

# Ruth Davies

## Project Experience

Ruth Davies is a highly experienced Social Planner. She has over fourteen years experience in the social and strategic planning fields. Ruth has a broad range of skills in social planning and social impact assessments and strong community consultation skills. She has worked in the sectors of urban development, transport, tourism, state and local government, water, mining and major infrastructure development.

Ruth's key strengths include:

- **Social and Environmental Impact Assessment:** Ruth has undertaken social and community impact assessment for some of the largest EES and strategic planning projects undertaken in Victoria in recent years and lectures in SIA at the post-graduate level
- **Social Planning:** Including local government policy development and social planning input to triple bottom line assessment, project risk analysis and strategic planning
- **Community Consultation:** With experience in small scale and major consultation exercises, Ruth is able to tailor programs to suit the project and manage consultation activities effectively
- **Academic:** Ruth lectures in social impact assessment in the RMIT Master of Social Science (Environment and Planning) degree, and has also lectured in risk management and policy planning at the undergraduate level elsewhere.
- **Urban and Regional Planning and Policy:** Ruth has contributed to a varied range of planning and policy development exercises for clients including local government, state government, private clients and major infrastructure providers. She has particular skill in policy and program evaluation
- **Demographic Analysis:** Ruth has developed detailed community profiles for purposes as diverse as transport planning, planning for community consultation, local government strategic planning and services and infrastructure planning
- **Regional Economic Analysis and Development:** Ruth uses economic data to contribute to understanding the character of communities and their options for future development. Her experience includes labour market studies, socio-economic analysis and tourism research.
- **Social Research:** Ruth's social research expertise includes managing surveys and questionnaires and undertaking focus groups and individual interviews, chiefly to assess attitudes and values for proposed development projects.

**Summary of qualifications**

Master of Social Science (Environment and Planning) RMIT University  
 Graduate Certificate in Managing Development - University of Melbourne  
 B.App.Sci.(Distinction) Urban Policy and Planning - RMIT University  
 Certified Public Participation Practitioner (IAP2)

**Professional memberships**

Member, Planning Institute of Australia, Convenor of the Social Planning Chapter in Victoria  
 Member, Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association

**Work experience**

March 2009 -	<b>Akin Planning</b> Principal
2005 – 2009	<b>Maunsell AECOM</b> Principal Social Planner
1997 - 2005	<b>Sinclair Knight Merz</b> Social and strategic planner
1993 - 1997	<b>Econsult (Australia) Pty Ltd</b> Economic and Planning Researcher
1992 - 1993	<b>Spiller Gibbins Swan</b> Student Placement and graduate planner

**Detailed experience**

***Akin Planning – Director***

Princes Highway East Duplication (current) social impact assessment (sub-contract with GHD for VicRoads).

Western Highway Duplication (current) social impact assessment of the sections between Beaufort and Stawell (sub-contract with GHD for VicRoads).

Mirvac (current) provision of social planning advice related to the redevelopment of Waverley Park. This has included extensive review of Council social and recreation policies and liaison with Council.

Jabiru Mine assessment (current) Assessment of the social impacts of re-opening a mine near Benambra (sub-contract to AECOM for Stockman Jabiru)

North-East Link Planning Study (current) Assessment of social issues (sub-contract with GHD for VicRoads).

City of Stonnington (2010) Social planning advice related to the implementation of planning controls on late night entertainment venues in Chapel Street.

WestLink Planning and Consultation Study (current) Manager of the Social Impact Assessment (sub-contract with GHD for Linking Melbourne Authority).

Truck Action Plan Planning Study (2009-10) Manager of the Social Impact Assessment (sub-contract with GHD for Linking Melbourne Authority).

***Department of Planning and Community Development***

March 2009 – June 2009

Ruth undertook a contract position within the Regional Strategies group in the Planning Policy Section of DPCD between March 2009 and June 2009. During this period she assisted with various policy initiatives including the Hume Sustainable Communities Strategy; a review of planning principles for Regional Planning and planning issues in the hinterland region around Melbourne. Ruth also peer-reviewed reports for strategic planning projects around Victoria funded by DPCD, including a review of options for affordable housing and land supply studies in three regional centres.

**Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd**

August 2005 – March 2009 – Principal Social Planner

**Social Impact Assessment**

Regional Rail Link (2009) Social Impact Assessment of options for a new rail corridor in Western Melbourne between West Werribee and Deer Park.

Swan Hill Bridge Planning Study (2009) social impact assessment of options to construct a new bridge in Swan Hill for VicRoads.

Victorian Desalination Plant EES (2008) Management of the Social Impact Assessment component of this EES for the proposed desalination plant and associated power supply and transfer infrastructure, including consideration of construction workforce impacts.

