



# PRIME MINISTER

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON PJ KEATING MP**

## **AUSTRALIA AWARD FOR URBAN DESIGN**

I am pleased to announce today the detailed conditions of entry for the Australia Award for Urban Design and at the same time to invite nominations for the 1995 award.

The award is a prestigious addition to the national awards system for urban design. It will recognise multi disciplinary urban design excellence which brings long-term benefits.

Entries for the award will need to show clearly how they are making life better for Australians. The gains will need to be in the three key areas of social, environmental and economic well-being.

Outstanding achievement will be measured against a range of criteria. Categories include design excellence, community function and benefit, environmental health, social equity, relevance to today's lifestyle (including the ability to adapt to changing lifestyle needs), innovation and application to other sites.

The establishment of the award follows the 18-month review of urban design carried out by the Government's Urban Design Task Force. It is the first-stage of the Government's response to the Task Force Report, which is being co-ordinated by the Minister for Housing and Regional Development, the Hon Brian Howe MP.

The annual award will alternate between two types of urban design initiative.

In 1995 it will be for projects which have already created a built environment which people can visit. Nominations close on Tuesday, 29 August 1995 and the award will be presented in November 1995.

In 1996 the award will be for ideas which significantly influence the built environment. The 'idea' might be a project which is at detailed planning stage and is likely to become a physical reality. It might be a piece of innovative legislation which will have far-reaching impact on urban design. It

might also be a design project which, through promotion that occurs because of the Australia Award for Urban Design, has a significant impact on urban design elsewhere in Australia even though the project itself does not come to fruition.

The award will make a major contribution to design excellence in Australia by recognising urban design in the broadest sense.

Judging will be by a panel of eminent jurors which will make recommendations to the Government. The 1995 jury will be announced shortly.

The award is the urban design equivalent of the Australia Prize, the national science award introduced in the mid-1980s by the Government and now an internationally recognised award.

The Australia Award for Urban Design will be a perpetual trophy which will be unveiled at the 1995 presentation. In addition to the trophy, there will be a range of promotional activities linked to the award, to encourage debate within the professions and the community about the contribution which urban design excellence can make to Australia's heritage.

**CANBERRA**  
**4 July 1995**