



Department of **Planning, Lands and Heritage**
Office of the Government Architect



FUTURE OF DESIGN REVIEW

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TODAY

- Office of the Government Architect
- Design Review
- Challenges + Opportunities
- Case study: ECU City Campus
- The Future

ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT

The Government Architect provides leadership and independent strategic advice to government to improve the design of public buildings and spaces and to enhance the quality of the built environment.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT

Government's advisor on design quality across four areas of activity:

- Projects
- Policy
- Advocacy
- Review



DESIGN REVIEW



WHAT IS DESIGN REVIEW?

A **well-tested** and internationally utilised **mechanism** for **improving** the **design quality** of the built environment.

Design Review processes are **embedded** at **State level** across the country.

State Design Review Panels operate in VIC, NSW, SA, ACT and QLD.



PURPOSE OF DESIGN REVIEW

Provide **independent expert advice** to help local and State government **decision making**.

Provide **independent expert advice** to proponents and designers to help **improve proposals**.

DESIGN REVIEW PROTOCOLS

Independent conducted by people not connected to the project

Expert carried out by suitably qualified people experienced in design and design review

Multi-disciplinary from a range of design disciplines

Accountable must be clearly seen to work for the benefit of the public.

DESIGN REVIEW PROTOCOLS

Transparent

remit, membership, governance and funding are in the public domain

Proportionate

used on projects that are significant or strategic

Timely

takes place as early as possible in the design process

DESIGN REVIEW PROTOCOLS

Advisory

does not make decisions but offers impartial advice to inform recommendations

Objective

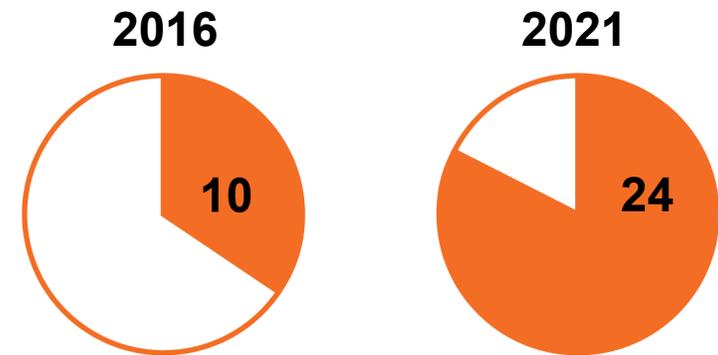
appraises against measures that are reasoned and objective, rather than stylistic tastes of individual panel members

Accessible

recommendations are clear and in terms that design teams, decision makers and the public can all understand

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDE

- The **WHAT, WHY and HOW** of design review since 2016.
- Main purpose of the guide:
 - to establish consistency with a single model of design review; and
 - to assist local governments to set up design review panels.



Metro LGAs with DRPs

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDE

- **Updates** now required:
 - Processes and procedures
 - Terms of reference
 - Reporting
 - Managing COIs
- **Restructure** with dedicated guidance for:
 - Proponents
 - Decision makers
 - Local Governments
 - Design reviewers

Design Review Guide

Guidance for local governments to set up and operate
design review processes



A photograph of a rapidKL train on an elevated track. The train is white with red accents and has the number 4481 on its front. It is moving along a track that runs parallel to a road with several cars. The background shows a cityscape with buildings and trees under a hazy sky. The text "CHALLENGES + OPPORTUNITIES" is overlaid in the center of the image.

