

Member biographies – Priority Projects Standing Advisory Committee

June 2023

Lead Chair

Kathryn Mitchell AM	Position:	Chief Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria
	Qualifications:	Bachelor of Arts Planning; Graduate Diploma in Urban Sociology; Master of Arts in Research
	Key capabilities:	Strategic and social planning; activity centres and retail planning; EES inquiries
	Membership:	Member Order of Australia; Planning Institute of Australia (Honorary Fellow); Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association (Life Fellow)
	Current or former roles:	Planning consultant; Local Government planner; tertiary academic

Chairs

Sarah Carlisle	Position:	Senior Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria
	Qualifications:	Bachelor of Laws (Honours); Bachelor of Arts
	Key capabilities:	Planning and environmental law; environmental impact assessment; major project approvals
	Membership:	Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association (Board member: October 2021-present)
	Current or former roles:	DELWP (Team leader; planning law team); solicitor in private practice (planning; environmental and property law)
Tim Hellsten	Position:	Senior Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria
	Qualifications:	Bachelor Town and Regional Planning (Hons) Diploma of Management; Diploma of Project Management
	Key capabilities:	Strategic and statutory planning; heritage and urban design; activity centre planning; rural and regional planning; precinct structure planning
	Membership:	Planning Institute of Australia (Fellow)
	Current or former roles:	Local Government strategic and statutory planning/planning consultant

Lisa Kendal	<p>Position: Senior Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts; Master of Arts (Environmental Science); Master of Social Science (Planning and Environment)</p> <p>Key capabilities: Strategic; rural and regional planning; environmental planning; community engagement</p> <p>Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association; Planning Institute of Australia; Womens Planning Network (Committee member)</p> <p>Current or former roles: Planning/environmental consultant; Local Government planner; Not for profit Executive Officer</p>
Alison McFarlane	<p>Position: Senior Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts Applied Science (Planning); Graduate Diploma Arts (Planning)</p> <p>Key capabilities: Strategic Planning; Statutory Planning; Regional Planning</p> <p>Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association</p> <p>Current or former roles: State government planner; local government planner; executive management</p>
Sarah Raso	<p>Position: Senior Panel Member; Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Law (Honours); Bachelor of Arts</p> <p>Key capabilities: Planning and environmental law; Strategic and statutory planning; environmental assessment and EES inquiries; renewable energy and built form</p> <p>Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association; Law Institute of Victoria</p> <p>Current or former roles: Practice Leader; Environment and Planning; Corrs Chambers Westgarth: Principle at Best Hooper Lawyers</p>
Lester Townsend	<p>Position: Senior Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor Town and Regional Planning; Graduate Diploma of Sociology (Research)</p> <p>Key capabilities: Strategic and local area planning; drafting planning controls; urban design policy and assessment; major project assessment</p> <p>Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association (Fellow)</p> <p>Current or former roles: Local government statutory planner; strategic planner; manager urban and landscape strategy; manager transport strategy; consultant</p>
Con Tsotsoros	<p>Position: Deputy Chief Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Applied Science (Planning)</p> <p>Key capabilities: Strategic and statutory planning; economics; heritage</p> <p>Membership: Planning Institute of Australia (Registered Planner and Fellow); Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association</p> <p>Current or former roles: Planning consultant; State Government planner</p>

Deputy Chairs

Prof Rodger Eade

Position: Senior Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Master of Economics

Key capabilities: Strategic planning; retail planning; development and open space contributions; development economics

Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association (Fellow)

Current or former roles: Victoria University in academic and senior management positions

Mandy Elliott

Position: Senior Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Bachelor of Social Science (Social and Environmental Assessment & Policy); Graduate Diploma Applied Science (Environmental Management); Master of Law (Environment)

Key capabilities: Environmental impact assessment; environmental law; environmental management

Membership: Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand; Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association

Current or former roles: Environmental consultant (current); State regulator; Commonwealth regulator

Michael Kirsch

Position: Senior Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Bachelor Applied Science Planning; Associate Diploma Business

Key capabilities: Strategic and statutory planning

Current or former roles: Planning consultant

David Merrett

Position: Senior Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts Applied Science (Planning) with Distinction

