



BUYING LOCAL POLICY

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTS FOR OUR PUBLIC PROJECTS

CONTEXT

The Australian Institute of Architects calls upon State and Federal Governments to mandate a majority of shortlisted architects be Australian when undertaking design competitions for publicly funded projects.

Australian culture- Australian architects reflect our culture and tell our stories.

This requirement will ensure the vibrancy of the Australian architectural profession and support the growth of high value knowledge based jobs within Australia.

The Institute is concerned that Australian governments, in some recent design competitions for important publicly funded projects, have shortlisted a majority of overseas architects. In one recent public project, five of the six selected competition entrants were led by overseas architects.

Architecture is a global profession and the Institute supports architects working internationally. Many of our members have been very successful in exporting architectural services overseas and the Institute looks for ongoing support from government in support of architects earning export income. However, in regard to publicly funded projects for our important civic buildings, public open spaces and community infrastructure, Australian Government agencies should match international practice. A majority of countries undertaking shortlisted design competition processes for their public projects actively mandate local architectural content.

Adopting this policy ensures fair and open architectural selection processes that welcomes overseas architects, when deemed appropriate to projects of significance, yet ensures a majority of competitors are Australian architects - benefiting the Australian community and supporting local employment.

THE POLICY

The Australian Institute of Architects endorses the following:

- Recognition that the Australian architectural profession provides innovative design leadership both locally and internationally.
- Support for the retention of a strong Australian architectural skills base.
- Recognition in Government procurement of the role of good design in maximising economic benefits and creating a rich legacy of civic buildings and urban spaces.
- Fair and open procurement practices that do not favour overseas architects over Australian architects.
- A majority of Australian architects be included in short listed design competitions for publicly funded projects.*
- Strong government support for the promotion and export of of Australian architectural services overseas.

* For this purpose, Australian architects are defined as firms having a majority of Australian partners or directors (to be refined) .