



Welcome to edition No.8 of 'Planning Matters', the newsletter of URPS produced twice a year. We hope you enjoy some highlights of the work we've been doing with many of you over recent months. You can also access electronic copies of this and all our past newsletters on our website at www.urps.com.au

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An Age Friendly Future is Everyone's Business

An age friendly community doesn't just get its physical environment and social infrastructure right – it is also a place where older people are portrayed positively in publications, their contributions are celebrated, and employment and customer service practices respond to their specific needs.



URPS Director Angela Hazebroek with Thinker-in-Residence Dr Alexandre Kalache

URPS has been engaged by the Disability, Ageing and Carers Branch within the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion to develop local guidelines which tell us what 'age friendly' means, and toolkits which outline how it can be achieved. These build on the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age Friendly Cities Checklist (see http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Age_friendly_cities_checklist.pdf for details).

We are now working closely with five Councils who are undertaking pilot projects to test the guidelines and develop 'Active Ageing Action Plans' for their communities. What is really different about this approach is how Councils are breaking down the silo mentality which has traditionally placed ageing in the community services sphere.

This 'whole of Council' approach is well illustrated by one Council, whose previous ageing strategy focused on services and support. As part of the age friendly pilot project, it is embracing a new model that goes beyond services and support to engage all arms of Council – human resources, customer relations, statutory and strategic planning, cemeteries, risk management, engineering and public realm design, parks and gardens, libraries and community centres.

This multidisciplinary approach to planning for an ageing population is at the heart of the WHO – and South Australian – age friendly guidelines, and is crucial to the development of communities for people of all ages.

We were pleased to host a recent breakfast seminar at the Wine Centre with Dr Alexandre Kalache, Adelaide's newest Thinker in Residence. Dr Kalache led the creation of the WHO Age Friendly Cities Checklist and spoke to us about how we can make South Australia a society for all ages. We were excited to see a range of leaders from the planning, services and development sectors in attendance, demonstrating the wide ranging interest in creating an age friendly South Australia.



Recognition for Excellence in Community Engagement

Designing and implementing effective community engagement processes is something we at URPS pride ourselves on, guided by our core organisational value that any community engagement process should genuinely inform project outcomes.

Our excellence in community engagement was recognised at the PIA SA 2011 Awards for Planning Excellence, with a Commendation for the Mount Barker Town Centre Community Engagement Project – our 15th PIA Award/Commendation over the past 9 years.

A genuinely collaborative project, staff from Mount Barker Council worked closely with the URPS team to deliver a range of engagement techniques carefully targeted to the various audiences. The centrepiece of the engagement process was the “speak out” forums held in the Mount Barker main street. People could drop in at any time and join a group to discuss any of four key themes, with each table having a dedicated facilitator and recorder.

Another creative engagement technique was the youth “walk out, talk out” where young leaders went into the streets to talk to young people about what is needed in the Town Centre.

We’d love to discuss with you how the URPS team can assist in designing and delivering a community engagement process that helps your next project realise its full potential.



PIA Commendation for the Mount Barker Town Centre Community Engagement

Supporting Employment Revitalisation in Key Industrial Precincts

Charles Sturt has traditionally had a strong manufacturing base, providing a livelihood for thousands of people in Adelaide’s western suburbs. A range of global and local economic shifts has seen a significant decline in manufacturing employment in recent decades, creating opportunities for new economic activity and jobs growth. In this context, URPS assisted Colliers International Consulting Services to prepare an ‘Employment Revitalisation Plan’ for the City of Charles Sturt’s key industrial precincts.

While there is a natural logic to ensuring Development Plan policy supports a range of employment activities, many other factors are also needed to revitalise industrial land. If we want higher-tech industries to establish in older industrial areas, then government and industry must work together to meet the needs of the rising tide of small to medium enterprises and their ‘knowledge workers’.

A knowledge worker is anyone who works at developing or using knowledge, often working in fields such as IT, engineering and science. Due to the long working hours, fast pace and tight deadlines associated with high-tech industries, knowledge workers require amenities that can be easily accessed on a ‘just in time’ basis. For Charles Sturt’s Industrial precincts, this means ensuring a high quality public realm, making public transport a realistic option and providing a range of facilities and services not usually located in or near industrial areas, such as recreational facilities, childcare, shops and cafes.

This study has reminded us that the transformation of urban areas and encouraging new market activity requires a combination of economic development strategies, master planning founded in solid research, carefully crafted planning policy and targeted infrastructure investment.

In-House Services on the Rise

At times of peak demand, for example when staff move on, having your planning services ‘in-house’ can really help. By working in-house, we are even more accessible to you, speed and efficiency is improved, and we may be able to give your team fresh ideas and a range of experience that can help to re-energise work environments.

