australia 2050 Project will create a public platform for such discussion through the use of social media, live presentations and the interactive website. Have your say in the population debate.

The PIA Bookshop has this book for sale as well as many others - check out our catalogue and order now at:

www.planning.org.au/piashop

Four Legs // Four Walls

Internationally regarded planner, Virginia Jackson, has developed a set of contemporary housing design guidelines that considers the valuable role that companion animals play in our domestic lives.

In the Foreward to the Guidelines PIA National President Neil Savery commends the publication to building designers and architects, and the home building industry. Four Legs // Four Walls can be downloaded from:


Planning Circular - Legislative Changes relating to Coastal Planning Matters - NSW

This Circular was issued on 22 December to advise councils, other public authorities, practitioners and the community on legislative changes relating to coastal planning matters introduced by the Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2010. It is intended that these changes will ensure greater consideration is given to coastal matters in assessment of relevant development proposals and activities by public authorities.

Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Report - NSW


Queensland Inland Flooding Study collaboration

The Inland Flooding Study has recently been released by the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management’s Office of Climate Change in collaboration with Growth Management Queensland and the Local Government Association of Queensland. This is a major project aimed at improving Queensland’s resilience to changing flood conditions caused by climate change. The recent flooding events throughout much of Queensland highlight the importance of this piece of work.

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning, through Growth Management Queensland, has significantly contributed to the study and has developed specific policy options for improved flood risk management in the Gayndah case study area.

The project demonstrates how science and policy can be developed through a collaborative and cooperative process. The outcomes of this project are:

- a climate change factor for Local Governments to input into flood studies
- examples of policy options for improving flood risk management (for the case study area of Gayndah township)
- recommendations to carry forward into the review of State Planning Policy 1/03 Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire, and Landslide.

The final report on the Inland Flooding Study and the science and policy companion papers can be found at: [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

Queensland Transit Oriented Development Guide

The TOD Guide, released by the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning on 6 October 2010, is designed to build understanding of the concept of TOD and promote good practice in the Queensland context by urban planners and designers, transport professionals and developers.

TOD is a key deliverable of the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009–2031, which supports delivery of a range of government priorities relating to climate change, housing affordability, traffic congestion, liveability and health, and physical activity.

The TOD Guide contains a comprehensive set of guidelines identifying best practice in the delivery of compact communities, including:

- ‘Transit oriented development: an approach to delivering a compact settlement pattern’ brochure
- Guide for practitioners in Queensland
- Guide to community diversity
- Guide for development in a railway environment.


South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy launched

Minister Hinchliffe recently launched the South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy. The strategy identifies eight priority actions to better coordinate outdoor recreation policy, planning and management in South East Queensland. It delivers on an election commitment and the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031.

The strategy supports both the government’s Towards Q2 vision to protect 50% more land for nature conservation and public recreation, as well as the future Queensland Greenspace Strategy. For more information go to: [www.dip.qld.gov.au/regional-planning/outdoor-recreation-strategy.html](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/regional-planning/outdoor-recreation-strategy.html)
**Case law update on wind farms - SA**

Quinn & Ors v Regional Council of Goyder & Anor (2010) SAERDC 63  “The Quinn decision provides much anticipated clarification in relation to the interpretation and application of REF provisions in a number of Development Plans. The decision confirms that the REF provisions encourage the development of wind farms in appropriate locations. The decision also confirms that zone provisions relating to visual amenity must be viewed in the context of the REF provisions relating to visual amenity, which necessarily assume there will be some modification to the landscape. The decision also confirms that notwithstanding that the establishment of a wind farm may cause noise nuisance to some people, the REF provisions seek the avoidance or minimisation of excessive noise which, in turn, invites assessment against relevant noise standards.” Peter Psaltis, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers (excerpt from Dec 2010 SA Planner)

**Transit Oriented Development - SA**

Bowden Urban Village project is progressing. The Project aims to develop an existing 16Ha industrial site into a mix of medium to high density, high quality housing accompanied with a range of cafes, specialty shops, offices and open space all in walking distance to the Adelaide Parklands and public transport services. The Masterplan for the BUV is currently being considered by Cabinet for approval with commencement of Stage 1 likely to occur in early 2011. (excerpt from Dec 2010 SA Planner)

**Integrated Design Commission established in South Australia**

South Australia has established an Integrated Design Commission, headed up by Commissioner Tim Horton. The key objective of the Commission is to advocate the value of design and assume a whole of government (local and state) approach in advocating for, and advising on, ways to achieve excellence in the designed environment through an intelligent investment approach.

