



# Sarah McQuillen

## CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

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### CAREER OVERVIEW

2012 –  
Director, Echelon Planning

2010 – 2012  
Structure Planning Manager, Growth Areas  
Authority

2007 – 2009  
Senior Consultant, Urbis Pty Ltd

2005 – 2007  
Urban Planner, Urbis Pty Ltd

2003 – 2004  
Urban and Environmental Planner, Foresite

2002 – 2003  
Assistant Planner, Tomkinson

### QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor Urban Planning and Development,  
The University of Melbourne

Diploma of Modern Languages,  
The University of Melbourne

### MEMBERSHIPS & COMMITTEES

Victorian Planning & Environmental Law  
Association

Residential Developers Committee –  
2019-2020

Deputy Chair Residential Developers Committee,  
Property Council of Australia –  
2021-2022

Chair Residential Developers Committee,  
Property Council of Australia –  
2023 - present

Sarah has 20 years experience in urban planning, working with major developers and government agencies on projects across Victoria.

She has considerable technical knowledge and is naturally adept at managing multidisciplinary teams to prepare structure plans and planning scheme amendments. She also has expertise in preparing acquisitions advice and providing strategic direction to best position planning and development projects.

Sarah is an energetic, organized and switched-on person, with a passion for creating great developments and communities. She gets the big picture as well as the detail, and she understands how to work with people to translate that into decisions and results.

Having worked in both the private and public sector, she understands the commercial drivers of development, and how to align them with government policy.

Sarah is skilled at managing multi-disciplinary teams and large, complex projects. She knows how to keep people 'on-task' and maintain a clear focus on the issues and outcomes that need to be addressed.

Sarah takes personal pride in keeping ahead of issues, and ensuring that her clients achieve the benefits of this.

She is always forthright, and clients value her frank, honest, and direct advice.



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# Project Experience

## DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS, PLANS & RESEARCH

Sarah has experience in the preparation of development plans and frameworks for a range of project types and scales.

This includes working with landowners and developers to prepare development options and feasibility studies, as well as assisting government agencies to prepare plans and business cases for infrastructure and redevelopment projects.

Some of the projects Sarah has led at Echelon Planning are:

- Wallan Structure Plan and Neighbourhood Character Project (Mitchell Council)
- Byron Bay Housing Density Study and Planning Scheme Amendment (Byron Shire)
- Caulfield Major Activity Centre Structure Plan (Glen Eira)
- Rockbank North Activity Centre Urban Design Framework (City of Melton)
- Preparation of Precinct Structure Plan, Riddells Creek
- Melton Town Centre Revitalisation Plan
- Wallan Town Centre Masterplan and Urban Design Framework (Shire of Mitchell)
- Deliberative Development Research Paper (Merri-bek)
- Alternative Housing Research Paper (Byron Shire)
- Advice on development contribution options (Moirra Council).
- Lindum Vale Precinct Structure Plan (Satterley)
- Donnybrook Precinct Structure Plan (Mirvac).
- Craigieburn West Precinct Structure Plan

## DEVELOPMENT FACILITATION & PROJECT APPROVALS

Sarah has extensive experience in assisting clients to prepare and obtain development approvals.

This includes establishing the planning strategy/ approach, preparing development applications and planning reports, engagement and co-ordination of specialist project consultants, and ongoing negotiation with government authorities and stakeholders. Sarah also has experience in establishing Works-in-Kind Agreements with Council to deliver infrastructure projects through DCPS and ICPs.

Some of the recent projects Sarah has led at Echelon Planning are:

- Wyndham Stadium Approvals (YourLand)
- Various Residential Developments (Homes Victoria)
- Planning Scheme Amendment for former Boral Landfill site, Wantirna South
- Planning Scheme Amendment to facilitate medium density housing (DoT)
- Planning Scheme Amendment for 300 apartments, Coburg
- Planning Scheme Amendment for Miami Hotel redevelopment, West Melbourne
- Planning Scheme Amendment for Tuckers Road, Clyde
- Development application for 200 townhouses, Wantirna
- Development Application for Mixed Use apartment buildings, Cremorne



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# Project Experience

- Development application for 80 townhouses, Ivanhoe
- Development application for 25 apartments in Eltham
- Various Masterplanned Communities including:
  - 600 lots at Olivine Estate for Mirvac
  - 400 lots at Smiths Lane for Mirvac
  - 400 lots at Botanical Estate for Satterley.
- Melbourne Metro Over site Development bid.
- Advice to Merri-bek City Council on implementation of the new zones for activity centres.
- Submissions to various committees and government documents in relation to infrastructure contributions, PSP guidelines.
- Submissions to PSP Guidelines
- Submission at Panel for Boroondara Amendment C229.
- Submission at Panel Hearing for Merri-bek Amendment C134
- Submission at Panel Hearing for Rockbank PSP Amendment C145.

## STRATEGIC ADVICE & ADVOCACY

Sarah has extensive experience in providing advice at all stages of the project lifecycle – from due diligence reviews, through to development feasibilities, rezonings and development approvals.

Some of the recent projects Sarah has led at Echelon Planning are:

- Due Diligence and strategy advice on various landholdings across Melbourne's growth corridors.
- Advice to Horsham Council on key development sites
- Due diligence related to the Kingswood Golf Course redevelopment, Mountain Highway, former School sites, Bellfield redevelopment precinct, Arden precinct, various activity centres and employment hubs across metropolitan Melbourne.