

4 May 2019

Ms. Clare Cousins
National President
Australian Institute of Architects
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Dear Ms. Cousins,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Morrison Government on important issues facing your members. A response to your questions is attached.

This election will have real consequences for Australia's economy and our future. This year, for the first time in more than a decade, the Government will deliver a Budget surplus.

Our plan for a stronger economy will:

1. Create 1.25 million more jobs over the next five years.
2. Maintain budget surpluses and pay down debt.
3. Deliver tax relief to encourage and reward hard working Australians.
4. Guarantee increased investments for schools, hospitals and roads.
5. Keep Australians safe and our borders secure.

The alternative at this election is Mr Shorten. Labor's risky agenda includes billions of dollars in higher taxes – on retirees, housing, incomes, investments, family businesses, electricity and more.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Hirst
Federal Director

MORRISON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1. Do you/your party support the appointment of a Cabinet level Minister for Cities and Infrastructure?

The Infrastructure portfolio is held in Cabinet by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP. The Hon Alan Tudge MP was appointed as the Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population on 28 August 2018. There has been a Cities portfolio in the Coalition Ministry since 2015.

2. What is you/your party's position on a City Deals or Partnerships program linked to specific design and sustainability benchmarks?

The Morrison Government is delivering on our Cities Agenda – making our cities more productive and liveable.

The City and Regional Deals provide a unique opportunity to get all levels of government working together to identify key investments and reforms that are required to unlock a city's potential. This includes aligning the planning, investment and governance required to accelerate growth and job creation, stimulate renewal and drive economic reforms.

3. Do you/your party support adopting a national architecture policy?

The Building Ministers Forum (BMF) commissioned the undertaking of an assessment of the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems for the building and construction industry across Australia. The *Building Confidence* report recommended the BMF work collaboratively to implement a national best practice model for compliance and enforcement consistent with the recommendations of the *Building Confidence* report.

Each State and Territory is responsible for implementing the recommendations of the *Building Confidence* report. Any adoption of a national architectural policy would need to be considered by a future BMF.

4. Do you/your party support the re-establishment of a Major Cities Unit to provide independent, expert advice?

Cities policy is already being progressed through the Department Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities. The Department has a division dedicated to Cities policy.

5. What is your/your party's position on appointing an Australian Government Architect?

Each State and Territory is responsible for implementing the recommendations of the *Building Confidence* report. Any adoption of a national architectural policy would need to be considered by a future BMF.

6. What is your/your party's position on the prioritisation of urban-related research for the Australian Research Council?

The Morrison Government strongly supports research in Australia. In 2018–19, the Government provided around \$9.6 billion for research and development across all Government portfolios.

Over the next four years, the Government will invest around \$12 billion through the Education and Training portfolio, including around \$8 billion in research and research training through research block grants and a further \$3 billion in funding provided through the Australian Research Council (ARC).

On 19 February 2019, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education, announced a panel of experts and terms of reference to review the 2015 Science and Research Priorities as they apply to the Australian Research Council's (ARC) National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). The panel is due to report to the Minister by the end of July 2019.

7. What actions will you take to increase the affordable and social housing stock?

The Morrison Government has announced a number of proposals to make housing more affordable for all Australians, including:

- the First Home Super Saver Scheme to help Australians buy their first home;
- the \$1 billion National Housing Infrastructure Facility and the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation which will help to unlock new housing supply including social housing;
- strengthening regulation of the community housing sector to support its capacity to grow;
- \$6 million to support the Homes for Homes initiative, which aims to raise funds for social and affordable housing;
- \$10 million over 10 years to develop social impact investments that help young people at risk of homelessness;
- releasing surplus Commonwealth land for housing and the Australian Government property register; and
- a variety of tax, superannuation and foreign investment changes aimed to help Australians meet their housing needs.

The Morrison Government continues to support those in need in the community by providing around \$4.5 billion each year in Commonwealth Rent Assistance to more than 1.3 million individuals and families.

In contrast, Labor's Housing Tax will make it harder for Australians to get into a first home. Labor's Housing Tax will put up rents which will make it harder for first home buyers to save for a deposit. Research by SQM found rents could rise as much as 22 per cent.

8. Do you/your party support controls and incentives for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and if so what are your planned actions?

Climate change is a global issue that requires a global solution. The Morrison Government is committed to Australia playing its part in that global solution to reduce emissions. Under the Morrison Government, Australia's emissions are currently at their lowest level on a per capita and GDP basis in 28 years. Australia contributes to just over 1 per cent of global emissions. The Morrison Government is committed to Australia continuing to play its part in reducing emissions.

The Morrison Government's 2030 target to reduce emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels is responsible and achievable. This target will see a reduction in emissions per person halve by 2030. This is one of the strongest efforts among G20 countries.

By contrast, Labor's risky policies are to reduce emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 along with a renewable energy target of 50 per cent. We know these policies will drive up power prices, wreck the economy, reduce wages and cost jobs. Labor's policies will not reduce global emissions as businesses, jobs and wages are forced overseas.

