



Department of Infrastructure and Transport
ATT: Major Cities Unit
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11/14948

To the Major Cities Unit

Subject: Creating Places for People: an urban design protocol for Australian cities (draft)

I refer to the above draft document, currently on exhibition. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure supports the promotion of urban design and design excellence in architecture, and elevation of the role of urban design in planning for our cities and suburbs.

The adoption of a national urban design protocol will set the benchmark for how urban design is considered at the state and local level. It will be a useful tool to influence the preparation of design guidelines, planning documents and plans. Hence, the protocol would benefit from an explanation of how it relates and might transpire into state and local planning.

The accompanying documents for the protocol, including the peer-reviewed guidance on best practice, the toolkit on urban design concepts and the range of case study examples, will be valuable resources for our stakeholders.

Further comments have been provided and are included in **Attachment 1**.

Thank-you for this opportunity to comment on the draft protocol. We look forward to future opportunities to be involved in shaping the way urban design is placed within the planning profession and development industry.

Yours sincerely

Giovanni Cirillo
Executive Director, Urban Renewal and Major Sites

ATTACHMENT 1

The following additional and more detailed comments are offered for your consideration:

1. Further clarification of what the 'protocol' is and how it is intended to be applied to and between the states is recommended.
2. The process of 'urban design' would benefit from a recommendation that professional urban designers and other qualified experts be employed, as these specialists are best positioned to inform the process. If not recommended there is a risk that formulae compromised design responses and frameworks will result.
3. The sustainability goal should include social and economic outcomes.
4. The liveability goal should address attractiveness, amenity and whether people want to live there.
5. The three broader principles founded on 'people & place', and 'leadership & governance' are logical and sound.
6. The description of the aspects of urban form – from macro to micro is well presented. The right hand side descriptors of urban form, scale public realm and appearance are not defined or referred to and are quite general. For example, does scale refer to building scale or project spatial scale?
7. 'State Government' should be listed as a key stakeholder under the heading *Relationship with other policies and guidelines*.