

# Vocational/Work Placements

Department of State Development,  
Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP)

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# Introduction

DSDIP offers vocational work placements for students enrolled in PIA accredited planning courses in two of the department's 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 in DSDIP 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 five divisions, and your placement entails time with 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 each of them ensures you can make the most of your placement with us.

### Policy and Statutory Planning (PSP) Division

PSP works closely with other units within the group and department to simplify legislative frameworks, develop policies that reflect state interests, and ensure clear alignment of state and local issues to reduce regulation, and emphasise performance-based outcomes to create a more efficient and effective planning system for Queensland.

- Custodians of the development, management and administration of Queensland's planning framework (Act, Regulations, State Policies, Rules, guidelines, processes and forms).
- Administration of other acts: Integrated Resort Development Act 1987, Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985, Mixed Use Development Act 1993, Regional Planning Interest Act 2014, Planning and Environment Court Act 2016.
- Responsible for how government policy is given effect through the planning framework.
- Improvements to the planning framework – new policy, projects and process.
- Custodians of State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP).

### Improvement and Assessment (IA) Division

- Ensuring the Planning Group delivers nationwide leading best practices.
- Ministerial 'call-ins' assessment on behalf of the Planning Minister.
- Coordination of Ministerial Infrastructure Designation assessments on behalf of the Planning Minister.
- State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) best practice, support, complex applications and dispute resolution.
- Management of SARA appeals.
- Planning framework performance monitoring and improvement.

## Planning Services (PS) Division

The PS division offers delivery and improvement of, and support and local engagement for, regional planning, development assessment and development facilitation services in partnership with regional stakeholders to achieve priority development outcomes for catalysed investment, compact communities and connected regions.

- Delivery of SARA development assessment for all local councils across our regional areas.
- Delivery of plan-making services for all local councils across regional areas.
- Responding to enquiries regarding planning issues from local government and the public.

Along with teams in Brisbane, PS has a network of regional offices that provide planning and strategic support across each of its regions and form robust relationships with stakeholders. As such, we have a strong regional presence.

## Regional and Spatial Planning (RSP) Division

- The Regional and Spatial Planning (Place) division guides Queensland's regional growth through a place-based approach and reviews statutory regional plans. The team ensures integration of economic growth, land use, and infrastructure planning.
- Collaborating with local governments, industry groups, and the community to consider regional stakeholders' aspirations.
- Engage in the implementation and review of regional plans, monitoring progress, and driving successful outcomes (such as '*ShapingSEQ*').
- Spatially related outcomes for policy delivery.
- Demographic and statistical analysis/monitoring.

## Facilitation Division

- State Facilitated Development (SFD) is a key initiative under Pillar 1 of Homes for Queenslanders, aimed at delivering more homes, faster. Facilitation is a dedicated division for SFD and Incentivising Infill Development Fund (IIDF).
- Key features of the Facilitation program include:
  - Focussing on proposals that include at least 15% affordable and/or social housing, with a fast-track assessment for projects that can be substantially commenced within two years of approval.
  - Encouraging the adoption of new design and construction methods, rethinking traditional planning controls to ensure equitable access to well-located homes in Queensland.
  - Promoting development proposals that optimise land use near existing services, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of housing projects.
  - Supporting projects that maximise the use of government investment, ensuring the best possible outcomes for the community.
  - The IIDF will support residential development that can increase housing density and diversity where we need it. Market ready projects which increase density in areas with high demand may be eligible for support, to deliver more diverse, affordable, and well-located homes, faster.

## 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 three different business units – Planning Services (which includes PaUD team and DA team), Infrastructure Services and Urban Development, as described below.

### Planning Services

#### 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 Urban 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 department's guidelines will also apply to students under the placement program. Here is some additional information you will find useful.

- » The department values diversity and cultural capability and is an equal opportunity employer.
- » The department is participating in the White Ribbon Australia (WRA) Workplace Accreditation Program as part of our commitment to respond to and prevent domestic and family violence.
- » The department is 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.
- » The department requires 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](http://www.qld.gov.au).
- » For further information about the work of the department, visit [State Development, Infrastructure and Planning](#).

# DSDIP Vocational/Work Placement Application Coversheet

DSDIP offers vocational work placements for students enrolled in PIA accredited planning courses in two of the department's key business groups: Planning Group (PG) and Economic Development Queensland (EDQ).

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.

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

DSDIP offers vocational work placements for students within two intakes per year. Please indicate your preferences below:

\_\_\_ *Intake 1 (starts March)*

\_\_\_ *Intake 2 (starts July)*

Your Name:

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Name of Your University:

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Name of Your University Course:

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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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