

# VPA Projects Standing Advisory Committee – Member Biographies

## February 2022

Surname	First Name	Biography
<b>Lead Chair</b>		
Carlisle	Sarah	Sarah Carlisle was appointed as a Senior Panel Member in July 2018 after three years as a Senior Sessional Member. Sarah has qualifications in Law 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. 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>Chairs</b>		
Hellsten	Tim	Tim holds a Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning (Hons) and qualifications in Management and Project Management. He has over 30 years experience in statutory and strategic planning in local government and private industry predominantly within regional Victoria. Tim's experience includes heritage and urban design, rural area and coastal planning, activity centre and growth area planning. Tim is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia and former member of the Central Coastal Board. Tim has been a Senior Panel member since August 2018.
Kendal	Lisa	Lisa is an experienced environment and planning professional, who has worked for over 25 years in local government, private practice and the not for profit sector. Most recently Lisa was Manager Strategic Planning at the City of Ballarat, and was a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria from 2015 – 2017. She holds a Master Environmental Science and a Master of Social Science (Environment and Planning), and has expertise in strategic planning, rural and regional planning, open space planning, sustainable development and community engagement. Lisa is a member of the Planning Institute of Australia and the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association. Lisa is Ballarat based and in 2019 she was honoured to be awarded the Female Achiever of the Year Award from the Planning Institute of Australia.
Townsend	Lester	Lester was appointed as Senior Panel Member in 2005, following several years as a sessional member. He has undergraduate qualifications in town and regional planning and post graduate qualifications in sociology. Lester has significant expertise in strategic and statutory planning, project implementation and plain English communication and drafting. He has previously worked in the Local Government and private sectors. Lester is a Fellow of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association.

Tsotsoros	Con	Con Tsotsoros was appointed as the Deputy Chief Panel Member in August 2021 and has been with Planning Panels Victoria since July 2013. Con has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Planning, with 14 years' experience in the private sector focussed on planning and economics. This includes retail and commercial, tourist precincts, major residential, business parks, golf/residential estates, and mixed use developments in Victoria and interstate. He has held positions in local government, and has been with state government planning since 2006 as Assistant Director Statutory Systems, where he led major planning reform initiatives. At PPV, Con has specialised in retail, economic, strategic and master planning and heritage. These include retail proposals and structure planning involving economic issues in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Other matters include solar energy facilities proposals with state-significant economic considerations and industrial strategies. Con is a registered planner and a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia and member of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association.
<b>Deputy Chairs</b>		
Eade	Rodger	Professor Rodger Eade is an academic and former senior manager at Victoria University. Rodger was trained as an economist and originally taught in planning and economics, after working as a Research Economist at the ANZ Bank and the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads. After teaching full-time for almost 20 years, Rodger was a Head of School Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Arts and a series of senior management positions. He is a Senior Sessional Panel Member at Planning Panels Victoria. Rodger has wide experience in planning, and has been a member of and has chaired Panels for significant developments including the Scoresby Transport Corridor, now Eastlink, and Advisory Committees for Logical Inclusions and Standard Development Contributions and the Fishermans Bend Review Panel. He has held other government appointments chairing significant planning projects. Rodger has been a Director of the Western Region Health Centre Ltd and Ozford Institute of Higher Education and Chair of the former. Rodger is an experienced and qualified Company Director.
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.
Merrett	David	David is a strategic and statutory planner with more than 25 years' experience. He has been a Director of a planning consultancy for the last 18 years. Prior to this he held senior planning roles in local government. David has extensive experience in strategy development, plan development and policy development and review and has been a Sessional Panel Member since 2004.

