



CITY
GLENBURN
HEATHRIDGE
JOONDANNA
NICHE
— PLANNING —
STUDIO
SUBIACO
COLLINGWOOD
VIA SMITH ST
SOUTH YARRA

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NICOLA ANNA SMITH

Director – Niche Planning Studio

Master of Communication (2009)

Graduate Certificate in Ecotourism and Sustainable Development (2002)

Bachelor of Arts (Urban and Regional Planning) 1st Class Honours (2000)

Registered Member of the Planning Institute of Australia (RPIA)

Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia

National Board Director Planning Institute of Australia (2017 – Present)

SUMMARY

Nicola is a qualified Urban and Regional Planner with over eighteen years experience in a wide range of planning and development roles in government and the private sector across Australia, with specific experience in Victoria.

As Founding Director of Niche Planning Studio, she heads up an experienced team of strategic and statutory planners across state-wide offices located in Perth, Melbourne and Hobart.

Her breadth of planning and design experience has provided Nicola with an excellent background in managing and coordinating the statutory implementation of major projects, including scheme amendments, structure planning, plans of subdivision and planning permits.

Nicola has strong skills in project co-ordination, communications, negotiation, presentation and facilitation. These skills are highly valued in the variety of projects she leads at Niche Planning Studio.

Nicola has an excellent understanding of all facets of the land development process with significant experience in project management and land development through her previous role as Development Manager with Peet Limited, Victoria.

Her diverse experience has resulted in various government appointments including her 2014 appointment to the Ministerial Advisory Committee to review the Victorian State Planning Policy Framework and her appointment to Chair of the UDIA Innovation, Sustainability & Technology Committee in 2015.

Nicola's commitment to the planning profession is evidenced by her continual involvement in the Planning Institute of Australia for the past twenty years. She was elevated to Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia in 2016 and was appointed to the National Board of Directors in 2017.

She has also received a number of accolades reflecting her drive and passion for planning, most notably her recent recognition as UDIA Frasers Property Woman in Leadership (Vic) award winner 2017 and national winner 2018.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- **Director** **2012-present**
Niche Planning Studio
www.nicheplanningstudio.com.au
Establishment and development of a specialised urban planning consultancy offering a range of strategic and statutory planning and communication services to facilitate high quality development outcomes.
- **Business Manager/Senior Planner** **2011-2012**
Smith Street Studio Planning and Urban Design
www.smithstreetstudio.com.au
Partnership to create a boutique planning consultancy in Victoria, with a sister office in Hobart, focusing on Strategic and Statutory planning.
- **Development Manager** **2010-2011**
Peet Limited
www.peet.com.au
Prepare and implement three Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) and staged subdivisions in south east Melbourne: project management; financial feasibility; construction; marketing and sales.
- **Senior Associate** **2003-2010**
Chappell Lambert Everett
www.cleplan.com.au
Project coordination and planning of 30 key WA master-planned communities in both infill and greenfield estates for a variety of public and private clients.
- **Senior Planner** **2002-2003**
City of Mandurah
www.mandurah.wa.gov.au
Coordinate Council reports and present to Council; manage timeframes within a political environment; and oversee junior staff
- **Town Planner** **1999-2002**
BSD Consultants (now Cardno)
www.cardno.com
Implement major planning and infrastructure projects in urban and regional WA.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

200-220 Great Ocean Road – Mack Properties

30ha – 350 lots

- Project management and coordination of planning, environmental, heritage, traffic and engineering requirements to provide for significant urban expansion in regional Victoria.
- Preparation of options and/or review of the Draft Precinct Structure Plan, Native Vegetation Precinct Plan, Development Contributions Plan, Scheme Amendment documentation and Subdivision Concept Plan.
- Liaison and presentations to various government departments to facilitate high level strategy outcomes including Council, MPA, Department of Environment, VicRoads and relevant RAP.
- Briefing of Solicitor and Barrister and preparation for review of development at Planning Panels.
- Facilitated Subdivision applications and planning permit approvals for various landowners including Mack Properties, Christian College and Casey Family

395 & 495 Donnybrook Road, Mickleham – Evolve Developments & Moremac Properties

100ha – 1000 lots

- Appointment following approval of the Merrifield West PSP to prepare and lodge staged Planning Permit applications for two different landholdings within the PSP land area.
- Working together with the Client, Department of Environment, Council and MPA to undertake a variety of planning services such as PSP Amendment, Subdivision Permit lodgement, EPBC/BCS boundary realignment investigation and Planning Permit application.

Greater Launceston Plan – Launceston, West Tamar, George Town, Meander Valley & Northern Midlands Regional Councils

Northern Sub Region of Tasmania

- Leading a team of planning consultants to prepare a guiding vision and land use strategy together with a community consultation program to plan for the long term development of the Greater Launceston Region.

Mildura Riverfront Redevelopment – Places VIC and Mildura Council

15ha – Various permit approvals

- Coordinate multi-level planning, environmental and infrastructure approvals to design and implement a riverfront development strategy on state and local owned land.
- A strong understanding of environmental and planning processes, variety of stakeholder consultation techniques and affordable housing implementation options.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE ROLES

- **Smart Planning Reform Transform Advisory Group** **2017-present**
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/planning-reform/smart-planning-program
Industry member appointed to assist the State Government in reviewing the Victorian planning system and suggesting 'transform' ideas for consideration in the government business case
- **Chair, Sustainable Development Committee** **2015-present**
Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA)
udiavic.com.au
Chair of Industry Group to provide advocacy on Sustainable Development measures and outcomes applicable to land development in Victoria
- **Member, VIC Divisional Committee** **2010-present**
Planning Institute of Australia (PIA)
www.planning.org.au
Member of the PIA VIC Divisional Committee representing, supporting and promoting planners and the planning profession. Roles have included Vice President (2011-2013), State Planning Conference Convenor (2014 & 2017)
- **Member, WA Divisional Committee** **1999-2010**
Planning Institute of Australia (PIA)
www.planning.org.au
Member of the PIA WA Divisional Committee. Roles included National Young Planner Representative (1999-2004) and National Membership Committee (2004-2007)

SKILLS/AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Strategic and statutory planning
- High level stakeholder negotiation
- Excellent communication and networking
- Comprehensive research, problem solving and analytical skills
- Good organisational and time management skills
- Honest, reliable and self-motivated
- Innovative and creative

REFEREES

1. Darren Cooper
National President, UDIA
Various Board Chairs and Independent Committee member
0413 120 606
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2. Susan Price
Manager Strategic Planning - Stonnington City Council
0415 546 629
sprice@stonnington.vic.gov.au
3. Lester Townsend
Senior Panel Member - Planning Panels Victoria
0419 557 816
lester.townsend@dtpli.vic.gov.au

Additional referees available on request