

**REMIT 1-2007**

***presented to the NZILA AGM 14 April 2007***

**Proposed by:**

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### **Purpose of remit**

To clarify the definition of, and provide for an alternative mode of entry to, the Associate category. (Note that these two proposed changes are independent, and will be put to the meeting as two separate recommendations.)

### **Proposal**

Confirm the academic requirement for Associate membership, missing from the current definition, relocate the clause relating to the professional practice requirement, and add a new sub-clause that provides for an alternative entry pathway to Associateship, subject to a rigorous review process.

### **Background**

The Constitution refers to the 'academic requirements for corporate membership' in its definition of a graduate, but the academic requirement is not clearly noted for those who wish to become corporate members. The first part of this remit suggests a simplification of the definition of associate, and confirms the academic requirement for corporate membership.

The second part of this remit refers to a decision of the 1998 Annual General Meeting, which voted to remove sub-clause (c) (5) of sub-article 2.3 (the definition of Associate) from an earlier version of the Constitution. This sub-clause stated that:

"(5) In exception to the above, a person who has made a substantial contribution to the practice of landscape architecture but who is unable to meet the requirements of 3(i) above  
*["passed the examination of the Institute or a recognised examination"]*

may be elected to Associate membership by a majority vote of an AGM having been proposed by five corporate members of the Institute and recommended by the Committee and who has met the requirements of (1) above

*["not less than 23 years of age"]*  
and (4)

*["has passed an examination in professional practice after completing the period of practical experience required in (2) above"]*

*{(2) "has at least two years practical experience in landscape architecture of a nature acceptable to the Committee"}*

and has completed no less than 12 years of practice in the field of landscape architecture of a nature and standard acceptable to the Committee."



One of the key reasons for the removal of this sub-clause was that the process for nomination, and review of that nomination, was not clearly defined, and therefore both had the potential to be open to variability.

Recently, a situation has arisen where a person who would have admirably met the requirements of sub-clause (c)(5) was brought to the attention of the Committee. Regrettably, under the current Constitution, that person was not eligible for consideration even though his contribution over many years was noteworthy.

This remit seeks to redress this anomaly by re-instituting a workable mechanism for entry to the Associate category for those who meet the intent of the previous sub-clause (c)(5).

It is envisaged that this would be a privilege granted only rarely, and that the initiative would clearly be that of the five corporate members and not someone who considered themselves to be a deserving case.

The current definition of Associate in the Constitution is as follows:

"(c) **Associate**

A person who:

- (1) has at least two but preferably three years practical experience in landscape architecture of a nature acceptable to the Committee of which at least one year must have been completed in New Zealand; and
- (2) has either -
  - (i) passed the examination of the Institute or a recognised examination, or
  - (ii) been admitted to a grade of membership acceptable to the Committee of an association, institute or body concerned with landscape architecture which the Committee may from time-to-time recognise.
- (3) has passed an examination in professional practice after completing the period of practical experience required in (1) above."

The following definition is suggested, to address both parts of the remit as discussed above:

(c) **Associate**

A person who:

- (1) has completed an accredited or recognised tertiary programme in landscape architecture, and who has at least two but preferably three years practical experience in landscape architecture of a nature acceptable to the Committee of which at least one year must have been completed in New Zealand; and
- (2) **has either -**
  - (i) subsequently passed the professional practice examination of the Institute or a recognised professional practice examination, or
  - (ii) been admitted to a grade of membership acceptable to the Committee of an association, institute or body concerned with landscape architecture which the Committee may from time-to-time recognise.

**or -**



has made a singular contribution to the practice and profession of landscape architecture in New Zealand over a period of not less than 12 years, **and** has met the professional practice requirement of (2)(i) or (2)(ii).