Wimbush	Nick	Nicholas (Nick) Wimbush 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. Mr Wimbush is a Fellow of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association. Mr Wimbush has chaired a number of Panels, EES Inquiries and Advisory Committees, including the North East Link Project in 2019, West Gate Tunnel Project EES Inquiry in 2017, and was Deputy Chair of the East West Link (Eastern Section) Project Assessment Committee in 2014.
<b>Members</b>		
Ballock	Michael	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 first appointed as a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria from 1987 to 1998 and again in January 2016 and has been appointed to a broad range of matters including Environmental Effects Statement Advisory Committees. In private practice he has helped prepare Environmental Effects Statements and represented local government at EES hearings. He has extensive experience in strategic planning, environmental assessment and development impacts. Michael has extensive leadership and management experience at senior level in the government, education and private sectors. He has thorough understanding of implications of decisions that need to balance competing interests. He is a former committee member and a full of the member 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. Michael is based in the north east suburbs of Melbourne operating as a consultant advising local government on strategic development issues.
Bell	Elissa	Elissa has qualifications in Science and Law. She has over 15 years' experience in environmental assessment specialising in environmental impact assessments and environmental and planning processes in both private and public sectors. In these roles, Elissa has written, reviewed and managed environmental impact assessments for mining and infrastructure projects in Australia and overseas. Elissa has been a Sessional Member of Planning Panels Victoria since 2018. Recently, Elissa has been a member of the following panels: Banyule C107, Yan Yean Road Upgrade (Stage 2) Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee and the Western Outer Ring Main Gas Pipeline Inquiry and Panel.
Blackley	Steve	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.
Blades	Brodie	Brodie Blades is an experienced urban designer with over 10 years of experience in the private public sector. He is currently Director, Blades and previously an Associate Director, SJB Urban. Mr Blades has qualifications in Graduate Diploma Urban Design and Planning, University of Melbourne, and Bachelor of Applied Science (Planning), RMIT University.

Butcher	Debra	Debra is a statutory and strategic planner with significant town planning experience. She has worked on a diversity of projects throughout her career ranging from providing advice and obtaining approvals for residential projects (including greenfield subdivisions), retail proposals and education centres, through to undertaking environmental assessment and planning work for infrastructure projects including power lines, wind farms and quarries. Debra became a Sessional Panel Member at PPV in 2014 and in 2015 established her own consulting practice, having previously worked at a number of different Melbourne based planning consultancies. As a sessional Member, Debra has been involved in a range of Panels in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, and was a member of the Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee and the Social Housing Advisory Committee. Debra holds a Bachelor of Planning and Design (Hons) from the University of Melbourne.
Carruthers	Geoffrey	Geoffrey is an internationally accredited Chartered Professional Civil Engineer, with 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 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. He is a past President of the Association of Development Executives Victoria, National Councillor of the Regional Science Association of Australia & New Zealand, a Member of the College of Civil Engineers, has APEC Engineer accreditation, and a Fellow of Engineers Australia.
Conway	Sally	Sally has a Bachelor of Commerce (economics stream) and postgraduate qualifications in urban policy and planning. She has extensive strategic and statutory planning experience within the Victorian Planning System and has worked in local government settings for more than 20 years, both in public and private practice. Sally's area of expertise is structure planning, economic and tourism development, rural land use planning, place making and coastal planning. She has significant experience with planning in areas considered to be at high risk from bushfire and with significant environmental and landscape values. Sally is a Member of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association.
Davies	Shannon	Shannon is a skilled planner with a wide range of experience in strategic and statutory planning in coastal, peri-urban, regional and rural contexts. She has practical experience working in strategic policy development, writing planning schemes and gaining development approvals. Shannon has a Bachelor of Science (Geology and Environment) from Monash University, a Master's Degree of Science (Planning and Environment) from RMIT.
Edwards	Peter	Peter Edwards 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 the Fishermans Bend Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Landfill Expansion (Ravenhall) 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.

Finn	Rebecca	Rebecca Finn is an Urban Designer and Landscape Architect with over 20 years of experience both locally and internationally. Ms Finn is currently a Director of UrbanFold and before that a Principal of Tract. She has qualifications in Masters of Urban Design, University of California Berkeley and a Bachelors of Landscape and Architecture, Queensland University of Technology.
Gibbs	Meredith	Meredith is a skilled legal practitioner, specialising in planning & environment, water and climate change law. With over 25 years' experience, Meredith brings her strong analytical and conceptual skills together with demonstrated ability to provide advice in high-pressure, complex environments to Planning Panels Victoria. Meredith is recognised in Australia's <i>Best Lawyers</i> for her expertise in Planning & 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 & 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.
Halaliku	Jonathan	Jonathan has undergraduate qualifications in Economics & International Trade. He holds post graduate qualifications and a Masters Degree in Environment & Planning. He has extensive experience in planning consultancy advising and acting on behalf of the State and Local Government interests, the private sector and community stakeholders. Jonathan has a comprehensive understanding of statutory and strategic planning and their coalescence of built form and design. In his past roles he regularly appeared at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to provide advocacy and more recently, expert urban planning evidence. Jonathan is Board Member and Director of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Jonathan was appointed to Planning Panels in 2020.
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. He is now devoting himself to improving the representation of Aboriginal people on boards and other high level governance, through strategic action, advocacy and mentoring.
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.

