

# Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project - Standing Inquiry and Advisory Committee

## Member Biographies – September 2022

Surname	First Name	Biography
<b>Lead Chair</b>		
Carlisle	Sarah	Sarah was appointed as a Senior Panel Member in July 2018 after three years as a Senior Sessional Member. Sarah has bachelor's degrees in Law (Hons) and Arts. She has significant expertise in planning, environmental and administrative law, planning and environmental approval processes for large infrastructure projects, strategic planning and social housing. She has chaired or been a member on a number of EES Inquiries and Advisory Committees, including the Melbourne Regional Landfill Advisory Committee, the Golden Plains Wind Farm EES Inquiry, the Golden Beach Gas Project EES Inquiry, and the Central Geelong Framework Plan Advisory Committee. Sarah has previously worked as a practicing lawyer in private practice in Melbourne and the United Kingdom, as well as in the public sector in Victoria. Sarah is a Board Member of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association.
<b>Co- Chair</b>		
Kendal	Lisa	Lisa is an experienced environment and planning professional. Lisa was appointed as a Senior Panel Member in 2020 and was previously a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria from 2015 – 2017. She has over 25 years' experience across local and State government, private practice and the not-for-profit sectors. She holds post graduate qualifications in environmental science and planning, and has significant expertise in strategic planning, rural and regional planning, environmental land management, sustainable development and community engagement. Lisa is a member of the Planning Institute of Australia and the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association.
<b>Co- Chair</b>		
Kirsch	Michael	Michael is a strategic and statutory planner with over 30 years' town planning experience. Michael has worked for local and State governments in Victoria and interstate and has been a sole practitioner planning consultant since 2000. He has tertiary qualifications in town planning and business. Michael is a Senior Sessional Member of Planning Panels Victoria and has chaired or been a member of a wide range of Planning Panels and Ministerial Advisory Committees.
<b>Co- Chair</b>		
Raso	Sarah	Sarah was appointed a Senior Panel Member in December 2021. She holds a Bachelor of Law and Arts and has previously been a privately practicing lawyer. Sarah has over 14 years' experience in complex planning and environmental law associated with property development, planning scheme amendments and environment effects inquiries. Sarah has extensive expertise in relation to large infrastructure projects, statutory and strategic planning, built form, renewable energy, land management issues, land use classification and in the retail and residential space.

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Biography</b>
<b>Co- Chair</b>		
Wimbush	Nick	Nicholas (Nick) is a Senior Sessional Panel Member and was Deputy Chief Panel Member between 2018 and 2021 following 13 years as a Senior Panel Member. He has undergraduate qualifications in environmental science and postgraduate qualifications in public policy and law. He has significant expertise in environmental assessment, coastal planning and strategic planning. He has previously worked in the private sector in Australia and overseas. Nick is a Fellow of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association. He has chaired a number of Panels, EES Inquiries and Advisory Committees, including the Major Hazards Facilities Advisory Committee, the North East Link Project EES Inquiry and the West Gate Tunnel Project EES Inquiry and the Geelong Settlement Strategy.
<b>Member</b>		
Ballock	<b>Michael</b>	Michael is an experienced Planner, Geographer and Economist. He has worked as a planner for over 35 years in the government and private sectors, taught planning at universities and has also undertaken senior executive roles in local government. He was a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria from 1987 to 1998 and then from January 2016. He has been appointed to a range of matters including Environmental Effects Statement and Advisory Committees. In private practice he has helped prepare Environmental Effects Statements and represented local government at EES hearings. He has experience in strategic planning, environmental assessment and development impacts. Michael has a thorough understanding of implications of decisions that need to balance competing interests. He is a former committee member of the Planning Institute of Australia. He is a member of the Victorian Planning & Environmental Law Association and a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.
<b>Member</b>		
Bell	Elissa	Elissa has Bachelor qualifications in Science (marine and freshwater ecology/environmental chemistry) and Law. She has over 17 years' experience in environmental impact assessment, environmental management and policy development in both private and public sectors. Initially working as a private consultant, Elissa joined the Department of Planning and Community Development in 2010 and worked within the Environment Assessment Unit, Legal Department and Planning Panels Victoria. In these roles, Elissa has written, reviewed and managed environmental impact assessments for a wide range of projects in Australia and overseas. Elissa has been a Sessional Member of Planning Panels Victoria since 2018. She has been a member of a number of EES Inquires including Yan Yean Road Upgrade (Stage 2) Project, the Western Outer Ring Main Gas Pipeline Project, Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project and Beaufort Bypass Project.

