Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law
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IF WE CARE
FOR COUNTRY
IT WILL CARE
FOR US
Who we are

GA NSW is a small, multi-disciplinary team of qualified design professionals which supports the NSW Government.

GA NSW has a high-level of experience in government and industry and draws on a range of disciplines, including urban design, architecture, landscape architecture and planning.

Our focus is on the design quality of the built environment and the public domain. We play a key strategic and advocacy role providing independent advice.
Our role

GANSW has three roles aimed at delivering good design outcomes:

**Champion:** Promote, educate and advocate for design awareness and excellence on behalf of Government, its agencies and partners.

**Connect:** Foster public and private sector partnerships, collaboration and design coordination across built environment initiatives.

**Advise:** Provide strategic and independent advice and quality review to support best practice and outcomes for design projects.
How we operate

- Spatial, strategic and delivery frameworks for complex government led precincts
- Policy including design excellence processes
  - Design review panels and advice
  - Project formation and definition
- Best practice processes for procurement
GOOD DESIGN IS GOVERNMENT POLICY
The NSW EP&A Act

The Act has been amended to include a new design object, elevating the role of design;

(f) to promote good design and amenity in the built environment

(g) to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage)

(h) to promote proper construction and maintenance of buildings, including the protection of the health and safety of their occupants

GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT
NEW SOUTH WALES
NSW Priorities

Health

Climate Resilience

Rapidly growing population

Changing lifestyles and demographics

Infrastructure and urban renewal

Biodiversity loss

Providing consistent and timely review of major projects
BETTER PLACED

An integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales

GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NEW SOUTH WALES

GREENER PLACES

An urban green infrastructure policy for New South Wales

GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NEW SOUTH WALES
Good design makes better places. Better Placed is a policy for our collective aspirations, needs and expectations in designing NSW. It is about enhancing all aspects of our urban environments, to create better places, spaces and buildings, and thereby better cities, towns and suburbs.
The role of Better Placed

Better Placed focuses on people and how NSW communities live, work and enjoy the environment in which they live. From this premise, it sets a framework for defining and achieving better places for the people of NSW by:

**Advocating** for the importance of design for better places, spaces and outcomes.

**Supporting** industry and government to deliver good design.

**Enabling** effective design processes to be supported in the planning system.

The policy will:

- **Raise awareness** of what the NSW government means by good design in the built environment.

- **Provide clear, consistent, rigorous objectives** to achieve good design throughout the development process.

- **Outline the value of design thinking** and what is involved in supporting effective design process.

- **Provide a framework** for examining places and reviewing proposals from a good design perspective.

- **Establish key concepts of design and shared terminology** for the built environment.

- **Encourage a stronger design culture and active engagement in design.**
Better Placed sits at a nexus of State-wide priorities, the mechanisms of planning and the expertise of industry as a framework for our collective aspirations, needs and expectations for NSW.
The role of design
What is a well-designed built environment

- Healthy
- Responsive
- Integrated
- Equitable
- Resilient
Better Placed objectives for good design

**OBJECTIVE 1.** Better **fit**
contextual, local and of its place

**OBJECTIVE 2.** Better **performance**
sustainable, adaptable and durable

**OBJECTIVE 3.** Better **for community**
inclusive, connected and diverse

**OBJECTIVE 4.** Better **for people**
safe, comfortable and liveable

**OBJECTIVE 5.** Better **working**
functional, efficient and fit for purpose

**OBJECTIVE 6.** Better **value**
creating and adding value

**OBJECTIVE 7.** Better **look and feel**
engaging, inviting and attractive
What is green infrastructure?

It is the interconnected network of open spaces, natural systems and semi-natural systems including parks, rivers, street trees, bushland and private gardens that are strategically planned, designed and managed to support a good quality of life in an urban environment.
Elements of green infrastructure

1. Green roofs and walls
2. Private and semi-private residential gardens
3. Squares and plazas
4. Streets
5. Parks and gardens
6. Greenways
7. Sports and recreational facilities
8. Natural green space
9. Agricultural and other productive land and farms
NSW priorities

Greener Places advocates for Green Infrastructure to help respond to key challenges and directions for NSW including:

1. Health
2. Climate resilience
3. Rapidly growing population
4. Changing lifestyle and demographics
5. Infrastructure and urban renewal
6. Biodiversity loss
What this draft policy will do

Greener Places focuses on people and how NSW communities live, work and enjoy the environment in which they live.