Key capabilities: Strategic and statutory planning; heritage; rural and regional; agricultural assessment

Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association

Current or former roles: Planning consultant; former Local Government planner

Geoff Underwood

Position: Senior Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Certificate of Business Studies; Real Estate

Key capabilities: Policy development; strategic and statutory planning; development planning

Membership: Housing Industry Association; Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association; Urban Development Institute of Australia

Current or former roles: Various roles within government; town planning consultant

Members

Prof Rob Adams AM

Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Bachelor of Architecture;
Masters Urban Design and Honorary Doctorate

Key capabilities: Architecture; urban design; city planning

Membership: Institute of Australian Architects (Life Fellow);
Planning Institute of Australia (Honorary Fellow);
University of Melbourne (Professorial Fellow);
Council Member Cities of the Future World Economic Forum;
Royal Botanic Gardens;
Queen Victoria Market and Heidi Art Gallery

Current or former roles: Urban design; strategic and master planning; project management and delivery; urban landscapes; industrial design and arts and culture; university educator; private practitioner

Elissa Bell

Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
Graduate Diploma Legal Practice

Key capabilities: Environmental and social impact assessment; strategic planning

Current or former roles: Senior Project Manager (PPV; DELWP);
Senior Environment Assessment Officer (IAU; DELWP);
Senior environmental consultant (Coffey/Enesar)

Steve Blackley

Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Bachelor of Applied Science (Coastal Management);
Diploma of Management

Key capabilities: Strategic planning; natural resources; coastal planning and management

Current or former roles: Private consultant; strategic planning practitioner

Debra Butcher

Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Bachelor of Planning and Design (Honours)

Key capabilities: Strategic and statutory planning; environmental assessment

Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association

Current or former roles: Planning/environmental consultant

Geoffrey Carruthers

Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Chartered Professional Engineer (Civil)

Key capabilities: Construction; regional economic development; civil infrastructure

Membership: Engineers Australia (Fellow);
Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association

Current or former roles: CEO of public development companies and organisations; Consulting Engineer

Sally Conway **Position:** Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts Commerce (Economics);
Post Graduate Diploma in Urban Planning and Policy
Key capabilities: Strategic and statutory planning; economics; activity centre planning;
regional/rural land use; coastal planning
Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association
Current or former roles: Planning/project management consultant; Local Government planner

Elke Cummins **Position:** Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts;
Post Graduate Diploma Urban Planning
Key capabilities: Strategic and statutory planning
Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association
Current or former roles: Planning consultant; Local and State Government planner

Shannon Davies **Position:** Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
Qualifications: Bachelor of Science (Environment and Politics);
Master of Social Science (Environment and Planning)
Key capabilities: Strategic and statutory planning
Membership: Planning Institute of Australia;
Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association
Current or former roles: Planning consultant; Local Government planner

Noelene Duff PSM **Position:** Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts;
Bachelor of Social Work;
Masters in Business Administration
Key capabilities: Local government administration; strategic planning; governance
Membership: Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
Current or former roles: Current Chair of Administrators; former Council Chief Executive Officer

Peter Edwards **Position:** Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
Qualifications: Bachelor of Engineering;
Graduate Diploma Municipal Engineering;
Graduate Diploma Business Administration
Key capabilities: Traffic engineer; road design; general civil engineering
Membership: Member of the Institution of Engineers Australia
Chartered professional Engineer
Current or former roles: Consulting; State and local government civil engineering

Rebecca Finn	<p>Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Built Environment (Landscape Architecture); Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture; Master of Urban Design</p> <p>Key capabilities: Urban design and landscape architecture</p> <p>Membership: Australian Institute of Landscape Architects; International Association for Public Participation; UDF</p> <p>Current or former roles: Urban design consultant; Director and Founder of UrbanFold</p>
Meredith Gibbs	<p>Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Laws (Honours); Doctor of Philosophy (Politics and Law)</p> <p>Key capabilities: Aboriginal cultural heritage; climate change; environmental assessment</p> <p>Membership: Australian Water Association; Law Institute of Victoria; Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association</p> <p>Current or former roles: Principal at Gibbs Advisory (legal practice); private legal practice</p>
John Halaliku	<p>Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts Economics; Graduate Certificate/Diploma Planning; Masters in Environment & Planning</p> <p>Key capabilities: Strategic and statutory planning</p> <p>Membership: Australian Institute of Company Directors; Housing Industry Association; Planning Institute Australia; Urban Development Institute of Australia; Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association</p> <p>Current or former roles: Planning consultant; Board Director</p>
Ian Hamm	<p>Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Executive Fellows Program -Australia and New Zealand School of Government ; Executive Education Harvard Business School</p> <p>Key capabilities: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Engagement</p> <p>Membership: Australian Institute of Company Directors (Member); Institute of Public Administration Australia (Fellow)</p> <p>Current or former roles: Non-Executive Director; Public Servant</p>