CHALLENGES + OPPORTUNITIES

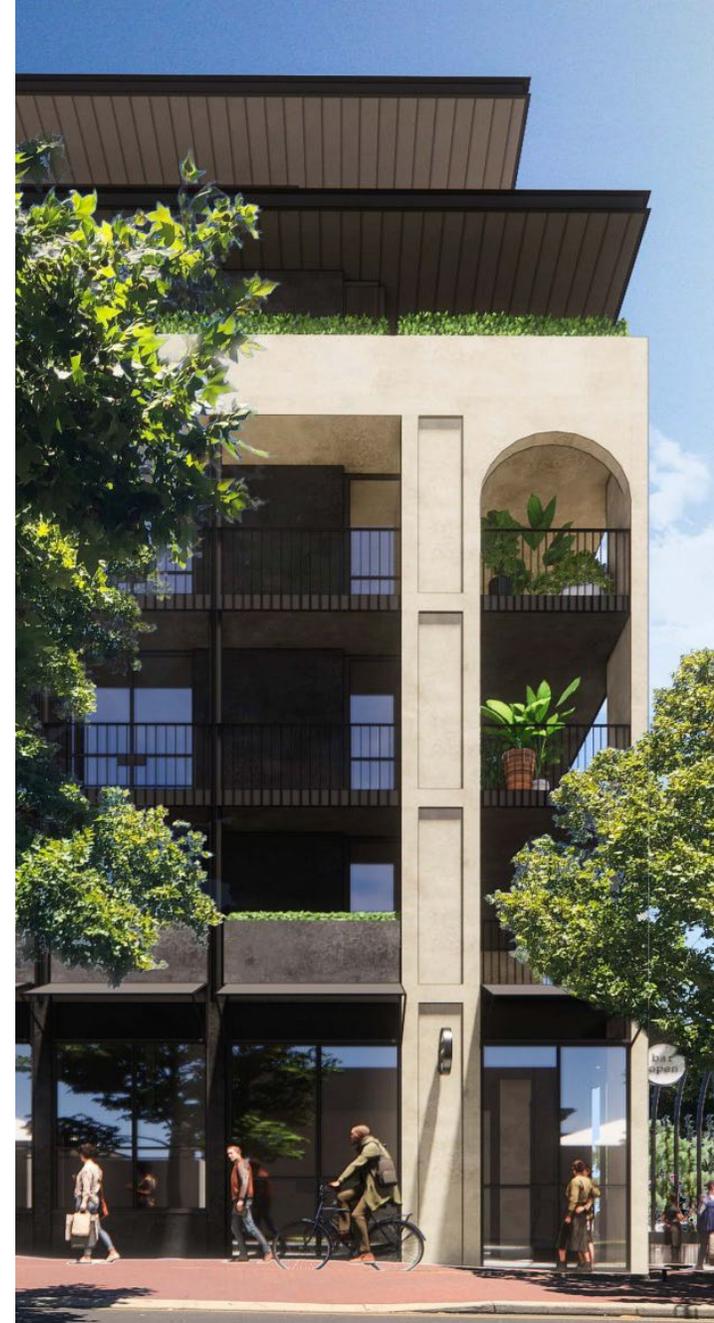
WHAT WE'VE SEEN

- METRONET Stations and Precincts (\$2.7 billion)
- City Deal Projects (\$1.5 billion)
- Tourism Projects (\$125 million)
- Infrastructure Projects (\$250 million)
- Part 17 Projects (\$4.8 billion)



