

Vocational/Work Placements

QLD Government: Planning Group &
Economic Development Queensland

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Introduction

The QLD government offers vocational work placements for students enrolled in PIA accredited planning courses in two of key business groups: Planning Group (PG) and Economic Development Queensland (EDQ).

The work carried out by these two groups can be quite unique and rewarding and covers a wide range of areas and disciplines within the planning profession.

Work placements offer students exposure and experience in a number of these areas to achieve learning objectives and help consolidate technical skills and workplace professional development.

1. Planning Group

Planning Group is responsible for the coordinated and integrated delivery of planning functions and services for the state of Queensland. Planning Group is made up of four divisions, and your placement entails time with two or three of these. Each division offers a different experience for vocational placements - below you will find descriptions of their roles and responsibilities. Spending time with different teams ensures you can make the most of your placement with us.

Policy and Statutory Planning (PSP) Division

This division is responsible for how government policy is given effect through the planning framework. They:

- deliver innovative and strategic policy projects that shape the future of the planning framework in Queensland.
- actively informing and influencing Government decision-making and, in implementing policy decisions, provide critical support to operational parts of the department.
- actively collaborate with key agencies across government to influence external agency policy development and advance planning's strategic interests as well as ensure planning needs are firmly embedded within the broader government priorities and policies.
- are custodians, establishing and maintaining Queensland's planning framework – the Planning Act, Planning Regulation, statutory instruments such as the State Planning Policy, Minister's Guidelines and Rules, Development Assessment Rules and associated guidelines, processes and forms.
- implement improvements to the planning framework – new policy, projects and processes
- coordinate Cabinet in confidence material for Planning Group
- provide plan-making services for Brisbane City Council (BCC).

Current projects include:

- Ensuring the planning framework can support delivery of more homes for Queenslanders – including increasing supply, diversity, affordability and liveability
- Amendments to Planning legislation
- Investigating opportunities for the planning framework to facilitate improved climate change and first nations outcomes.

Development Assessment (DA) Division

Our DA division is responsible for:

- the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP)
- State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) best practice, support and assessment of complex and escalated applications
- coordination of ministerial infrastructure designation assessments on behalf of the Planning Minister
- ministerial 'call-in' assessment on behalf of the Planning Minister
- management of SARA appeals and liaison with Legal Services

- delivery of SARA development assessment for the Brisbane local government area.

Current projects include:

- implementation of the Koala SARA policy
- assessment of development applications for wind farms
- assessment of development applications for Caboolture West
- reform to the SARA pre-lodgement process and model conditions.

Planning and Development Services (PDS) Division

Along with teams in Brisbane, Planning Group has a network of regional offices (9 outside Brisbane) that provide planning and development assessment services, and strategic support to local governments across each of its regions. These teams are responsible for:

- delivery of SARA development assessment for all local councils across our regional areas (that is, all except Brisbane City Council)
- delivery of plan-making services for all local councils across regional areas (except Brisbane)
- Responding to enquiries regarding planning issues from local government and the public.

Current projects include:

- Planning scheme and amendment reviews
- Regional capacity building in development assessment and plan making.

Regional and Spatial Planning (RSP) Division

The Regional and Spatial Planning division's role includes:

- Reviewing, delivering and implementing statutory regional plans across Queensland
- stakeholder engagement and consultation
- developing technical evidence having regard to social, economic and environmental factors
- data and spatial analysis
- integrated land use and transport modelling.

Current projects include:

- ShapingSEQ review
- the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan
- the FNQ Regional Plan
- Cape York Regional Plan
- Delivery of the NQ Regional Plan
- Growth Monitoring Program
- Land Supply & Development Monitoring (LSDM) reporting.

2. Economic Development Queensland (EDQ)

Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) is a unique government agency delivering property development and providing specialist land use planning and infrastructure functions. Operating under the *Economic Development Act 2012* (ED Act), as the representative of the Minister for Economic Development Queensland (MEDQ). EDQ works with local governments, industry and the community to add value to development projects and create places and investment opportunities for Queenslanders to prosper.

EDQ leads and delivers property and infrastructure projects for Queensland's economic benefit, and drives a range of development projects including:

- large complex urban sites which support renewal
- regional residential projects which respond to community need
- industrial activities which generate on-going employment opportunities
- infrastructure projects which encourage further development.