Hui	Elizabeth	Elizabeth graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) with Honours in 1988. She worked in the automotive industry in the field of noise vibration and harshness (NVH) as well as training and development before joining MDA Melbourne in 1991. Elizabeth has extensive experience in sound insulation, building services noise control, and planning and environmental noise and has extensive experience in providing expert evidence at Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). Elizabeth retired from full-time work with MDA in 2013 but now works as a specialist consultant, mentor and trainer with the MDA environmental team and is involved in select projects. Elizabeth has been a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria since 2016 and was part of the Advisory Committee for the Melbourne Metro Project.
Hutson	Andrew	Andrew became a registered architect in 1981 and after years of practice with architectural firms of various scales commenced his own practice in 1985 working on a range of project types and scales including single and multi-unit housing. In 1991, he lectured at the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne. Andrew was Chair of the ARBV for 12 years and President of the AACA for 6 years and led a number of committees that amended the Competency Standards for Architects and the Accreditation procedures for Australian and New Zealand schools of architecture. Andrew has provided Expert Witness at VCAT, focusing on architecture, good design and urban design. He has a comprehensive understanding of the Planning and Environment Act and a broad understanding of the interpretation of planning policies beyond the specific expertise.
Marshall	Peter	Peter Marshall has a PhD in Economics from Monash University and has worked as an Urban Economist for 20 years. He has extensive experience within the planning sector including as a founding partner of Spatial Economics in 2007 and as the senior economist on Melbourne 2030. He has completed numerous studies focussing on the economic implications of planning decisions in the residential, industrial, commercial and retail sectors. Peter has recently been appointed a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria.
McGuinness	Shelley	Shelley is a Senior Consultant with a private sector company working with clients from across state and local government, and the private sector. She has strongly developed strategic planning skills and an ability to develop and apply logical methodologies to complex problems resulting in workable, robust strategies and policy solutions. With over 25 years' experience, Shelley has an in-depth understanding of rural communities, industries, environments and natural resources, their inter-relationships and inter-dependencies. Her skills and experience have been applied to rural and regional strategic land use planning, agricultural industry analysis, assessment of land capability and suitability, land use conflict and environmental planning.
O'Neill	Rachael	Rachael O'Neill holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Planning) and has over 22 years experience as a town planner. Rachael has a sound knowledge of statutory and strategic planning in Victoria and has worked in both local government and private practice. She established a consulting firm in May 2014. Rachael has extensive experience in providing advice and securing approval for a range of projects, including commercial, education, heritage and residential developments. She appears regularly as an advocate before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. She was appointed as a sessional panel member in December 2015.

