



Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)

# The Australian Landscape Charter

Australian Registered Landscape Architects by  
the adoption of the Australian Landscape Charter  
declare their responsibility to lead the planning,  
design and management of our natural and built  
environments through the adoption and application

collaboration

stewardship

design

leadership

2011

[www.aila.org.au](http://www.aila.org.au)

# The Australian Landscape Charter

Landscape Architecture is an internationally recognised profession with a responsibility to shape and form future communities through the creative combination of art and science.

The importance of Landscape Architecture as an agent for positive change has never been greater with the environmental and social challenges facing the planet, independent nations and local communities. Landscape architects have a leading role to play in defining and implementing the urgent integrated solutions required.

Registered Landscape Architects, through their professional activities can guide development and landscape interventions towards more sustainable, holistic outcomes which enhance the diversity of the natural and built environments and enrich communities.

To fulfill their leadership role, Registered Landscape Architects need to be not only creative in the management, planning and design of the landscape, but also effective in influencing policy, priorities, allocation of resources, public perceptions and expectations as well as in the deliverance of solutions.

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is the organisation through which Australian Registered Landscape Architects are responding locally, nationally and internationally to these challenges.

As Climate Change is identified as the context for the provision of sustainable design solutions for human habitation, Registered Landscape Architects recognise that it presents multiple challenges to the planning and retrofitting of sustainable communities and settlements.

Alongside the primary imperative of developing mitigation strategies lies the additional task of managing the emerging, unavoidable social impacts of a changing global climate regime. How society works towards achieving resilience and adaptable, sustainable human settlements has never been more critical.

The Australian Landscape Charter seeks to establish a framework for active commitment to the Australian landscape by Registered Landscape Architects through leadership, design, stewardship, and collaboration.

The Charter embraces the Australian Landscape Principles and aims to provide a vision to guide strategic actions for Australian Registered Landscape Architects.

# The Australian Landscape Charter

The [Australian Landscape Principles](#) articulate an ethical decision-making framework for landscape planning, design and management within the natural and built environment.

Their purpose is to strategically direct landscape interventions - both in our existing and future built environments - towards more sustainable, holistic outcomes.

VALUE OUR LANDSCAPE

PROTECT - ENHANCE - REGENERATE

DESIGN WITH RESPECT

DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE

EMBRACE RESPONSIVE DESIGN

Australian Registered Landscape Architects commit to the [Australian Landscape Principles](#).

# The Australian Landscape Charter

## Australian Landscape Principles

### VALUE OUR LANDSCAPE

The quality of the landscape underpins the viability of life on earth. Regardless of scale, every landscape embodies a range of complex, multidimensional and interdependent values—and these values must be comprehensively articulated before they can be accurately assessed.

Design and management strategies must acknowledge the interrelated (physical, socio-cultural and economic) knowledge systems and processes involved in landscape decision-making, and the critical importance of collaborative approaches to sustainable landscape outcomes.

Detailed, inclusive and creative landscape assessment is the primary tool for sustainable landscape management.

### PROTECT - ENHANCE - REGENERATE

The hierarchy of decision-making for any landscape design/intervention should incorporate innovative, measurable strategies to:

- > protect existing environmental features & ecosystems
- > enhance existing resources in a creative, sustainable manner
- > regenerate lost or damaged ecosystem services

### DESIGN WITH RESPECT

All values of landscape deserve respect, and should be given equal consideration when design/intervention is proposed.

Intervene with respect for existing context—work with nature and culture to implement design solutions that are measurably responsive to existing environmental, socio-cultural and economic conditions, and which demonstrate respect for local, regional and global context.

### DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE

Design with regard to the possibility of future change.

Accept the moral and ethical responsibility of adopting decision making processes which enhance resilience in terms of environmental, socio-cultural and economic outcomes for future generations.

### EMBRACE RESPONSIVE DESIGN

Our knowledge of natural and cultural environmental processes is incomplete, and the full potential significance or value of the landscape remains unknown because of this uncertain state of knowledge.

Design processes should be consistently innovative, adaptable and responsive, continuously re-evaluating assumptions and values and adjusting to demographic and environmental change.