EDQ has a key role working with the Minister for Economic Development Queensland (MEDQ) to deliver on the objectives of the ED Act. This includes, but is not limited to, work in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) under the ED Act.

EDQ consists of two sections (Planning and Urban Design (PaUD) and Development Assessment (DA)) and two teams (Infrastructure and EDQ development) as described below.

Planning and Urban Design (PaUD)

This section of EDQ is responsible for:

- managing the investigation of potential PDAs and the declaration of PDAs
- preparing development schemes for PDAs where the scheme preparation responsibilities have been delegated to EDQ
- managing amendments to the ED Act and associated statutory instruments (regulations, by-laws).
- managing the policy and development scheme amendment program for 23 PDAs
- procedural oversight of development scheme preparation and implementation for 11 delegated PDAs
- providing assistance to local governments, a local representative committee and the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority, who have been delegated MEDQ powers and functions
- the ongoing management of EDQ non-statutory instruments (policies, guidelines and practice notes).
- implementing improvements to the PDA planning framework (policy, projects and processes)
- contributing to departmental policy, State legislation and cabinet-in-confidence material.

Current projects include:

- review of the Northshore Hamilton PDA development scheme
- responding to the Queensland government's election commitment to the declaration of a North Harbour PDA
- Cross River Rail PDAs
- Review of EDQ design guidelines, including drafting of three new guidelines: low-rise subdivision and building guideline, medium-high rise guideline and a development assessment guideline
- Review of Bowen Hills PDA Development Scheme sustainability requirements.

Development Assessment (DA)

EDQ DA section is responsible for:

- assessing and deciding PDA development applications, in PDAs where EDQ is the MEDQ delegate
- working with applicants, development proponents, state agencies and other stakeholders to deliver economic development and development for community purposes in PDAs
- providing advice to other MEDQ delegates about the scope and management of State interests on PDA development applications
- working with the EDQ PaUD team manage the policy and operations aspects of the ED Act and development schemes, including MEDQ delegate oversight.

Current projects include:

- Queens Wharf Brisbane – a new \$3.6 billion CBD development, transforming an underutilised area of Brisbane City and the Brisbane River for tourism, leisure and entertainment
- Herston Quarter – this \$1.1 billion mixed-use community is delivering health, residential, commercial and retail development within the Herston Health Precinct, including the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital
- Caloundra South – a new city on the Sunshine Coast, accommodating 20,000 new homes and 15,000 new jobs, schools, playgrounds, parks and sporting fields
- Yarrabilba – located in Logan, this master planned community will deliver 8,000 new homes, new jobs, shops, schools, parks and community facilities.

Infrastructure

EDQ’s Infrastructure team is responsible for:

- developing infrastructure planning and charging policies for PDAs
- managing funding programs used to deliver infrastructure
- negotiating and managing infrastructure agreements
- managing infrastructure charges which are used to deliver infrastructure in PDAs.

Current projects include:

- preparing infrastructure plans for several key PDAs including the Ripley Valley, Greater Flagstone, Yeronga and Oxley PDAs
- managing the Sub-Regional Infrastructure Agreement which facilitates the delivery of more than \$1 billion of infrastructure to support growth in the Greater Flagstone and Yarrabilba PDAs
- managing the Catalyst Infrastructure Fund worth approximately \$135 million.

EDQ development

EDQ’s development team is responsible for:

- managing the delivery of development (land, product and infrastructure) in a range of residential and urban renewal PDAs and a non-PDA precincts throughout Queensland
- managing EDQ assets and landholdings
- delivering capital works program to support development
- developing, selling and leasing industrial land
- working with other State agencies to facilitate the redevelopment of surplus and underutilised government land.

Current projects include:

- Queensland’s largest urban waterfront renewal precinct within the 304 hectare Northshore Hamilton PDA
- Lumina, a 9.5 hectare health and life sciences precinct within The redevelopment of the Yeronga PDA for retirement living, aged care, social and affordable housing as well as commercial accommodation for Children’s Health Queensland and Yeronga Community Centre
- the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, Southport
- The urban renewal of Carseldine Village (the former QUT Carseldine campus site) for residential, aged care, retail and sport and recreation, Fitzgibbon
- Songbird, a new residential community, aged care facility, retirement living and childcare centre in the Oxley PDA
- Gladstone State Development Area
- Sunshine Coast and Willowbank Industrial Parks.