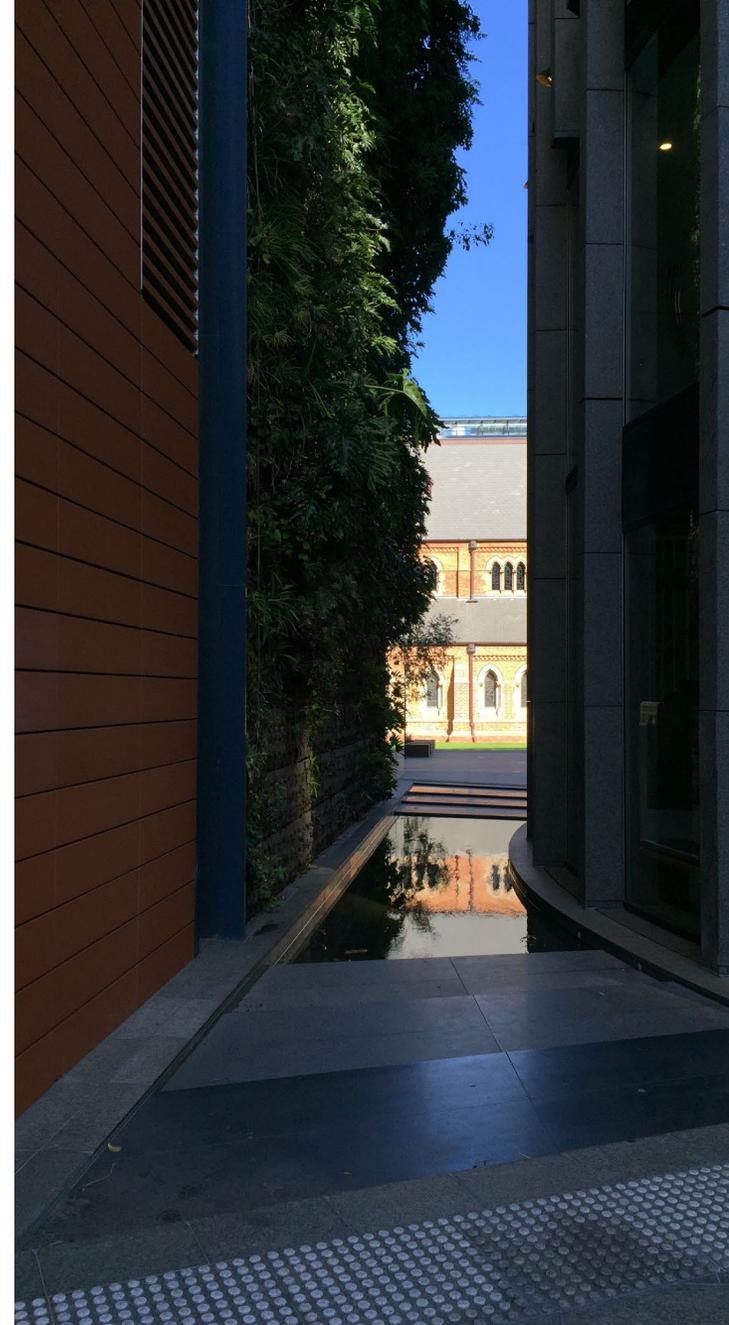
CHALLENGES

- Increased demand
- Covid-19 shut downs
- Needed to streamline process
- Reporting
- Confidentiality
- Conflicts of Interest
- Project significance