The Commission will have a broad remit considering all matters relating to design and the built environment, including planning, infrastructure, transport and energy, urban ecology and landscape, industrial and product design. The Commission will advance targets defined in South Australia's Strategic Plan.


**Localism Bill - UK Planning**

On December 3 2010 the coalition government published the Localism Bill which some commentators have said is the most radical reform to the English planning system since the introduction of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947. Whilst the bill is central to David Cameron’s ‘Big Society’ agenda which is aiming to get rid of big government and move power to the people, it will have a fundamental impact on the planning system. Key aspects of the changes are:

- **abolition of regional plans:** the government felt that regional authorities were an excessive tier of government that did not deliver any planning benefit - their first act was to remove statutory targets for the number of homes to be delivered which had been introduced by the previous labour government. The Greater London Authority was the only one to survive and retains housing targets. The argument for abolishing regional plans is that top-down targets from central government do not work and that housing delivered at the local level is more appropriate and effective.

- **Neighbourhood Development Plans:** rather than being told what to do, communities can now come together to create neighbourhood plans to say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go and what they should look like. The plans can be as simple or as complex as communities want them to be. Local communities would also be able to grant planning permission in areas where they most want to see new homes and businesses. Where there is a majority of residents in favour of a development, it can be approved by the community.

- **Community Right to Build:** the Bill will give groups of local people the ability to bring forward small developments. These might include new homes, businesses and shops.

- **Local Plan reform:** removing the right of the Planning Inspectorate (central government body) to require replacement local plans to be changed; they will now only be able to make suggestions.
Policy, regulation and energy efficiency assessments

- an introduction to the current state of play and changes to the requirements for energy efficiency and what planners and the certifying authorities need to know achieving compliance while reducing liability.

State and Federal Government is committed to a course of increasing the energy efficiency of commercial and residential buildings in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimise energy use.

Government programs and plans require the thermal performance of new buildings and alterations / additions to existing buildings be assessed, and is part of the documentation required by a certifying authority for building rules consent. The Building Code of Australia outlines measures which are implemented in various ways by different State planning and building regulatory bodies.

The change in the minimum Deemed to Satisfy requirements and ‘star rating’ for new residential dwellings (from 5 to 6 stars), already implemented in South Australia and Queensland in 2010, and fast approaching for Victoria in May 2011, is an example of this.

Many builders and developers are questioning how these changes will impact on current designs and material specification, and what techniques, materials, and of course costs, will be required to meet the more stringent specifications.

The role of planners, surveyors and land developers is also being questioned, particularly in the provision of block orientation which impacts significantly on overall energy efficiency.

As planners become more aware of these requirements, this should translate into a greater awareness of orientation and layout, and if appropriate, being able to give advice and inform decisions that will have a long term impact on the form and structure of our built environment.

Sustainability House believes that understanding energy efficient design is essential knowledge that is empowering across the building and development industry. Knowing how buildings perform and are assessed, and how to achieve effective compliance, will make the transition to higher energy efficiency requirements much easier for all stakeholders concerned.

That is why it is important for planners and certifiers to understand that certain designs may have energy efficiency compliance issues, and that advice given may incur significant costs as a design moves through planning to building rules consent. In addition, having an understanding of the common techniques used to assess building performance is useful, especially when dealing with multiple reporting methods and the difference between residential and commercial buildings.

For the builder or developer, implementing energy efficiency measures early in the design and development of a project life-cycle can be extremely cost effective, providing clients with buildings that are more thermally efficient, comfortable, and maintaining a more stable temperature range without the need for supplementary heating and cooling. However, leaving energy efficiency till late in a project (or as an after-thought), or viewing it as another regulatory hurdle placed in the way of profits, is fraught with danger. This approach often introduces nasty surprises for the client with ‘improvements’ , usually to insulation and glazing, required to meet compliance. Sometimes these improvements can be in the order of thousands of dollars.