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Biography</b>
<b>Member</b>		
Blackley	<b>Steve</b>	Steve is a Sessional Member with over 25 years experience across diverse organisations in both Victoria and New South Wales. His broad background in both metropolitan and regional settings extends across statutory and strategic planning, natural and built environments, coastal and marine management, biodiversity, public land, infrastructure and development issues. He established a small consultancy in 2016 and holds a degree in Applied Science (Coastal Management) complemented by a range of professional development credentials
<b>Member</b>		
Blake	<b>Trevor</b>	Trevor is a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria. He has a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in geology and a Master of Environmental Studies. Trevor has more than 30 years' professional experience in impact assessment, land use planning, environmental management and policy development, mostly for the Victorian and Queensland Governments. He led the Environment Effects Statement process for the Victorian Government between 1997 and 2014, in the role of Chief Environmental Assessment Officer. Trevor has broad experience in assessing environmental and social impacts of earth resource and infrastructure projects, and in advising on planning and environmental approvals. He is a member of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association, the International Association for Impact Assessment and the Geological Society of Australia, respectively.
<b>Member</b>		
Brizga	Sandra	Sandra has over 30 years' experience in environmental science and management, including 25 years' experience as an independent consultant, focusing on river, catchment and coastal management. She has extensive experience in leading multidisciplinary teams and managing complex environmental projects and is an experienced chairperson and director. Sandra is an expert in geomorphology and environmental hydrology and is the President of the Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group. She also has qualifications in environmental law and finance. Sandra has been a Sessional Member of Planning Panels Victoria since 2018 and has sat on a number of EES Inquiries and Advisory Committees, including the Golden Beach Gas Project EES Inquiry and several EES Inquiries for major road projects.
<b>Member</b>		
Carruthers	<b>Geoffrey</b>	Geoffrey is a Chartered Professional Civil Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Australia, with additional studies in Urban Planning and Management. He has been a sessional Member of Planning Panels Victoria since 2003, is a VCAT sessional Member (Planning & Environment) and has been appointed to a broad cross section of Ministerial Advisory Committee matters. He has extensive experience in development, environmental and sustainability projects, and government hearings, particularly relating to development impacts and appropriate strategic planning. He has consulted at the government/private sector interface in Australia, SE Asia, and USA