Elizabeth Hui	<p>Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Engineering Mechanical (Honours) Graduate Diploma Technology Management</p> <p>Key capabilities: Environmental noise; building services noise; vibration</p> <p>Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association</p> <p>Current or former roles: Senior Associate at Marshall Day Acoustics</p>
Andrew Hutson	<p>Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Architecture Master of Architecture</p> <p>Key capabilities: Architecture; urban design</p> <p>Membership: Architects Registration Board of Victoria</p> <p>Current or former roles: Formerly - Associate Professor and Deputy Dean; Faculty Architecture Building and Planning (ABP). Currently - Honorary Principal Fellow; ABP; University of Melbourne</p>
Colin McIntosh	<p>Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Applied Science Graduate Diploma of Management</p> <p>Key capabilities: Environmental impact assessment; waste management; air and noise impact assessment</p> <p>Current or former roles: Environment Protection Officer; principal environmental consultant; Sessional Member VCAT</p>
Elizabeth McIntosh	<p>Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Science Masters in Environment and Planning</p> <p>Key capabilities: Strategic planning; structure planning; heritage planning; urban and regional contexts; major project assessments</p> <p>Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association</p> <p>Current or former roles: Planning consultant; state and local government planner</p>
Kate Partenio	<p>Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria</p> <p>Qualifications: Bachelor of Engineering (honours) Civil Engineering; Graduate Diploma Transport Planning & Traffic Engineering</p> <p>Key capabilities: Transport planning; traffic engineering</p> <p>Membership: Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association; Planning Institute of Australia; Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management; Institute of Engineers Australia</p> <p>Current or former roles: VCAT; traffic and transport consultant; local government traffic engineer</p>

Annabel Paul	Position:	Senior Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
	Qualifications:	Bachelor of Planning and Design (Planning) Honours
	Key capabilities:	Strategic and statutory planning
	Membership:	Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association
	Current or former roles:	Planning consultant
Lucinda Peterson	Position:	Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
	Qualifications:	Bachelor of Arts Planning and Design; Graduate Diploma - Planning and Design
	Key capabilities:	Strategic and statutory planning; heritage planning; rural planning
	Membership:	Planning Institute of Australia
	Current or former roles:	Local Government; planning/heritage planning consultant; international development
Simon Shiel	Position:	Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
	Qualifications:	Bachelor of Architecture (Honours)
	Key capabilities:	Architecture and urban design
	Current or former roles:	Architect; Design Educator; Project Advisor; Independent Certifier; Company Director; Architecture Registration Board Victoria Examiner; Victorian Design Review Panel Member
Adam Terrill	Position:	Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
	Qualifications:	Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development; Master of Science
	Key capabilities:	Strategic and statutory planning; environmental assessment; rural and regional development; tourism
	Membership:	Planning Institute of Australia; Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association
	Current or former roles:	Director/ Planner at Cogency
Jessica Tulloch	Position:	Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria
	Qualifications:	Bachelor of Arts -Urban and Regional Planning (Honours)
	Key capabilities:	Strategic and statutory planning; heritage; affordable housing
	Membership:	Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association (Fellow)
	Current or former roles:	State and Local Government planner; planning consultant

Michael
Wheelahan

Position: Sessional Member, Planning Panels Victoria

Qualifications: Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Laws;
Executive Master of Public Administration

Key capabilities: Natural resource planning

Membership: Australian Institute of Company Directors (Graduate Member);
Carbon Market Institute;
Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association

Current or former roles: Environment policy consultant; lawyer; Victorian public servant