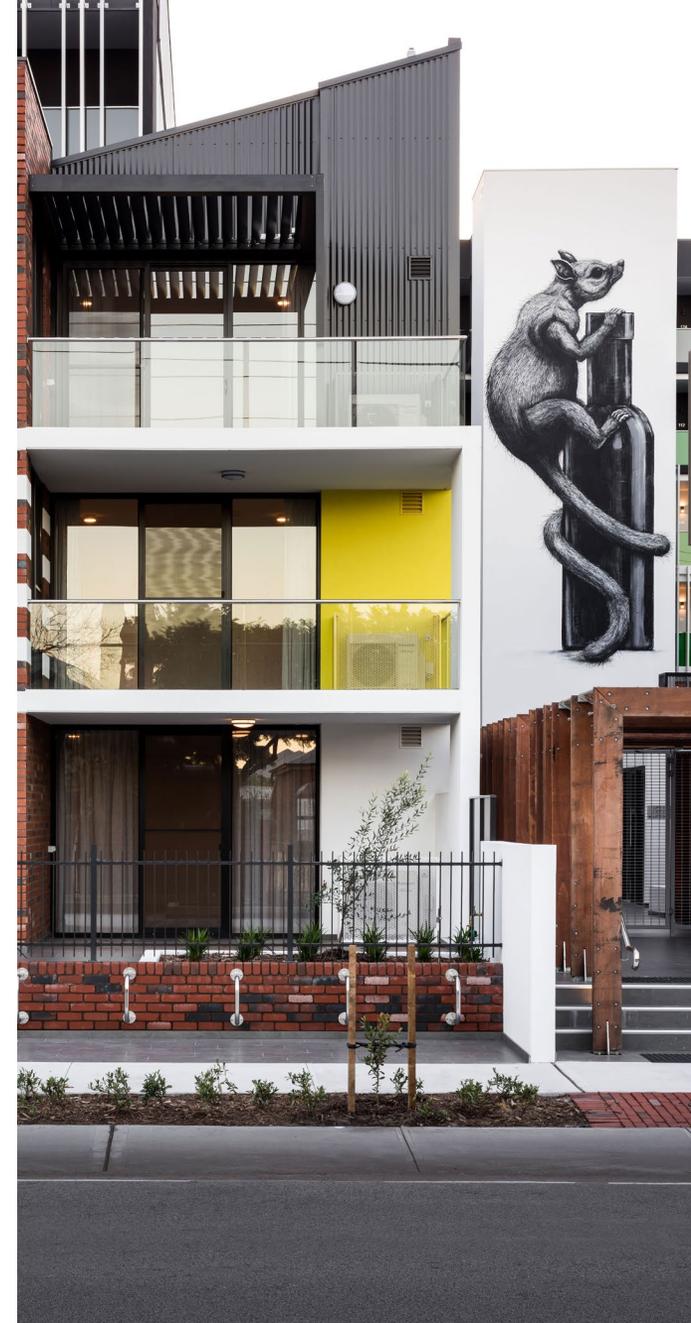
WHAT WE'VE TRIED

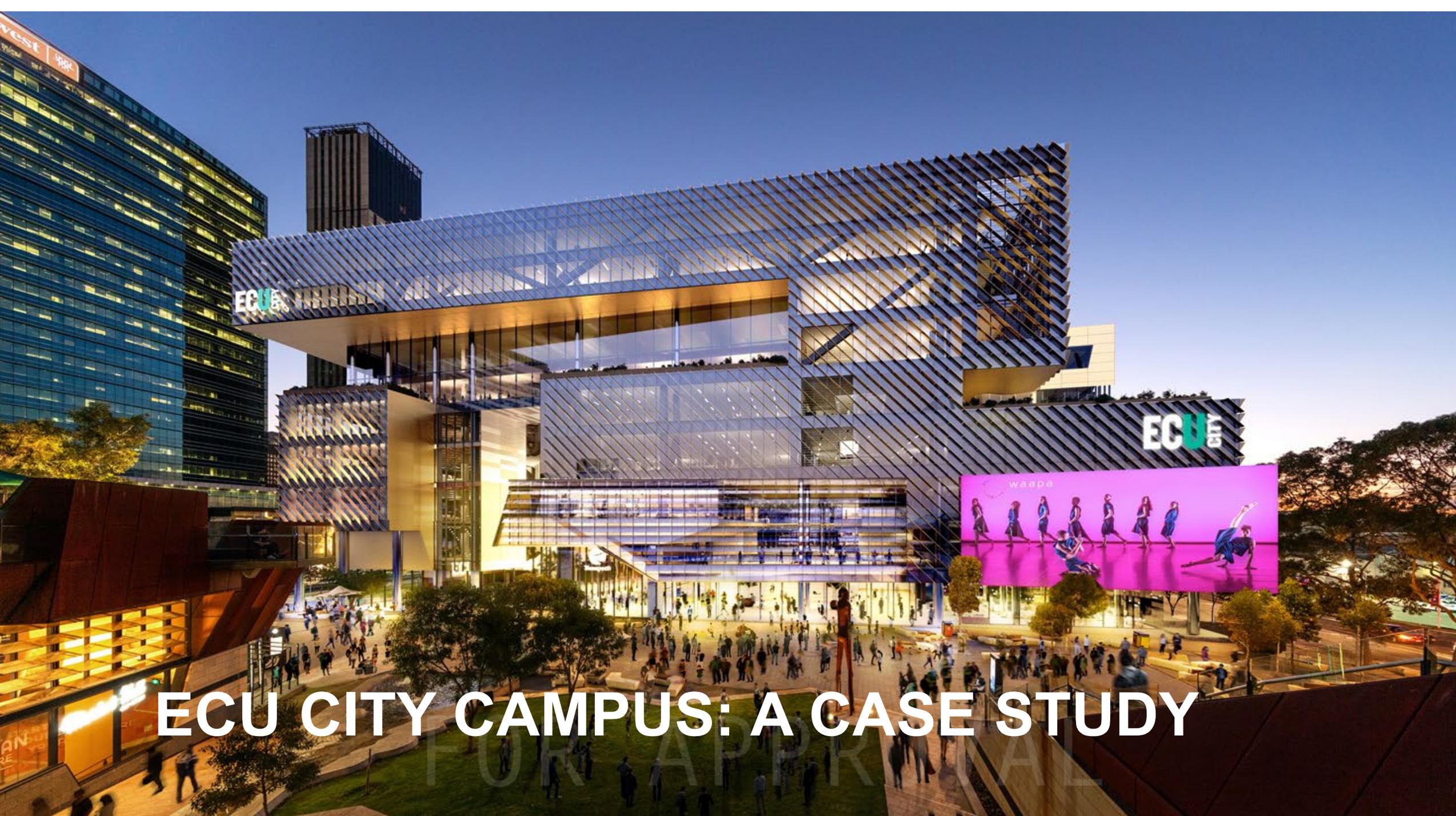
- Reporting – with/without 'Traffic lights'
- Workshops
- More/less people in the room
- Shorter/longer reviews
- Pre-lodgement meetings
- Interim meetings
- Formal vs informal review



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

- The importance of early conversations
- Value in start-up meetings
- Appropriate timing for design review varies
- Appropriate number of reviews varies
- Differences between State, local and regional
- Strong project foundations (brief, team etc) are key





ECU CITY CAMPUS: A CASE STUDY

FOR APPRAISAL

ECU CITY CAMPUS

- \$695 million Perth City Deal project
- Involving 3 tiers of Government
- Tight programme
- Complex brief
- Constrained site
- Building over operational transport infrastructure
- Planning framework / use

FOR APPROVAL





ECU CITY CAMPUS

ECU CITY CAMPUS

An aerial view of the ECU City Campus at dusk. The image shows several modern glass skyscrapers and a central courtyard area with a large pink billboard. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The buildings are illuminated from within, and the overall scene is a mix of urban architecture and public space.