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Edwards	Peter	Peter is an experienced engineer providing local and strategic traffic and civil engineering expertise to and for several local, and state agencies as well as private industry. He has extensive experience in feasibility and traffic impact assessments for various developments, traffic and transport planning issues and parking strategies and investigations, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance. Peter has previously worked in private practice at HDS Australia and John Piper Traffic, VicRoads, and a number of local councils. He has been involved in a range PPV matters since being appointed as a Sessional Member in 2015 including Central Geelong Framework Plan Advisory Committee, North East Link Inquiry and Advisory Committee, Fishermans Bend Advisory Committee, and Westfield Doncaster Development Plan. Peter has a Bachelor of Engineering, Graduate Diploma in Municipal Engineering and Business Administration, and is a Member of the Institute of Engineers Australia.
<b>Member</b>		
Elliott	Mandy	Mandy has qualifications in social science, applied science (environmental management) and environmental law. Mandy is a Principal Environmental Scientist with professional experience in the private and public sector, including ten years at the Department of Planning and Community Development within the Environmental Assessment Unit. From February 2010 Mandy has worked in the private sector as a consultant, based in the Geelong region and as Director of EnviroME Pty Ltd since 2011. Mandy has credentials in Environmental Impact Assessment and is the author of Environmental Impact Assessment in Australia: Theory and Practice 6th Ed. (February 2014). Mandy is a Certified Environmental Practitioner (Impact Assessment Specialist). Mandy has been a Sessional Member of Planning Panels Victoria since 2012 and has been a member of a range of Panels, EES Inquiries and Advisory Committee's including Deputy Chair of the Government Land Standing Advisory Committee, Echuca-Moama Bridge IAC, the Melbourne Metro Rail Project IAC and West Gate Tunnel Project IAC.
<b>Member</b>		
Gibbs	Meredith	Meredith is a legal practitioner with over 25 years' experience, specialising in planning and environment, water and climate change law. Meredith is recognised in Australia's <i>Best Lawyers</i> for her expertise in Planning and Environment Law, Climate Change Law (10-year award 2020; Lawyer of the Year 2011), Natural Resources Law, Government Practice and Energy Law. Her commercial law experience includes Partner in the Planning and Environment team at HWL Ebsworth, Special Counsel at global firms Baker McKenzie and Ashurst, and Senior Solicitor with Hesketh Henry Lawyers. Meredith has also held positions as a Senior Lecturer in Planning Law at Massey University, Environmental Law Lecturer at the Universities of Auckland and Melbourne, and consultant to a Maori tribal authority. Her experience on EES Inquiries and Advisory Committees includes the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project EES Inquiry.

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<b>Member</b>		
Ginivan	John	John is an experienced strategic planner with effective leadership capability, extensive multidisciplinary knowledge, personal integrity and good governance principles developed through a broad public sector career. He has held executive director positions within the Planning portfolio with accountability for strategic policy, statutory approvals and environmental impact assessment. He is a keen coastal advocate and was instrumental in the legislative process to establish the inaugural Victorian Coastal Council. He has played a key role in linking planning and building responses to climate risks and emergency management and continues to support innovation in bushfire response capability. John is sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria and a Director on the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation
<b>Member</b>		
Hamm	Ian	A Yorta Yorta man, Ian has extensive government and community sector experience, particularly at executive and governance levels. Ian has overseen major policy and strategic reforms for government and community organisations. He works with people from a vast array of backgrounds, managing complex and sensitive relationships to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Ian was CEO of a major Aboriginal community organisation from January to August 2018. As well as working with PPV, Ian is devoting himself to improving the representation of Aboriginal people on boards and other high-level governance, through strategic action, advocacy and mentoring.
<b>Member</b>		
Hartigan	John	John is a former senior executive in the Victorian public sector. He has been an advisor to the highest levels of government and has a track record of success in a career spanning 30 years in strategic planning, road and public transport project evaluation and assurance, public land management and stakeholder engagement. John holds an honours degree in civil engineering and a postgraduate diploma in public administration. He now works as a freelance consultant providing strategic advice on government policy and change management and project assurance and evaluation. John has previously held directorships on several public sector boards and is currently deputy chair of the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management. He was appointed as a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria in January 2013 and has sat on over 30 panels and advisory committees including most recently several PSP and ICP/DCP Panels.
<b>Member</b>		
Tulloch	Jessica	Jessica has nearly 20 years of experience in planning in the public sector. She has held positions of Statutory Planning Coordinator, Homes Victoria and Team Leader, City of Port Phillip. Jessica has qualifications in Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Hons), University of South Australia.

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Wheelahan	Michael	<p>Michael is a consultant with extensive experience in developing policy, strategy and effective governance. He works with a wide range of public and private sector clients. Michael has held senior roles in the Victorian State government in water and climate change, including most recently as Director, Climate Change Policy and Director, Water Sector Governance in the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Michael has a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Laws and an Executive Master of Public Administration from the Australian and New Zealand School of Government and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.</p>