Note that admission to Associate membership under this sub-clause is a two-stage process comprising:

- (i) submission of five formal independent proposals of support to the Committee from five corporate members, who are each convinced that the person is worthy of consideration, and
- (ii) consideration of the proposals by an occasional sub-committee of at least three corporate members appointed by the Committee, the members of which would not have had any direct professional or project-based dealings with the applicant. The applicant would be invited to proceed to meet the professional practice requirement, if the sub-committee recommended to the Committee that the experience of the applicant was equivalent to (1) above.

## **Conclusion**

This remit confirms an academic requirement for those seeking Associate membership of the Institute, and suggests an alternative mode of entry for those who, in exceptional circumstances, would otherwise be eligible to apply for Associate membership, but who are not able to meet the academic requirement.

## **Recommendation**

1. That the proposed changes to (c)(1) and (c)(2) are approved, but that if recommendation two below is not approved, that the word “or” after (c)(2)(i) is highlighted and moved to the beginning of (c)(2)(ii).
2. That the new sub-clause (c)(2) **or**, and the accompanying note regarding the process for entry to Associate under this new sub-clause, are approved.



**Proposed by:           Executive Committee**

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**Purpose of remit**

To remove the categories of Affiliate and Education Provider from the NZILA membership options.

**Proposal**

Reduce the current nine categories of membership to six, but retain the 'registered' category at this stage pending the outcome of a formal review of the registered landscape architect scheme by the Registrar and Executive Committee.

**Background**

There have been comments over the years about the large number of categories of membership for such a relatively small organisation, bringing with it more detail to administer, and raising questions from time to time at hearings or court proceedings about the relative status of this range of membership options. The current executive committee decided to review the membership categories, and came to an early conclusion about the Affiliate category.

**Affiliate**

The committee decided not to admit any new members to the Affiliate category from 2006, after considering the role of that category, and its value to the organisation. It was found that the Affiliate category was meant to have been removed from the constitution some time ago, as noted below.....

Frank Boffa, the president of the institute in 1976, presented a remit to the AGM that year regarding a reorganisation of the membership categories. The meeting agreed that the Institute was a professional organisation, dedicated to the benefit of landscape architects, and decided to eliminate the Affiliate category. Those who were already Affiliates had a five year period in which to sit a series of temporary examinations, and progress to corporate status. No new members were to be admitted to the Affiliate category, and it was to be removed from the constitution in 1981.

People who might have been eligible for Affiliate membership, or who chose not to sit the temporary examinations, were encouraged to form an organisation that met their needs. That decision eventually led to the formation of LIANZ, which has a focus on the implementation side of the landscape industry. That organisation may be the more appropriate 'home' for many of those who are currently Affiliate members, and we might consider steering them in that direction if we finally implement the 1976 remit.

People such as urban designers might match our idea of those who could be relevant Affiliate members, but we might also ask why they need to join as members. If it is simply to gain access to information about CPD events, conferences, or Insite for example, then we could set up an administrative group called 'subscribers'. This would not be a formal category recognised in the constitution, but just a mailing list; subscribers could pay an annual fee to cover the cost of sending them information and providing LNZ and Urbis Landscapes. That way, they could still feel involved in the affairs of the Institute, without formally being members.

Technically, we probably do not need a further remit to remove the category, although such a long time has elapsed since that earlier decision, that exec felt it sensible to allow the current membership to vote on the proposal. (Note that if the proposal is accepted, reference to 'Affiliate' should also be removed from the Student category.)

**Education Providers**



We also have a category for 'Education Providers', which was added through an initiative of Michael Jones, when he was president of NZILA. This category was for institutions, not individuals, and was meant to allow those offering landscape programmes to join NZILA, and pay a large fee for that purpose. To our knowledge, it has never been used, and since all other categories of membership are for individuals, it probably should never have been added to the list. It should be removed.

