

Quarterly Report
Western Australian
Government Architect
October-December
2016

OGA

Summary

The last quarter has capped off a remarkably successful and rewarding year for the Office of the Government Architect (OGA) and feedback from our stakeholders has consistently affirmed the value of our advice in helping them achieve government's policy objectives for the built environment.

At the beginning of 2016 the OGA's aspirations were to:

- Continue our role in major State projects
- Develop our capacity as a valued cross-government facilitator
- Expand Design Review activities to also influence strategic planning and private sector development where possible
- Continue to influence major policy initiatives and planning reform
- Expand our advisory role for infrastructure projects
- Continue to improve design quality processes and outcomes in non-traditional public works procurement.

The Office has been comprehensive in its commitment to, and realisation of, these aspirations. The OGA's client base has broadened while our level of engagement in projects and initiatives has deepened. Increasingly, the OGA has been called upon to assist in brokering improved outcomes in contentious scenarios, from façade cladding on the new Perth Stadium, to the Swan River Pedestrian Bridge public realm, to amenity issues in high-rise apartments in the City of South Perth. It has been pleasing to see government so receptive to the OGA's advice and actively seeking our involvement.

A specific achievement for this quarter, and one of the most important undertakings by the OGA in recent years, has been Design WA, launched by the Premier and Minister for Planning in October. Design WA promotes the value of good design in our built environment by embedding

design quality criteria within the highest levels of the State's planning system. The importance of good design, particularly in residential developments, has been confirmed. A comprehensive Apartment Design Policy is one of the key elements of Design WA that will lift the standard of multi-residential development within the State, for the benefit of occupants and the broader community.

Design WA is the culmination of many years of work by the OGA in collaboration with the Department of Planning; researching the quality of residential design outcomes in Perth; advocating the value of good design to people, communities and government; researching best practice policies from around Australia; developing an understanding of the State's planning system; and defining new reforms and mechanisms to improve the performance of this system. Design WA has been thorough and influential policy work that will have far reaching and positive consequences on the quality of our built environment – making our city more liveable, more sustainable, more attractive and more viable for investment.

What is notable about Design WA is that it has emerged from leadership within the public sector. One of my predecessors as Government Architect, Professor Geoffrey London, first advocated the value of such a policy in 2004, having witnessed the successes of the New South Wales Government's release of State Environmental Planning Policy 65 (SEPP 65). Since that time, the OGA has worked diligently across government and with the private sector to understand the impacts of poor design outcomes in our urban and suburban areas and highlight the benefits to all by setting higher standards. Since 2014, collaboration with the Department of Planning has effectively advanced this initiative into a tangible and robust outcome that will now be used as the foundation for further policy work within Design WA Stage 2.

Turning attention to 2017, the OGA will continue to build on these successes. Our priorities for 2017 include:

- Design WA Stage 2 – Grouped Dwellings, Housing, Precinct Planning, Neighbourhood Design
- Perth Cultural Centre Strategic Framework – including Scitech relocation, coordinating masterplanning and the urban design interface with the New Museum Project
- State Design Review Panel establishment
- New WA Museum – strategic advice and Design Review
- Forrestfield Airport Link – strategic advice and Design Review of train stations and their environs
- New Perth Stadium and Precinct – closing out our advisory role
- Swan River Pedestrian Bridge – facilitating resolution of the public realm and its interfaces
- Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority projects – strategic advice and Design Review for the Scarborough Beach redevelopment, City Link, Elizabeth Quay Lots 4 & 5 and 2 & 3
- Sunset Hospital Transformation – facilitating preparation and implementation of the strategic framework
- Local Government assistance – including contributing to the City of Stirling's 'Better Suburbs' initiative and facilitating the implementation of City of South Perth's Scheme Amendment 46
- Wildflower Capital Initiative – strategic advice
- Affordable Housing vision and program – strategic advice
- Historic Heart – Design Review for capital works.

We are excited by the range and complexity of this work and we look forward to continuing to provide a high quality service to government through 2017.

Geoff Warn



Projects

New Museum Project

Strategic Projects and Asset Sales / WA Museum

The OGA has been closely assisting the State Team to monitor design issues on the project, including undertaking Design Review of the Schematic Design Report – a critical deliverable for the project's development. The State and Managing Contractor (MC) are working constructively to identify areas of the design that have scope for improvement, with particular focus on the building's façade and landscape design. The project has been subjected to review via statutory approval processes through the Heritage Council of Western Australia, Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) and City of Perth (CoP), with the OGA assisting directly through its membership of the MRA's Design Review Panel.

New Perth Stadium

Strategic Projects and Asset Sales / Department of Sport and Recreation

Final review of the rainscreen façade was undertaken during the quarter, through a series of inspections focused on the quality of installation. Since minor issues were identified, the quality of installation markedly improved. Design Review was also undertaken by the Office of the private sector proposal for the former Burswood Club House facility. The proposal includes the refurbishment of the club house for a function centre and bar that will complement the retail offerings of the Stadium. Construction of the Stadium is now over 60 per cent complete and remaining works will focus on completing the interior fit-out and landscaping. The OGA's role on the project, beginning in 2011, is therefore largely complete with further involvement to be on an as-needs basis.