For a highly competitive building industry, engaging with energy efficiency regulation and compliance on these terms can be a problematic issue. Energy efficiency measures become cast as ones that affect not only profit, but ‘housing affordability’, becoming measures to be lobbied against (as some of the big players in the housing industry have done). While the implementation of policy is sometimes far from perfect, the knowledge required to meet, understand and work with energy efficiency regulations is easily accessible and straight-forward. What will be required for some builders is a greater emphasis on the design and development phase of a project and an understanding of designs that are appropriate for certain lot configurations, orientations and climate zones.

So what does all this mean for the practicing planner and certifying authority? Should the planner or certifier be concerned with building thermal performance, in the same way that he or she is concerned that the building meets development guidelines and regulations? Should he or she be concerned that the building energy rating be properly documented by an independent expert in the same way that engineering might be assessed, having certificates that clearly state the building complies with the various building rules, codes and regulations?
Sustainability House believes, as is the case with any professional building documentation, that the energy efficiency reporting should be undertaken by qualified independent technical expert. Reports should be prepared in a consistent way by assessors who have an accredited level of training and professional development, and who work within a recognised code of conduct. In an ideal world auditing of reports, assessors and construction would be undertaken by a third party, perhaps a government or industry body that is focused on compliance. All this is to ensure accuracy, and that buildings be verified ‘as constructed’ by the assessment performed.

In many ways the above scenario is not the case. The energy efficiency assessment industry is primarily one that is self-regulated with assessors subscribing to various codes of conduct and loose sets of regulations. It is also one that lacks consistency between State jurisdictions due to local regulations and exemptions.

Many involved in energy efficiency, including raters, builders and certification authorities, are crying out for an industry wide framework which is better regulated, audited and focused on the professional development, training and operational standards for those conducting assessments. Any subsequent industry changes resulting from this will most likely come from both a ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-up’ approach. Government policy, a ‘top down’ approach, will dictate change, driving the adoption of tighter standards in building construction and post construction audits, and as a relatively new industry – that of Energy Efficiency, will dictate a need for a ‘bottom up’ approach from within the industry. This approach would seek to cement a national code of conduct seeking to further evolve and mature the industry as a whole.

So what does all this mean for the future? Government policy and regulation is going to play an important role in facilitating change in the industry and tightening up on current practices. There will most probably be a corresponding change in auditing both assessments and post construction to certify what is built corresponds with the plans and assessment detail. This will no doubt become all the more important with the introduction of schemes such as Residential Building Mandatory Disclosure in the near future.

During this period of transition many planners and certifying authorities are likely to question what they need to know and the validity of the information that they are being given and expected to review. While in this article we have discussed the potential conflicts and need for improvement, it should be noted that the vast majority of energy assessors are trained professionals with a keen interest in improving the efficiency of the built form in Australia. If, however, when looking at a proposal there is a degree of concern over the assessment, there is nothing wrong with seeking a professional opinion from a organisation like Sustainability House.

For peace of mind Sustainability House are an independent energy assessment company subscribing to a code of conduct. As such Sustainability House will take on the limited liability for any assessment they do, meaning the certifying authority should not be concerned with liability or exposure to any potential conflict of interest.

For further information about the different forms of assessment available for residential and commercial please visit Sustainability House at http://www.sustainabilityhouse.com.au/

About Sustainability House:

Sustainability House is a market leader in energy assessments for commercial and residential buildings. They have a wealth of experience in helping clients create more environmentally sustainable buildings

Their diverse team of consultants is comprised of building designers, engineers and building industry professionals with expertise in design, energy efficiency, thermal modelling and shading analysis.

Sustainability House are an independent business.

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Focus Articles

**Designing ‘Streets for People’ in South Australia**

Many of our urban streets look and feel the same: designed with wide carriageways, ample space for parking and with pedestrians separated, out of the way, on narrow footpaths. Even in places where pedestrian activity is high, the design of our streets reinforces the dominance of the car. ‘Streets for People’ is a project to explore how more walking and cycling friendly streets can be implemented in the South Australian context.