## Registered

A question still remains about the nature of 'Registered'; this category can only apply to those who are Life Members, Fellows or Associate members of the Institute. Although it is noted as a 'category', it is an appellation, and cannot stand independently of another designation. Because it does not replace another designation, it therefore might sit apart in some way from the categories noted above. There has been some discussion over the years about the potential for Registered to replace Associate, but of course there may well be Associates who choose not to become Registered as well, and how might this affect those who are Fellows or Life Members? Perhaps Registered is more like an annual practicing certificate, which may or may not be adopted by members?

The retention or not of Registered as a separate category of membership is not part of this remit; the discussion above has been included to demonstrate that exec is aware of the anomaly, but is unwilling to suggest any changes until a full review of the registered landscape architect scheme has been initiated and completed by the Executive Committee and the Registrar. (This is scheduled to begin during 2008 - all members will have an opportunity to contribute to this review.)

## Suggested categories

The resulting categories for the NZILA, with the constitutional definition for each category in parentheses, would therefore be as follows (leaving 'Registered' aside for the moment). Note that (R) means that members of this category are entitled to seek Registered status.

HF     **Honorary Fellow** – an opportunity to honour those who are not landscape architects, but who have made a substantial contribution to the landscape, or to the profession of landscape architecture, and to bring prestige to the NZILA through the association with that person.  
*(A person distinguished by scientific, artistic, literary or other eminent attainment whose activities promote or have promoted the aims and objects of the Institute.)*

LM (R) **Life member** – for a unique and outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession.  
*(A person who in the opinion of the Committee has made a unique and outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession in New Zealand: Provided that a person should not be elected to this grade of membership unless he/she is qualified to be elected as a Fellow of the Institute.)*

F (R)     **Fellow** – recognition of members who have significantly contributed to the profession through practice and advocacy, or serving the membership.  
*(A person who in the opinion of the Committee has significantly contributed to the status or advancement of the profession in New Zealand: Provided that a person should not be elected to this grade of membership unless he/she is qualified to be elected as an Associate member of the Institute.)*

A (R) **Associate** – base level of professional competence. (current definition follows)  
*(A person who:*

(1)     *has at least two but preferably three years practical experience in landscape architecture of a nature acceptable to the Committee of which at least one year must have been completed in New Zealand; and*

(2)     *has either -*

(i)     *passed the examination of the Institute or a recognised examination, or*



- (ii) *been admitted to a grade of membership acceptable to the Committee of an association, institute or body concerned with landscape architecture which the Committee may from time-to-time recognise.*
  - (3) *has passed an examination in professional practice after completing the period of practical experience required in (1) above)*
- G     **Graduate** – recognition of meeting the academic requirements towards professional competence.  
*(A person who has completed the academic requirements for corporate membership but who is still completing the professional practice requirements.)*
- S     **Student** – recognition of working towards the academic requirements of professional membership.  
*(A person who is engaged in studies associated with landscape architecture approved by the Committee provided that a person shall cease to be a member of this grade if that person:*  
       (1) *becomes eligible for election as a Graduate or Affiliate member of the Institute; or*  
       (2) *at the expiration of seven years from the date of election as a Student; or*  
       (3) *is engaged in full-time employment.)*

## Conclusion

This remit suggests that it would be helpful for the Institute to reduce the number of different categories of membership. Six categories would be appropriate, with the retention of the seventh, Registered, at this stage, pending a review as noted above. The most significant change would be the deletion of 'Affiliate', but an alternative list of 'subscribers' could readily be established, without requiring them to have a particular constitutional membership status.

## Recommendations

1. That the proposal to retain just six categories of membership, plus Registered at this stage, by removing “Affiliate”, and “Education Provider”, be adopted.
2. That a list of subscribers be established for those who may be interested in receiving information from the NZILA, including all of those currently in the Affiliate category.

Subscribers That the Executive establish a ‘Subscribers’ facility with appropriate rules and conditions as part of the Executive Policy and protocol document. The value of the subscriptions for any one year shall be as determined by the committee.

This means that the Subscribers facility is not a constitutional matter but merely an administrative issue for the Executive.