Greener Places draft policy will:
— Raise awareness of what the NSW Government means by Green Infrastructure and its importance
— Provide clear, consistent principles to achieve Green Infrastructure throughout the development process
— Provide a framework for examining places and reviewing proposals from a Green Infrastructure perspective
— Establish key concepts and shared terminology associated with Green Infrastructure
— Outline the value of Green Infrastructure and what is involved in supporting effective implementation processes.
Where Greener Places fits

Policy

Greener Places

Open Spaces and Recreation
Greater Sydney
Illawarra
Shoalhaven
Hunter
Central Coast
Central West and Orana
Far West
New England
North West
North Coast
Riverina-Murray
South East
Tablelands

Urban Canopy

PREMIER'S PRIORITIES

EP&A ACT (PART B)

State Level

Regional Level

TOOLKITS

Bushland and Waterways

District Level

District Plans
LEPs
DCPs
Who benefits from Green Infrastructure

- Government
- Property owners, investors, developers
- Users/occupants
- The community
- Design professionals
- Future generations
CREATING GREENER PLACES
Principles of Green Infrastructure

Integration: combining green infrastructure with urban development and grey infrastructure

Connectivity: creating an interconnected network of open space

Multifunctionality: delivering multiple ecosystem services simultaneously

Participation: involving stakeholders in development and implementation
Integration
Connectivity

The High Line, New York City by James Corner Field Operations, with Diller Scofidio + Renfro

The Goods Line, Ultimo by Aspect Studio

The 606, Chicago, by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

The West Toronto Rail Path, Toronto by Scott Torrance Landscape Architect Inc. with Brown+Storey Architects Inc.
Case Study: Sydney’s Green Grid

QUICK FACTS

PROJECT TYPE
Strategic planning project for Sydney

LOCATION
Greater Sydney region, NSW

PROJECT SCALE
Extra large

SITE AREA
Approx. 12,000 square kilometres

PROJECT TEAM
Government Architect NSW, NSW Planning and Environment, NSW Water Solutions GIS team

YEAR COMPLETED
2014-ongoing

AWARDS
2016 National Award for Research and Communication, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)
2014 NSW award for Planning, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)
Case Study: Sydney’s Green Grid

District – West Central Open Space Audit Report

West Central Green Grid spatial audit map showing project opportunities in orange, as a result of the audit process.
Case Study: Sydney’s Green Grid

Local Government Area (LGA) - Parramatta

Parramatta Ways route map highlighting major, intermediate and local route upgrades
Case Study: Sydney’s Green Grid

Site Specific - Duck River

The montages show the proposed upgrades and improvements to Duck River, as a result of the master plan.
Multifunctionality

Sydney Park Water Re-Use Project by Turf Design Studio & Environmental Partnership

Sydney Park Playground by JMD Design

Sydney Park Children's Bike Track by Turf Design Studio & Environmental Partnership

Water Falls, by Turpin + Crawford Studio
Participation

Creating places for community gathering

Stakeholder workshops

Community facilities

Community consultation
IMPLEMENTING
GREENER PLACES

SECTION THREE
Implementation

— Statutory measures
— Collaborative action
— Funding
— Monitoring and reporting
Monitoring and reporting of policy outcomes is essential. Monitoring and reporting will be achieved through mandatory reporting on implementation of regional and district plans and LEPs, and through the Department’s NSW Liveability Dashboard.
Outcomes

— Conservation of the natural environment
— Increased access to open space
— Improved connectivity to promote active living
— Increase urban greening to ameliorate climate extremes
Increased access to open space
Improved connectivity to promote active living
Increase urban greening to create shade and comfort
governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au