The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide encourages developments of higher density and mixed use infill developments that are walkable, connected and cycling friendly. The Plan has also identified key sites around Adelaide that are to be developed as Transit Oriented Developments. Within this vision of intensifying our urban environments, our streets will play an increasingly important role as public spaces and as pedestrian and cycling links.

The work of the South Australian Active Living Coalition has identified that whilst there is support for ‘people friendly streets’ there are difficulties implementing them in the South Australian context. The Coalition has therefore commissioned a team of GTA and Intermethod consultants to identify appropriate approaches to designing people-friendly streets, collate national and international best practice examples and address standards and guidelines and their applicability in South Australia.

Early investigations have identified a number of issues and gaps to be considered for implementing ‘people friendly’ streets in South Australia and these include: a lack of integrated design frameworks, no integration between the Development Act and the Road Traffic Act, a lack of standards or guidelines for the creation of street speed environments between 10 km/h and 50km/h and lack of experienced practitioners. Several regulatory barriers have also been identified.

Workshops were conducted by the project team that attracted over 65 participants representing State Government, local government, consultants and interest groups. The workshops considered the participants’ experience of what makes streets unfriendly to pedestrians and cyclists, what stops us implementing pedestrian and cyclist friendly streets and what resources are needed to aid the development of people friendly streets. Feedback at the workshops was animated and extensive demonstrating significant passion for implementing ‘Streets for People’ in South Australia.

Key points and recommendations will be summarised in the ‘Streets for People’ -Compendium for South Australian Practice’ (working title). The Compendium will aim to assist professionals and authorities grappling with the dilemmas of creating ‘people friendly’ streets whilst meeting the requirements of standards and regulations. In addition to being a valuable resource, it is the intention of the Active Living Coalition, that the Compendium will be implemented as part of a dynamic process that responds to the growing priority for people friendly streets in South Australia.

For further information on the ‘Streets for People’ project contact Brian Delaney brian.delaney@sa.gov.au or Jenni Carr on jenni.carr@heartfoundation.org.au.

**Space for Active Play – developing innovative play spaces for older children**

An award-winning urban design project challenged landscape architects and planners to reinvigorate the urban environment in a way that can positively influence a crucial public health issue; by incorporating the ideas of older children in their pre-design consultation process.

Space for Active Play – recent winner of a PIA Social and Community Planning Award - came about as a response to the declining levels of physical activity in children and the important role that play can have in addressing this. Initiated by Heart Foundation (Victoria), the project built on the Foundation’s Healthy by Design - A Planner’s Guide to Environments for Active Living by engaging three Victorian local governments, the cities of Brimbank, Frankston and Moonee Valley, and Parks Victoria around the development of active play space for older children between the ages of 8 – 12 years.

The project started with the basic premise that children are citizens that have the right to be involved in local government processes that affect them. And, that children know what they want and that their voice is a valuable one that is worth listening to.

www.planning.org.au
The project aligned with the guiding principles of UNICEF’s Child Friendly Cities initiative. In addition the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a convention that Australia is a signatory to, expresses the importance of play for children:

“States parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.” (Article 31)

The convention also states that every young citizen has the right to be able to walk safely in the streets and have green spaces for plants and animals.

Central to the project was the development of a robust consultation model that engaged local children, the wider community and interested professionals around the design of a local play space. Additionally, each individual site included a multi-disciplinary steering group often involving representatives from community health, Primary Care Partnerships, community centres and primary schools.

The consultation process was extensive and very inclusive. It consisted of a core children's consultation - Children's Ideas Group (CIG) which generated ideas about what children wanted in a play space through experiential learning sessions incorporating reflection and discussion. These ideas were then validated by classroom-based children, a community consultation and a local government professional's workshop.

From desire to design

A key feature of the Space for Active Play project was the follow-up communication between the play space designers and the children involved in the Children's Ideas Groups. This important stage introduced the children to the design processes involved in their physical world. The children were given opportunities to review the designs and related decisions that had been made.

