

WALGA Event: Land Use Planning for Improved Environmental Outcomes



Date: Thursday, 22 February 2018
Time: 9:00am – 3:15pm (Registration from 8:30am)
Venue: Bendat Community Centre, 36 Dodd Street, Wembley
(next to the Telethon Speech & Hearing Centre)
Cost: \$88.00 (Incl GST)

ABOUT THE FORUM

Please join us for this fantastic opportunity to learn about how Local Government can utilise the power of the Western Australian planning system to improve environmental outcomes during the land development process. The event will assist 'non-planners' to better understand State and Local Government planning processes, and provide planners with contemporary industry advice on how to effectively integrate natural resource management in Local Government planning strategies and schemes.

Expert speakers include representatives from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australian Planning Commission, the Urban Development Institute of Australia (WA) and Local Government. The event will include a morning tea and lunch break where attendees can network with others in their field, and question sessions with all presenters.

PROGRAM

- 9:00am** **Welcome and introduction**
Melanie Davies, Biodiversity and Sustainability Project Officer, WALGA
- 9:05am** **Introduction to the Western Australian planning system**
Charles Johnson, Principal, Planning Context
- 10:00am** **Strategic Assessment for the Perth and Peel Regions – what’s happening?**
Simon Taylor, Director - Strategic Environmental Planning and Approvals, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- 10:35am** **Morning tea**
- 11:00am** **EPA assessment of development proposals and planning schemes**
Patrick Seares, Executive Director EPA Strategy and Guidance, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- 11:30am** **Developers delivering improved outcomes for the environment and community**
Natalie Sharp, EnviroDevelopment Program Manager WA, Urban Development Institute of Australia (WA)
- 12:00pm** **Application of State Planning Policies to guide environmental outcomes**
Eric Lumsden, Chair, Western Australian Planning Commission
- 12:30pm** **Panel question and answer session**
Patrick Seares, Natalie Sharp and Eric Lumsden
- 12:50pm** **Lunch**



- 1:30pm** **Advent, evolution and active application of a Biodiversity Strategy: a short history of peri-urban WA in the context of Chittering**
Peter Stuart, Executive Manager Development Services, Shire of Chittering
- 2:05pm** **The City of Mandurah's bushland buyback scheme**
Eryn Jackson, Senior Environmental Management Officer, City of Mandurah
- 2:40pm** **Lessons learned from canopy monitoring and planning controls to reduce urban tree loss in the City of Stirling**
Ian Hunter, Manager Parks and Sustainability, City of Stirling
- 3:15pm** **Close of Event**

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Charles Johnson, Principal, Planning Context, will provide an introduction to the WA planning system and discuss how conservation of the environment and protection of natural resources is addressed within the system. Charles will provide an overview of the legislation and departments and agencies responsible for the planning and decision-making on land development in WA. Charles will discuss how the framework established by State Planning Policies and Region Planning Schemes guides the development of local planning strategies and schemes by Local Government. Specific provisions or special controls in local planning schemes, accompanied by sound policies, can be powerful tools to ensure conservation is considered during the preparation of zoning and structure plans, as limited opportunities exist to influence environmental outcomes at the sub-division stage.

Simon Taylor, Director of Strategic Environmental Planning and Approvals, Department of Premier and Cabinet, will discuss the Strategic Assessment for the Perth and Peel Regions, which will meet the environmental approval requirements for the development needed to support the region's population growth to 3.5 million people. The assessment involves minimising environmental impacts and establishing a long term conservation program to mitigate residual environmental impacts. Simon will focus on the key feedback received during the public comment period, what work has occurred in response and the next steps.