Partenio	Kate	Kate Partenio holds an undergraduate qualification in civil engineering and a post graduate qualification in traffic engineering and transport planning. She is a sessional member of both Planning Panels Victoria and the Victoria Civil and Administrative Tribunal. In former roles, she worked as a traffic engineer and transport planner in private practice for 19 years, and in local government for 4 years. She was a director of GTA Consultants from 1999-2014. Kate has transport expertise in land use planning, strategic planning, master planning, traffic impact assessments, car parking, design and road safety. In her PPV role she has been appointed to a number of matters and advisory committees including Melbourne Metro Rail EES Inquiry and Advisory Committee, West Gate Tunnel Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee, Yan Yean Road EES, Kaufland Stores in Vic Advisory Committee, Bangholme Market Advisory Committee, Moreland C164 Panel, Kingston C180, and Great Ocean Road Region SAC.
Paul	Annabel	Annabel has over 20 years experience as a strategic and statutory planner primarily in the private sector. She has a Bachelor of Planning & Design (Hons) from Melbourne University, and has held senior and associate roles in planning consultancies in Victoria and Tasmania and also worked in NSW. She now runs her own planning consultancy, AP Planning. Annabel has extensive statutory planning experience in a range of areas including residential, commercial and retail sectors throughout Victoria and across a range of municipalities. She has also worked in areas of precinct structure planning, compensation, and Planning Scheme Amendments. Annabel was appointed as a sessional Panel Member in December 2015.
Peterson	Lucinda	Lucinda Peterson is an urban and regional Planner with 25 years' experience, in the local government sector in metropolitan, regional and rural Councils, holding executive management positions in planning and environment portfolios, and private consulting. She served two terms on the Heritage Council of Victoria, retiring in June 2020 and chaired the Heritage Council's Local Government Heritage Advisory Committee and has extensive experience in heritage planning. She has been a Sessional Member with Planning Panels Victoria since 2013 and has chaired or been a member of many strategic planning and heritage matters across Victoria. Lucinda is a Member of the Planning Institute of Australia and International Association of Public Participation. She holds a Bachelor of Planning and Design and post Graduate Diploma of Urban Planning and is currently completing a Masters of International and Environmental Management. Lucinda volunteered for 12 months as an Urban Planner assisting Dhulikhel Municipality in Nepal under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australian Volunteer Program.
Riddle	Lisa	Lisa Riddle has over 40 years of experience in planning starting in local governments statutory and strategic planning. She is currently a Director/Owner, Praxis Planning and previously was Director Planning, Ethos Urban. Ms Riddle has qualifications in Diploma of Applied Science (Town Planning) and is currently undertaking the Australian Institute of Company Directors course.
Roney	John	John holds a Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning (Honours) from the University of Melbourne and has over 30 years' experience as a planning consultant in strategic and statutory planning, dealing with a wide range of public and private sector organisations. John is experienced in large scale planning projects and community consultation. He has been a Sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria since 2015 and has chaired or been a member of a variety of Planning Panels. John is a Registered Planner with the Planning Institute of Australia and a member of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association.
Shiel	Simon	Simon Shiel has over 20 years of experience as an architect and academic. He currently provides design review and peer review advice to the Department of Premier (OVGA) and Cabinet and Vicinity Centre. He has a long-standing involvement in architectural education at RMIT University and University of Melbourne. Mr Shiel has qualifications in Bachelor of Architecture (Hons), RMIT University.

Smith	Deanne	Deanne Smith, RPIA, is a Director of Euca Planning, a regionally-based consultancy that specialises in the consideration of bushfire risk within the planning, building and urban design realms. Deanne has qualifications in agriculture, planning, landscape design, bushfire and climate science. Deanne has over 20 years' experience leading community engagement and making tough decisions in state and local government, combined with an appreciation of the demands of private consultancy. With extensive experience in the development of policy at local, state, and national levels and proven expertise in advocacy at a National level, Deanne was awarded the Inaugural Female Achiever of the Year Award from the Women's Planning Network in 2015. Strongly committed to an interdisciplinary approach to solutions, Deanne's passion is mentoring young professionals and promoting investment in transferable skills, such as community engagement, project management, governance and innovation.
Terrill	Adam	Adam Terrill has over 20 years' experience as a town planner. He holds a Masters of Environmental Science and Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development (Hons). Adam has worked in a statutory and strategic planning capacity on a number of regional tourism projects, including permit applications, VCAT advocacy, planning scheme amendments, and strategic planning studies across the private and public sector. Adam is the current Vice President of Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association and a member of the Planning Institute of Australia and Urban Development Institute of Australia.
Tulloch	Jessica	Jessica Tulloch has nearly 20 years of experience in planning in the public sector. She is currently Statutory Planning Coordinator, Homes Victoria and previously Team Leader, City of Port Phillip. Ms Tulloch has qualifications in Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Hons), University of South Australia.
Ward	Nicola	Nicola Ward has over twenty years experience in state and local government. She brings strong skills in policy, strategy and implementation in land use planning, development, environmental management and sustainability, and community and civil infrastructure. Most recently, as Manager City Planning, she was responsible for the strategic development and planning of the City of Casey, including managing 50 staff and a \$5 million operational budget, oversight of developer contributions and forward planning of Council infrastructure. She has a particular interest in place-planning, housing, smart cities and innovative models of infrastructure planning and delivery.
Wheelahan	Michael	Michael Wheelahan 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.
Wilson	Catherine	Catherine has a depth of experience across a range of environmental issues which she gained while working at EPA Victoria, as a consultant and as a sessional member with Planning Panels Victoria and VCAT. She has authored numerous reports and publications for clients, devised and presented science and environmental courses at tertiary institutes as well as training courses to a range of audiences. In addition to being a member on many Panels and VCAT cases she has been a member of Ministerial Advisory Committees on Coastal Climate Change, Potentially Contaminated Land and Major Hazard Facilities and was an air quality expert adviser to North East Link Project. Catherine has undergraduate qualifications in science, postgraduate qualifications in management and marketing and is a Fellow of the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand.



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