

State code 24: Urban design outcomes for significant projects

24.1 Purpose statement

The purpose of the code is to ensure that significant projects result in high quality urban design outcomes for a locality or region; creating a physical environment that increases liveability, creates a sense of place, supports positive health and wellbeing, and improves social and economic interactions.

Note: Please refer to the [Urban design outcomes for significant projects state code planning guideline](#), Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, 2017.

24.2 Urban design principles

24.2.1 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.

24.2.2 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 responsive to local climatic conditions and patterns
2. be inspired by local places and incorporate locally significant character and cultures
3. consider, incorporate and enhance the natural landscape
4. work with and respond to natural systems and processes (i.e. hydrology and ecology)
5. create functional, well defined, legible and connected streets and spaces
6. deliver diverse and well integrated development density and land use mix, sympathetic to local settings and values
7. consider and embed opportunities for adaptation and change
8. be innovative, creative and forward-thinking.

24.3 Achieving the principles

In addressing the eight urban design principles, applicants should prepare a statement including a description of the overarching project vision and 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.