Patrick Seares, Executive Director EPA Strategy and Guidance, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), will discuss how the EPA promotes environmental protection through up-front assessment of development proposals, and regional and local planning schemes. The practice of the EPA and DWER has been to work with local governments and proponents to find ways to avoid significant environmental impacts through design and advice. However, the cumulative impact of developments over time is challenging the EPA to increase the protection of remnant environments. It is also driving the need for innovative and strategic approaches to deliver environmentally sensitive planning and sustainable on-ground developments. Patrick will also present some of the key challenges faced by Local Government, such as management of the increasing encroachment of development in environmentally sensitive wetland areas.



Natalie Sharp, EnviroDevelopment Program Manager WA, Urban Development Institute of Australia (WA), will discuss how developers can turn a perceived development constraint into an opportunity to deliver improved environmental outcomes. Natalie will take attendees through case studies and best practice examples of urban developments from across WA that have created sustainable and liveable communities. Specific focus will be given to how the UDIA are promoting water sensitive urban design, and measures underway to promote streetscape design that provides for adequate tree canopy cover. Natalie will also showcase examples of where local government has partnered with developers from project design to delivery, to ensure local knowledge, community needs, and existing environmental features are integral to resulting development. Natalie will demonstrate the important role that independent endorsements, such as EnviroDevelopment certification, can play to further environmental outcomes and foster excellence within the industry.

Eric Lumsden, Chair, Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), will discuss how the State Planning Policies (SPPs) provide the highest level of planning policy control and guidance in WA. The WAPC and local governments must have due regard to the provisions within SPPs when preparing local planning strategies and schemes and in statutory decision making, including structure plans, subdivisions and development applications. Eric will provide an overview of the opportunities in the land use planning hierarchy to achieve the provisions relevant to environmental outcomes, in particular for SPP 2.6 State Coastal Planning Policy, SPP 2.8 Bushland Policy, SPP 2.9 Water resources and SPP 3.7 Land Use Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas. Eric will also discuss Design WA and Liveable Neighbourhoods, and the increasing importance of public open space given the necessity for higher density urban developments.

Peter Stuart, Executive Manager Development Services, Shire of Chittering, will discuss how the identification and protection of biodiverse flora and fauna forms a social, cultural and environmental basis for strategic growth in the Shire of Chittering. Much of the settlement patterns are underpinned by accessibility to native flora, however sometimes this has occurred at the expense of such flora. The advent of the Shire's Biodiversity Strategy, developed in conjunction with the Chittering Landcare Group, resulted in increased awareness, protection and more sustainable future growth and settlement patterns within the Shire. Consequently, the Shire has adapted and incorporated the Biodiversity Strategy into its 2004 Local Planning Strategy, Local Planning Scheme, and most recently the new draft Local Planning Strategy. Peter will provide specific examples of where the Biodiversity Strategy has played a major part in recent and anticipated developments, particularly in relation to the protection of critical habitat, vegetation linkages, and bushfire management.

Eryn Jackson, Senior Environmental Management Officer, City of Mandurah, will discuss the City's Bushland Protection Strategy, released in 2003 in a bid to conserve areas of remnant bushland under threat from rapid development. The Strategy included a commitment to allocate a financial contribution each year towards the purchase of significant bushland areas, known as the Bushland Buyback Scheme. To the best of the City's knowledge, no other local government in WA purchases privately owned land for the sole purpose of protecting bushland. To date, the City has purchased almost 56 ha of bushland across a range of vegetation types and continues to build its bushland acquisition fund. Eryn will discuss how the Bushland Protection Strategy came to be, the criteria used to assess the conservation value of potential bushland purchases, and the benefits and challenges of implementing the scheme over the last 15 years of operation.



Ian Hunter, Manager Parks and Sustainability, City of Stirling, will discuss how the City has undertaken aerial monitoring of urban tree canopy loss for the past five years, and has implemented planning controls to protect street trees and require tree planting as part of developments. The City has a target to achieve 18% tree canopy by 2030, however faces significant challenges in achieving the target due to the accelerating rate of urban development and renewal occurring within the municipality. In particular, 71% of tree canopy loss is from private land. Ian will cover the progress and lessons learned across urban forest activities at the City.