Labor's policies will reduce real wages by \$9,000 per household, reduce the number of jobs by more than 330,000 and increase wholesale electricity prices by 58 per cent. The Morrison Government's Climate Solutions Package is a comprehensive, fully costed, \$3.5 billion plan, over the next decade to deliver on Australia's 2030 emissions reduction targets.

Our plan includes:

- A \$2 billion climate solutions fund to reduce greenhouse gases across the economy through the existing Emissions Reduction Fund, giving farmers, small businesses and Indigenous communities the chance to improve the environment and benefit from new revenue opportunities.
- Secure our energy future for generations to come, through investments in a high-tech expansion of the Snowy Mountains Scheme and a second interconnector, Marinus Link, between Victoria and Tasmania. This will deliver more affordable, reliable power to the National Electricity Market, reducing prices for Australian families and businesses while keeping the lights on.
- Help households and businesses to lower energy bills. By the middle of 2019, over one million Australian families and small business will benefit from electricity prices falling by up to 15 per cent and the ban on sneaky late payment fees.

9. Do you/your party support strong mandatory minimum standards for energy performance of buildings and appliances?

In February 2019, the COAG Energy Council ministers agreed on the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings, which is a national plan to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions from Australia's residential and commercial buildings sector. The Trajectory sets a target for the sector of '*zero energy (and zero carbon) ready buildings*'.

The Morrison Government has also committed \$3.4 million of funding in 2019-20 to develop best practice information, training and tools that help homes transition to be zero energy (and zero carbon) ready. This will include updates to the 'Your Home' online resources with free house plans and specifications for achieving zero energy ready homes.

Commonwealth Government funding to support greater energy efficiency of commercial buildings is being boosted by \$7.1 million to expand both the National Australian Built Environment Energy Ratings System (NABERS) and considering the expansion of the Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) program.

The Morrison Government has begun the process to introduce an Energy Rating Label to space heating appliances. Space heating, makes up 26 per cent of residential energy use. An Energy Rating Label will allow consumers compare between different heating technologies and make a more informed decision which best fits their heating needs. The label will also be supported by the Energy Rating online calculator (www.energyrating.gov.au) and the Energy Rating App to help consumers compare the operating costs of various appliances.

10. What is you/your party's position on improving building regulation, and implementation of the 24 recommendations of the *Building Confidence* report in a nationally consistent manner?

On 13 March 2019, the BMF published a joint implementation plan responding to the recommendations of the *Building Confidence* report. The plan sets out reforms both planned and underway in each jurisdiction. States and territories have agreed that wherever possible jurisdictions will adopt reforms consistent with those in place or proposed in other jurisdictions.

While the BMF has given in-principle agreement to all recommendations in the report, the immediate focus will be on reforms to the integrity and transparency of building certification processes. The BMF will initially focus efforts on exploring a consistent approach to the registration and training of practitioners and the responsibilities of design practitioners.

11. Do you/your party support the introduction of legislation requiring complex projects to be designed by registered architects?

The BMF will initially focus efforts on exploring a consistent approach to the registration and training of practitioners and the responsibilities of design practitioners.

12. What is you/your party's position on how to ensure best procurement practice by government?

The Morrison Government believes that public services should be delivered by those who are best placed to deliver them. Through the use of technology and new ways of working, the Government is driving a public sector that is able to deliver higher quality services with fewer resources.

The Morrison Government recognises that every procurement is an opportunity to find new solutions to old problems and improve the type of service the public can enjoy. In contrast, our political opponents are beholden to public sector unions and are hostile to opening up services to contestable procurement opportunities in the first place.

Achieving value for money is the core principle in the *Commonwealth Procurement Rules*, as a value test ensures that public resources are used in the most ethical and economic manner. Judgment about value for money requires the consideration of both financial and non-financial costs and benefits associated with procurement.

In the 2019-20 Budget, the Morrison Government announced the establishment of a new *Centre of Procurement Excellence*, to enhance procurement capability and productivity across the federal public sector. By simplifying, standardising and coordinating procurement practices and processes, efficiencies can be realised for government and business—making buying for and selling to the government, easier and simpler.

The Government has in place a range of measures designed to promote economic growth through procurement. This includes: the commitment to source at least 10 per cent of procurement by value from small and medium enterprises, publishing procurement plans for significant procurements to engage early with the market and requiring Commonwealth officials to consider how a procurement can best benefit the Australian economy.

13. What actions will you/your party take to support the retention of a strong Australian architectural skills base?

The Morrison Government is providing a record \$17.7 billion to universities and working with them to ensure this leads to better outcomes for students. We have provided over \$400 million in support for rural and regional students to go to university, and helped over 170,000 students from low socio-economic backgrounds.

The Morrison Government is also ensuring that all publicly funded university research is in the public interest. Taxpayer support for universities should always provide a return for taxpayers – both students and their families, and the broader community, who benefit from the world class research undertaken in Australian universities.

The Morrison Government has a plan for more than 1.25 million jobs to be created over the next five years. A world-class, modern and adaptive education system is crucial to meeting that goal by ensuring that Australians develop the skills they need to succeed in a changing labour market, and that businesses have access to the skilled workforce they need to grow and prosper.