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Australian Registered Landscape Architects commit to the following **Strategic Actions**

Leadership	Lead by example with inspiring and informed solutions, creatively designed and successful in their effects.
Design	Provide design leadership in the creation and management of ecologically sustainable, culturally responsible and economically supportive landscapes.
Collaboration	Collaborate and construct effective partnerships with the community and allied professions in developing sustainable planning, design and management solutions. Collaboration is required to achieve stewardship of the Australian landscape to ensure future development is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.
Stewardship	Actively take responsibility for and the management of the landscape through master planning, design, recycling, conservation, regeneration, and restoration.
Education	Advance standards of excellence in education for the broader community, clients and fellow professionals on the comprehensive implications of and opportunities for urban and regional development, planning strategies, design trends and government policies on the landscape and associated values.
Representation	Actively promote the objectives and principles of the Charter.
Research	Participate in and support research that advances the achievement of sustainable environments and processes that protect and enhance Australian landscapes. Advance the study of sustainable landscapes and promote open exchange and broad integration of the knowledge acquired to produce sustainable results.
Evaluation	Use the Charter as an evaluation tool to measure & review outcomes, to promote changes and to advance the Landscape Principles.

# The Australian Landscape Charter

## Definitions

### AILA

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA): The national body representing landscape architects in Australia that oversees the professional recognition of Registered Landscape Architects.

### Australians

This refers to all Australians including the original indigenous inhabitants, their descendants, those that have settled here in colonial and post-colonial times as well as current and future migrants.

### Design

In a landscape architecture context, design denotes the creative process of blending of the applied arts, science and other creative and aesthetic endeavours. Landscape architects, as designers, may originate and develop plans for sites or for the management of landscapes, or may design, develop and manage policy for urban and rural landscapes or land developments. The design process requires landscape architects to be involved in and originate a complex range of tasks including consultations, research, collaboration, modelling, interactive adjustment, and re-design.

### Environment

Includes both the built and the natural environments.

### Equality & Equity

Equality refers to the same treatment in dealings, quantities or values. Equity refers to fairness that may require different treatment, or special measures, for some persons or groups.

### Landscape

Includes those landscapes that are: Urban and Regional; Rural and Natural; Modified and Unmodified.

### Stewardship

In relation to the landscape, stewardship means actively taking responsibility for and management of the landscape through master planning, design, recycling, conservation, regeneration, and restoration.

# The Australian Landscape Charter

## Useful Links

The Landscape Charter

[www.aila.org.au/charter](http://www.aila.org.au/charter)

Landscape Principles

[www.aila.org.au/landscapeprinciples](http://www.aila.org.au/landscapeprinciples)

GreenInfrastructure

[www.aila.org.au/greeninfrastructure](http://www.aila.org.au/greeninfrastructure)

Sustainable Settlements

[www.aila.org.au/settlements](http://www.aila.org.au/settlements)

Other Policies

[www.aila.org.au/policies](http://www.aila.org.au/policies)

The AILA Governance Policy

[www.aila.org.au/governance](http://www.aila.org.au/governance)

Company Constitution

[www.aila.org.au/constitution](http://www.aila.org.au/constitution)

AILA Code of Conduct

[www.aila.org.au/codeofconduct](http://www.aila.org.au/codeofconduct)

Definition of Landscape Architect

[www.aila.org.au/definition](http://www.aila.org.au/definition)

Disciplines within Landscape Architecture

[www.aila.org.au/disciplines](http://www.aila.org.au/disciplines)

Projects and Sites

[www.aila.org.au/projects](http://www.aila.org.au/projects) ,



# The Australian Landscape Charter

## Contacts

<http://www.aila.org.au>

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## AILA State Group contacts

### contact details on state web sites:

ACT Group: [www.aila.org.au/act](http://www.aila.org.au/act)

New South Wales Group: [www.aila.org.au/nsw](http://www.aila.org.au/nsw)

Northern Territory: [www.aila.org.au/nt](http://www.aila.org.au/nt)

Queensland: [www.aila.org.au/qld](http://www.aila.org.au/qld)

South Australia: [www.aila.org.au/sa](http://www.aila.org.au/sa)

Tasmania: [www.aila.org.au/tasmania](http://www.aila.org.au/tasmania)

Victoria: [www.aila.org.au/victoria](http://www.aila.org.au/victoria)

Western Australia: [www.aila.org.au/wa](http://www.aila.org.au/wa)

[www.aila.org.au/charter](http://www.aila.org.au/charter)

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