At three of the sites the landscape architects continued the communication with the children, returning with the draft plans for them to review. The children loved being part of the review process and provided valuable feedback regarding the play space design.

Space for Active Play showed that children love to be consulted and have many ideas about what they find attractive in an outdoor play space. For example older children crave adventure and action – they want to experience nature through exploration, express their creativity through building and construction and ride their bikes up and down hills. Children want independent access to local open play space - local walking, cycling and integrated transport strategies can complement play space redevelopment and play an important role in increasing children’s access to parks.

The project reinforced that open space, community, transport, health and social planners, landscape architects and designers are perfectly positioned to positively influence children’s levels of physical activity, health and wellbeing.

Space for Active Play was an initiative of Heart Foundation (Victoria) in partnership with Parks Victoria, Frankston, Brimbank and Moonee Valley City Councils with financial support from Parks Victoria, Go for Your Life and VicHealth.

For more information on Space for Active Play project contact:
Rachel Carlisle, Heart Foundation (Victoria), Ph: (03) 9321 1542, Email: Rachel.Carlisle@heartfoundation.org.au
Member Postcard from the US - Elise Harris MPIA(Grad)

I’m sitting on the sidewalk in West Oakland at a derelict urban farm picking up pieces of broken glass and getting stung by nettles and crack a big smile when I realize that I quit a well paying job with good career prospects in local government to come to the US and do this for free. A woman walks by and starts telling me about how much she liked the farm a couple of years ago when it was active, and how excited she is that it is starting up again. I’m excited too. The Village Bottom Farm project www.ecocitybuilders.org/what-we-do/consulting/village-bottoms-cultural-district/ is exactly what I wanted to do when I started studying planning: make better places, something I didn’t feel I was doing in local government. A collaboration between the local African-American community and my workplace, Ecocity Builders www.ecocitybuilders.org, the project is driven by the community while we offer assistance in the form of data collection, advocacy, grant applications or in my case, manual labour. Next month the other intern and I will meet with the community to plan the farm’s development.

I ended up here via Washington DC, where I did a 3 month internship with the World Bank’s Eco2 Cities initiative www.worldbank.org/eco2. I chose to work on the project because I believe that it has the potential to transform cities to bring them into alignment with ecological reality by integrating lifecycle costing and ecosystem service valuation into municipal finances. Only a few cities in the world do this, one of them being Singapore. The initiative is growing with conferences being held in Japan and Malaysia last year. Cities in developed and developing countries have implemented pilot projects in line with Eco2 principles and shared their experiences at Eco2 conferences, a collaborative learning process between the Bank and cities. My main project at the Bank was to write a report on the potential of integrating valuation of ecosystem services into city management for the purposes of protecting biodiversity. Only a couple of cities in the world are talking about valuing ecosystem services and even less are actually doing it. I learned that it has good potential to protect biodiversity by protecting habitat.

I discovered the Ecocity Builders by googling the word ‘ecocity’ then asking if I could come and work for them for free. I have spent the last 2 months working on the urban agriculture component of their entry into the Living City Design Competition http://ilbi.org/lcdc, a contest to mark the launch of the second version of the strictest building standards in existence, the Living Building Challenge http://ilbi.org/lbc. It is also the only standard that can be applied to entire cities. We are working with a team in Kathmandu, Nepal to propose to transform it into ecocity with all the trimmings such as biofiltration systems, public transit and urban agriculture. The aim is to put our recommendations into practice, so competition aside we are still working on a worthy project. It’s all very exciting.

Read more on my blog http://eliseharris2.blogspot.com/

Elise Harris is a PIA Graduate Member of the International Division
eliseharris2@gmail.com
OMA Young Planner Postcard from the USA

Michelle Willemsen, an urban planner working at Brisbane City Council, travelled to the USA in June and July 2010 on the PIA/OMA Young Planners Scholarship to research the integration of outdoor advertising into the environment through the use of vegetation and other natural measures.

I began this research trip with a level of anxiety that I would be travelling around the USA on my own for two months, and that many may think I was merely uncovering ways for outdoor advertising to be allowed anywhere and in any format. This was never my intention, and as I round off my trip in San Francisco, I’ve realised that I’ve come quite a long way on both fronts.