Outcomes for the student

With exposure to the broad range of planning activities, it is envisaged the placement will provide the following opportunities:

- » apply technical knowledge and skills acquired through their course of studies
- » apply employability skills such as time management, interpersonal skills, communication, and networking
- » shadow at team and stakeholder meetings
- » participate in internal professional development sessions
- » understand some of the issues and challenges the planning profession may face during practice
- » demonstrate professional awareness and contribute ideas and opinions
- » gain further appreciation of different aspects of urban and regional planning and reflect on personal career aspirations.

Your contribution

Your contribution while on work placement with us may include some or all the following:

- » support work areas with reviewing and analysing a range of planning documents to assist with the formulation of advice to colleagues, customers and stakeholders
- » provide research and input to support the drafting of briefing documents, reports and correspondence on a variety of planning matters, ensuring style expectations and timeframes are met
- » provide administrative support to the team including maintaining tools, templates, guidelines and office procedures and ensuring record keeping is up to date
- » contribute and participate in emerging policy projects
- » actively participate in a team environment and support a positive culture
- » perform other tasks as required by the supervisor.

Is this placement for you?

You must be currently enrolled in a PIA accredited planning course and have completed the equivalent of half the units in your course (to be verified by the subject area or field coordinator for your course).

You must be eligible for insurance coverage by your university in support of undertaking an unpaid placement (to be verified by the subject area or field coordinator for your course).

The following selection criteria will be used to assess applications:

- » **Supports strategic direction** – Knows where to find information and asks questions to ensure a better understanding of issues. Keeps supervisor informed on work progress.
- » **Achieves results** – Monitors task progress against performance expectations. Alerts supervisor early when work is behind schedule and makes alternative arrangements.
- » **Supports productive working relationships** – Shares information and contributes to team discussions. Works closely with team members to achieve results and operates as an effective team member. Actively listens to colleagues and clients.
- » **Displays personal drive and integrity** – Takes personal responsibility for accurate completion of work and seeks assistance when required. Commits energy and drive to see that goals are achieved.
- » **Communicates with influence** – Communicates messages clearly and concisely. Focuses on key points and uses appropriate language. Structures written and oral communications, so they are easy to follow.

Interested in applying?

Please provide a single PDF file which includes:

- A completed copy of the application coversheet (last page of this document).
- A current résumé of no more than two pages in length which demonstrates clear links to the selection criteria above through description of experiences undertaken on and or off campus.

Additional information

Many of the QLD government guidelines will also apply to students under the placement program. Here is some additional information you will find useful.

- » We value diversity and cultural capability and is an equal opportunity employer.
- » We participate in the White Ribbon Australia (WRA) Workplace Accreditation Program as part of our commitment to respond to and prevent domestic and family violence.
- » We are an agile and responsive employer seeking employees who can rapidly adapt to organisational change and be open to new experiences.
- » Our employees commit to high ethical standards and we are guided in our interactions with clients and each other by the Queensland Government's Code of Conduct. We demonstrate our commitment to probity and best practice in government by complying with the department's corporate governance framework.
- » We require that all staff be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information in accordance with its Information Security policy and Recordkeeping policy. All staff are required to capture, secure and maintain records into the corporate recordkeeping system and protect records from destruction. Records include written and verbal decisions, electronic documents and email messages and paper-based records.
- » For further information about working for the Queensland Public Service, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Vocational/Work Placement Application Coversheet

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The work carried out by the two groups can be quite unique and rewarding and covers a wide range of areas and disciplines within the planning profession.

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The work placements have two intakes per year. Please indicate your preferences below:

___ *Intake 1 (starts March)*

___ *Intake 2 (starts July)*

Your Name:

Name of Your University:

Name of Your University Course:

Total Number of Credit Points You Have Completed in Your Course to Date: _____

Total Number of Credit Points Required for Your Course: _____

Are you eligible for insurance cover from your university to support undertaking an unpaid placement? Yes / No

Due to the sensitive nature of some of our work, you will be asked to sign a deed poll (for confidentiality and IP) indicating that you assign and license any IP you create during the placement to the department. **Do you agree to this?** Yes / No

NB: It is recommended you will take steps to understand the deed poll/agreement, which may include seeking legal advice prior to signing (many universities offer free legal services to students).

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