Early engagement with the OGA:

- To advocate for good design
- Bid evaluation
- Design team selection
- Project start up meetings
- Interim Meetings: GA and City Architect



ECU CITY CAMPUS

ECU CITY

ECU CITY

OPPORTUNITY UNBOUNDED

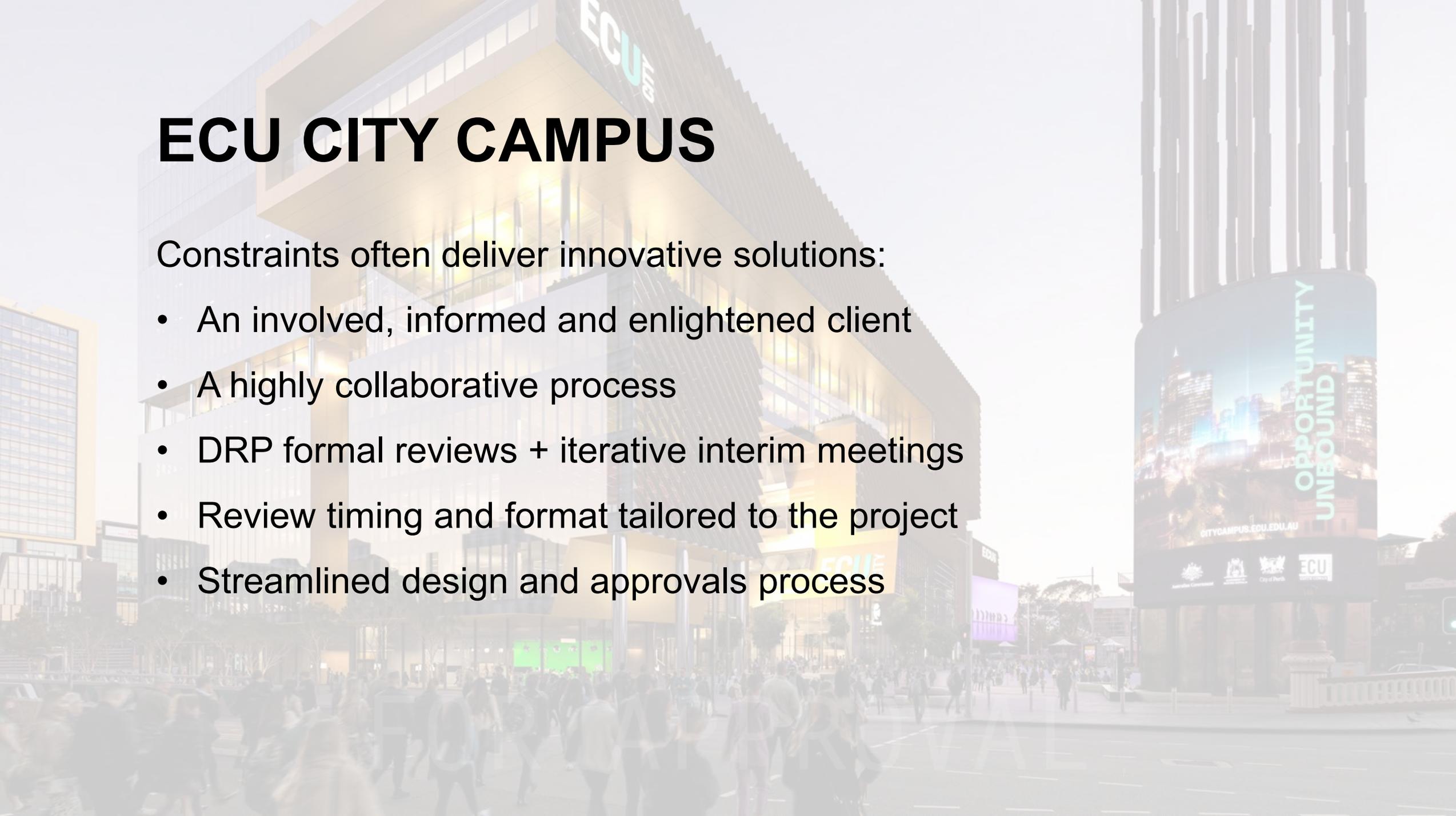
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Australian Government
City of Perth
ECU

ECU CITY CAMPUS

Constraints often deliver innovative solutions:

- An involved, informed and enlightened client
- A highly collaborative process
- DRP formal reviews + iterative interim meetings
- Review timing and format tailored to the project
- Streamlined design and approvals process





ECU CITY CAMPUS

THE FUTURE



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- New State Design Review Panel starting 2022
- Updates to the Design Review Guide
- Updates to the Terms of Reference
- Advocacy and Training Program for 2022
- Government's Planning Reform Agenda





GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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