South Perth Private

Developments

City of South Perth / Western Australian Planning Commission

The OGA has continued to assist the City of South Perth and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) by undertaking Design Review for two major private developments within the South Perth Train Station Precinct. The OGA has also taken part in mediations between

parties. Stakeholder feedback to the OGA regarding our role has been very positive, despite contentious circumstances.

Perth Cultural Centre Strategic Framework

Department of Culture and the Arts

This quarter saw the preparation of a draft Spatial Strategy for the Perth Cultural Centre (PCC) Strategic Framework. Significant consultation was undertaken to canvas the draft Spatial Strategy with key stakeholders and ensure alignment between the PCC Strategic Framework project and other government initiatives. Positive feedback on the Draft Spatial Strategy has been received from stakeholders, including the Department of Culture and the Arts, Department of Planning, MRA, Office of Science and CoP. A progress update on the project was presented to the Central Perth Planning Committee (CPPC), with the OGA receiving endorsement to continue to develop the draft Spatial Strategy through more expansive consultation.

Forrestfield-Airport Link

Department of Transport / Public Transport Authority

Designs for the new train stations proposed for the Forrestfield-Airport Link have progressed and the Public Transport Authority has engaged the OGA in workshops with the design team (led by UK-based transport design specialists Weston Williamson), with a focus on improving the design proposal for the Airport Central Station. With many future national and international visitors being greeted by this station on arrival to Perth, it's important that it provides a well-designed, welcoming experience.

Sunset Hospital Transformation

Department of Finance / Building Management and Works / Department of Culture and the Arts

Stage 1 of the Sunset Hospital Transformation was launched during a formal event on site that featured the Government Architect and high-level government representatives. Earlier in the quarter, the vision document and strategic framework were presented to the project's Steering Committee and received encouraging feedback.

Policy

Design WA – State Planning Policy 7

Design WA (formerly known as Planning Reform for Better Design) was officially launched for public comment on 19 October. The Government Architect was personally involved in the launch, attended by the Premier and other senior government representatives, and undertook many subsequent briefings with media organisations and stakeholders. There has been excellent feedback on this important policy release, with positive media coverage and community debate.

Further consultation was also undertaken regarding the establishment of the State Design Review Panel (SDRP), which is a critical mechanism for the implementation of Design WA. Work will be undertaken on Design WA in the next quarter to compile public responses to the policy and finalise key documents, including:

- State Planning Policy for Design of the Built Environment
- Apartment Design Policy
- Design Review Guide
- Design Skills discussion paper.

Public Art Future Directions

The OGA has completed its contribution to the project's Intra-Governmental Reference Group (IGRG), with final reporting submitted in December to high levels of government for consideration. The OGA was involved in the review of the final report prepared by the DCA and is supportive of its key findings and recommendations, which should improve the monitoring and accountability of the State's Percent for Art Scheme and the quality of public art outcomes generally.

Advocacy

MRA Design Review Panel

The OGA continued in its role as a member of the MRA's Design Review Panel, participating in several project reviews, including:

- New Museum Project
- EQ Lots 5&6 Competition Design Reviews
- Scarborough Surf Club and Foreshore Public Realm Development Applications
- City Link - Kings Square Landscape Design.

Design Excellence Working Group

The OGA continued to facilitate the cross-government Design Excellence Working Group (DEWG). David MacLennan, Assistant Director General of the Department of Planning, was given the opportunity to present to the group on the Design WA initiative. The DEWG has proved to be an important testing ground for key elements of Design WA and has strongly supported its launch.

Committees

Central Perth Planning Committee
City of Perth Design Advisory Committee

Events

City of Perth – Planning and Development End of Year event
LandCorp – 'Gen-Y Demonstration Housing Project', official launch
Australian Institute of Architects, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Association of Consulting Architects – 'Design WA Briefing', presentation
Australian Institute of Architects – Meet the Institute CEO and President, lunch
Planning Institute of Australia – 'Density and Parking' forum
Planning Institute of Australia – 'Design WA Briefing', presentation
Bureau of Ideas – 'Art in the City: Cool, Cliché or Clutter?', forum host
Urban Design Institute of Australia – 'Design WA Breakfast'
Curtin University – Humanities Advisory Council Meeting
Curtin University – Planning, Immersive Visualisations and eResearch (HIVE) Workshop
Curtin University, School of Built Environment – External School Review Panel meeting
Art Gallery of Western Australia – 'Black Swan Prize for Portraiture' exhibition opening
Art Gallery of Western Australia – 'See Things Differently' exhibition opening

Meetings and Correspondence

Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Office of Science (Department of Premier and Cabinet)
Department of Finance
Building Management and Works (Department of Finance)
Department of Treasury
Strategic Projects and Asset Sales (Department of Treasury)
Department of Planning
Western Australian Planning Commission
Department of Transport
Main Roads Western Australia
Department of Sport and Recreation
Department of Culture and the Arts
State Heritage Office
LandCorp
Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority
City of Perth
City of Rockingham
City of Stirling
City of South Perth
Curtin University
Committee for Perth
Australian Institute of Architects
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
Association of Consulting Architects
Property Council of Australia
Urban Design Institute of Australia

The Government Architect provides leadership and strategic advice to government to improve the design of public buildings and spaces and enhance the quality of the built environment. The Government Architect has a whole-of-government role and where requested provides advice to the highest levels of government. The Government Architect reports to the Minister for Finance (in his capacity as Minister for Works) and the Office of the Government Architect is linked to Building Management and Works within the Department of Finance.

