

Environmental Policy

Preamble

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.

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.

Savage Consulting embraces the Australian Landscape Principles.

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.