State code 24: Urban design outcomes for significant projects

Purpose statement

The purpose of the code is to ensure that significant projects result in high quality urban design outcomes for a place, locality or region; creating a physical environment that increases liveability, is appropriate in an urban and local context, considers opportunities to adapt over time, creates a sense of place, supports positive health and wellbeing, leads by example and engages effectively while improving social and economic interactions.

Urban design principles

Context

Urban design is both a process and an outcome of creating places in which people live, engage with each other and the physical environment around them. Built form and its relationship with public, open and active spaces plays a key role in facilitating liveable communities that support Queensland's social and economic prosperity.

High-quality urban design and effective place making is an essential element of improving community health and well-being, facilitating social cohesion, and creating resilient, sustainable and affordable communities. This is particularly important for significant projects within a metropolitan context.

Well-designed communities create places and spaces that are vibrant, prosperous, diverse, inclusive, sustainable, accessible, connected, healthy and safe. These features increase liveability, create a sense of place, support positive health and wellbeing, and improve social and economic interactions.
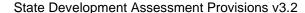
Well implemented urban design outcomes also enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors, resulting in attractive places to live, work and play.

Principles

Significant projects have a critical role to play in contributing to the well-being and liveability of the communities through high quality urban design. Accordingly, significant projects should incorporate the following principles that underpin best practice urban design:

Development should:

1. be climate responsive;
2. be inspired by local place, character, form and culture;
3. work with and enhance natural systems, landscape character and biodiversity;
4. create well defined, legible and connected streets and spaces;
5. create great places for people to live;
6. deliver diverse development forms and density;
7. embed opportunities for adaptation and change;
8. lead by example;
9. engage effectively.

Achieving the principles

In addressing the nine urban design principles, applicants should prepare a statement including a description of the overarching project vision and a summary of how the urban design principles are reflected in the project. The statement should demonstrate that a robust urban design process has informed the proposal and that high-quality outcomes will be achieved. Should any of the urban design principles not be reflected in the project, the statement should include appropriate justification for this omission.

The statement will be assessed by the Office of the Queensland Government Architect and by SARA, providing a basis for design advice to the assessment manager.

Reference documents

Office of the Queensland Government Architect, 2018, QDesign, Principles for good urban design in Queensland.

Office of the Queensland Government Architect, Urban Design and Architecture.