



CREATING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

AN URBAN DESIGN PROTOCOL FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIES

‘An investment in quality urban design enhances liveability and is an investment in the health of our communities.’

—Peter Poulet, Tasmania State Government Architect

Urban Design – informed by regional planning

Tasmania’s Regional Planning Initiative consists of three regional planning partnership projects. The regions (northwest, northern and southern) were established through agreements between State Government and the respective Councils and regional bodies.

Tasmania – organised for quality urban design

Quality urban design in Tasmania comes from a collaborative commitment by many people, including land owners and managers, developers, community and all levels of Government.

The State Government’s commitment to urban design includes the Tasmanian State Architect who has a role to:

- advocate quality design and sustainable built outcomes across the State of Tasmania
- provide strategic and independent advice to Government on matters relating to planning, urban design, architecture and heritage
- form collaborative working relationships with State agencies and stakeholder groups to develop a shared vision of the built environment
- develop best practice guidelines to create better and more sustainable urban environments and buildings.

The State Architect works with the Tasmanian Planning Commission on many issues. The Planning Commission is an independent body that has specific statutory responsibilities in a number of key areas. The Commission also advises the Minister for Planning.

The Commission was formed by the amalgamation of the Resource Planning and Development Commission and the Land Use Planning Branch of the Department of Justice in response to a review of the planning system over 2008–09.



Urban Design in Tasmania: Case Studies

H.30 A Capital City Plan for Hobart

In December 2009, COAG announced reforms aimed at ensuring that all Australian capital cities would have comprehensive strategic plans in place by 2012.

In June 2011, the Minister for Planning asked the Office of the State Architect to develop the Hobart Capital City Plan.

A draft document *H30: A Capital City Plan* was developed in conjunction with State Government Agencies and Councils. This will soon be released for public consultation with the aim of finalising the document by January 2012.

This complex project has demonstrated the capacity of the Office to develop strategic planning documents that integrate multiple disciplines and the priorities of State and Local Governments into a coherent document with an aspirational vision and whole-of-city, metropolitan focus.

Tasmanian Residential Strategy

The Tasmanian Residential Strategy proposes mechanisms to increase the provision of housing choices throughout Tasmania and addresses issues of cost, sustainability, liveability and community.

The Strategy, which focuses on quality urban design as a catalyst for the achievement of social outcomes, incorporates concerns for diversity, equity and opportunity while considering safety, access to employment, recreation, infrastructure and services, the environment and sustainability.

The strategy will apply to all Housing Tasmania developments and provides a checklist of issues to address during site selection, project formation, design, construction and operation.

Examples of urban design charters, guides and handbooks in Tasmania