Kieron Barnes has been working in-house at DPLG, assisting in the preparation of a number of ministerial DPAs which respond to the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide’s target for a significant increase in the amount of infill development. Marcus Rolfe has also spent time at Adelaide City Council in the policy section, investigating development incentives within the Development Plan.

Grazio Maiorano has been assisting Gawler Council progress its DPA work program and supporting its Development Assessment team, while also guiding the delivery of the Structure Plan for the Salisbury Town Centre at the City of Salisbury.

We enjoy the extra dimension that in-house services brings to our work – don’t hesitate to contact us if you think that having our services on-site may be of benefit to your organization.



Kieron Barnes

Facilitating an Exciting New Building for UniSA

(right) artist impression of the new Learning Centre for the University of South Australia. Image courtesy of John Wardle Architects



In June this year, the Development Assessment Commission granted Development Plan Consent to a new Learning Centre for the University of South Australia on the site of an existing open lot car park on Hindley Street. URPS was pleased to be part of a large consultant team, led by John Wardle Architects in association with Phillips Pilkington Architects, helping UniSA to deliver this 8 storey, \$60 million state-of-the-art educational facility. The new Learning Centre forms part of an \$95million investment in the West End, including a \$30million contribution from the Federal Government's Education Investment Fund.

Despite the fact that the building is more than 7 metres over the 28 metre height guideline for this site, Adelaide City Council's Development Assessment Panel provided unanimous support, no representations were received during the Category 2 notification process and all relevant government agencies were supportive of the proposal.

Extensive pre-lodgement liaison with officers from ACC and DAC were invaluable in informing the design process. In its consideration of the proposal, DAC stated that this is an "iconic and visually arresting new building" that is also "an elegant civic gesture" and a "truly transformative solution". This provides evidence that a collaborative design process results in design excellence that responds to the overall intent of the Development Plan, rather than simply meeting quantitative prescription.

We can't wait for the opening of what promises to be a great addition to Adelaide's West End.

Articulating the Desired Character of Our Future Urban Corridors

Desired Character statements detail the nature and extent of planned change in the zones, policy areas and precincts identified in Development Plans. They are strategic in their intent – providing a succinct description of the expectations for development, including associated character, intensity and performance of different land uses, and impacts on the public realm. While being deliberately visionary, they play a fundamental role in Development Assessment, evidenced by the weight given to them by the ERD Court.

With the ongoing development and refinement of DPLG's Planning Policy Library modules, Desired Character statements are becoming an increasingly important way for Councils to infuse a local dimension to Development Plan policy.

URPS has been working with the City of Prospect in preparing Desired Character statements for key road corridors, such as Prospect Road and Churchill Road, which are being rezoned to realise their full potential as medium-high density mixed use precincts.

Painting a 'word picture' of a particular locality, Desired Character statements contain some of the most 'accessible' planning policy. We have found from our recent work with Prospect that it is possible to craft Desired Character statements that contain the richness and detail often sought by Elected Members and the community, while still providing planning policy that has 'work to do' in the assessment of development applications.



Images courtesy of DPLG

Finding a New Way to Manage Adelaide's Iconic River Torrens Linear Park



Developed in the 1980s, the River Torrens Linear Park is an iconic off-road connection linking the Adelaide Hills and the coast. Primarily designed for flood mitigation, it has developed into a much loved and used open space and recreational asset.

In some instances, it is the popularity of the Linear Park that also threatens it, creating tensions between its competing roles (e.g. conflict between commuter cyclists and recreational pedestrians). With these issues comes increasing pressure to manage the asset effectively.

URPS recently completed a Management Plan for the eastern end of the Linear Park, taking in the Council areas of Adelaide, Campbelltown, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Port Adelaide Enfield, Tea Tree Gully and Walkerville.

The establishment of a joint State/Council coordinating committee to guide the implementation of the Management Plan under cooperative Memorandum Of Understanding arrangement is proposed. Greater collaboration and coordination between the key stakeholders, while also ensuring greater accountability, are the central objectives.

This management model may be applicable to other similar community assets which have a number of key stakeholders with different layers of management responsibility.

Significant Appointments for the URPS Team

Congratulations Marcus



We were delighted to celebrate **Marcus Rolfe's** elevation to the position of Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia at the recent PIA Awards for Planning Excellence. The elevation recognises Marcus' ongoing contribution to the planning profession.

URPS Director **Nicole Halsey** has been appointed as a member of the Premier's Climate Change Council and the Board of Renewables SA. **Angela Hazebroek** has been appointed to the Integrated Design Commission's Design Review Panel. We look forward to supporting Nicole and Angela in these significant roles.



New team member,
Victoria Haupt

We are also pleased to welcome **Victoria Haupt** to the URPS team. Victoria comes to us with key skills in stakeholder and community engagement, urban and regional planning, project management and social research. As a qualified trainer, she also enjoys delivering training programs. Victoria's focus at URPS is on tailoring and delivering community engagement strategies, as well as strategic planning and policy work.



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