I’m more confident than I thought I was, and I feel I’ve taken a major step forward in my professional networking and communication skills. I managed to set up meetings with various professionals in the advertising, planning, design and media industries about using vegetation and other creative initiatives to reduce the urban blight of traditional outdoor advertising, and instead give something back to the community. I met with CEOs, directors and high level staff of various peak organisations and prominent companies, including the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, the Federal Highway Administration, the American Planning Association, Scenic America (the peak anti-outdoor advertising organisation in America), the California Department of Transportation, and Clear Channel and Van Wagner advertising companies. By talking to a diversity of regulators, designers, marketers and advertisers, I learnt of the ins and outs of the outdoor advertising industry, its regulatory issues and its potential for something greater than it currently is.

This trip has shown me that outdoor advertising has the potential to extend beyond solely the interests of the advertiser. For instance, in New York City I learnt how billboard backsides could potentially be used as part of rooftop gardens and urban greenery. In Pittsburgh, Vancouver and Seattle I saw how green walls could promote a company’s “natural” or “eco-friendly” image, whilst producing a level of energy savings for the buildings they are installed on. In Los Angeles I was shown highway “floralscapes” – where Toyota displays floral car images in return for landscaping and maintaining sections of California’s highways. And here in San Francisco I learnt about a “living” bus shelter with rooftop vegetation that was created with support from the Mayor’s Office to promote public transport patronage, urban greenery and green roofs on a larger scale. In all of these instances, the advertising company and/or marketing agency had to work with the government in achieving the desired outcome. It was a learning process for all parties involved (for many it was the first time that something of this nature had been done), and my discussions with them generated even more creative ideas. I heard desires for more beautiful advertisements that blur the line between advertisement and public art, for innovative and fun advertisement structures such as painters’ easels and picture frames that stimulate public imagination, and of the potential for making transportable green wall displays that fit into bus shelter ad spaces as desired.

From my discussions, it doesn’t seem implausible that well-designed and well-placed outdoor advertisements could actually be ecologically, aesthetically or fiscally beneficial for communities. Through innovative public-private partnerships, outdoor advertising may have the potential to play an improved role in landscape beautification, public art and sponsorship of public areas and infrastructure needed in a vibrant, modern city.

Michelle Willemsen MPIA(Grad)
Recent PIA Submissions
PIA has made numerous national, state and territory based submissions.
For a full listing of PIA submissions visit:
www.planning.org.au/policy/submissions

PIA in the Media
PIA has been very active in the media.
To view PIA Media Releases:
To view PIA Media Stories:

The following are those from just the past month:
• 01/02/11 Backlog at planning tribunal puts lives on hold, The Age
• 28/01/11 Planning to stay above water on the agenda, Environmental Management News
• 25/01/11 Let’s play design, Frankston Weekly
• 22/01/11 Brisbane out of the wreckage, The Australian
• 18/01/11 Councils in rush to flood-proof NSW, Daily Telegraph
• 17/01/11 Brisbane levees on agenda in wash-up, The Australian
• 15/01/11 An unwelcome development, The Sydney Morning Herald
• 14/01/11 Modern planning protocols can save communities says PIA, The Fifth Estate
• 08/01/11 Flood strategy under scrutiny as clean-up begins, The Australia
• 05/01/11 Units not crucial for good public transport, study finds, The Newcastle Herald
• 05/01/11 Units not crucial for good public transport, study finds, Illawarra Mercury
• 05/01/11 Units not crucial for good public transport, study finds, The Brisbane Times
• 05/01/11 Transport study derails thinking on outer suburbs, The Age
• 02/01/11 Soorley’s ‘jihad’ on town planners, The Couriermail

PIA National Position Statements
Current National position statements forming the PIA Policy Platform are available at:
www.planning.org.au/policy/policy-platform

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We hope you enjoyed this edition of the PIA Policy & Advocacy Bulletin. For more information on PIA activities please visit the PIA website. If you have any feedback please contact policy@planning.org.au