Frankston Bypass EES (2008) Management of the Social Impact Assessment component of this EES for a major new freeway on the Mornington Peninsula.

Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation (2008) Provision of expert advice in the areas of social impact assessment and community consultation. Management of social research for the investigation and reporting of social risks associated with the various options and scenarios, which covered the whole of western Brisbane and the surrounding region.

Ipswich Motorway Upgrade (2007-08) Social issues identification for the Environment Assessment Report for this major on-line construction project. Also provided social analysis advice for the Goodna Bypass IAR, which was superseded by the Upgrade project.

Southern Freight Rail Corridor planning study (2007) Management of the social impact assessment component of this planning study for a major new rail line south of Ipswich.

Traralgon Bypass (2007) Preparation of an expert witness statement related to options for the bypass of Traralgon, assessing the social issues around future urban development and protection of a major coal resource. For VicRoads

Hume Highway upgrade (2007) Review of upgrade options for the Hume Highway associated with the Donnybrook Road interchange and recommendation of the best options to maintain community access and social connections. For VicRoads

Chapel Vision (2007) Social impact assessment of proposed development options within the structure plan for Chapel Vision. Included an iterative process where Council can use the SIA outcomes to refine and improve the recommendations in the structure plan. For Stonnington City Council

Mountain View Quarry (2007) Peer review and finalisation of a report on the social impact of the proposed extension of the Mountain View Quarry operation. For The Barro Group.

Port of Hastings Land Use and Transport Strategy (2006) Statement of social issues and assessment of project options for the master planning project. Development of consultation materials and assistance with stakeholder consultation.

Jade Star Child Care (2006) Social impact assessment of a proposed child care centre in Frankston.

Barwon Heads Bridge planning study (2006) Social impact assessment of options to replace the Barwon Heads Bridge. Also assisted with preparation of the planning report.

Proposed Relocatable Home Park: social impact assessment of a proposed development in Bairnsdale. The proposal was assessed against the social and demographic changes expected to occur in the region and the social policies and strategies developed by Council to manage a greatly increased

aged population.

Point Lonsdale Residential Development (2005) Provision of Expert Evidence at the Panel Hearing for this project. For Stockland

Residential Developments at Phillip Island – social impact assessment of proposed developments at Phillip Island for a private client, including a proposed golf course estate at San Remo and a retirement village concept near Cowes.

Channel Deepening SEES – review of previous social research and a gap analysis to inform development of work program for a social impact assessment. Also developed the SIA brief and acted as peer reviewer.

### **Planning Studies**

Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road Planning Study – assistance with planning and managing community information sessions and a series of landowner interviews. Also wrote a report on social issues for inclusion in reporting to the Minister for Planning and assisted with a planning report which was used to help determine preferred options and support a PRC submission for on-going investigations.

Stations and Modal Interchange pilot program (SAMI) – management of stakeholder engagement for a pilot project developing designs and systems for a major accessibility upgrade of Melbourne's suburban railway stations.

Green Edge Social Sustainability Indicators – development of social sustainability indicators to assess the design of a proposed major new development at the Greensborough Activity centre, including a major regional aquatic and leisure centre, retail facilities, Council offices and a civic square.

Breakwater Road Geelong Planning Study: Review of technical reports and development of a summary report to be used for community consultation and to support the PSA. Also assisted VicRoads with preparation of the PSA documentation.

Port of Hastings Port Development Project Review Committee Report for DoI (2007) Development of a report setting out the strategic fit of this project for future government investment priorities.

Green Triangle Transport Project (2006) Prepared an Options Assessment Paper for the Department of Infrastructure examining various options for managing woodchip freight in south-west Victoria. This paper was used as background for the PRC report.

Major New Residential Estate (2005) Discussion paper on industry attraction opportunities for a proposed major residential estate north of Melbourne. The project focussed on sustainable business opportunities in order to develop a self-sustaining community.

Mickleham Road duplication (2005) Ruth acted as project manager to develop a Business Case report for duplication of Mickleham Road between Somerton Road and Barrymore Road for VicRoads.

### **Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

Port of Hastings Port Land Use and Transport Strategy (2007) Assisted the Port with development of database for analysis of public submissions to the draft strategy. Also managed the submissions data entry process.

Tram Stop Accessibility Program – assisted DoI with development of a communications strategy for a pilot program of tram stop upgrades. The purpose was to develop a methodology for efficiently planning and constructing DDA compliant tram stops across Melbourne.

North and West Melbourne Access and Mobility Study (2007) Planned and managed community

consultation for this project, which required detailed input from local people, gained through workshops and a community information day held at North Melbourne Town Hall.

Talisman Saber 2007 – Design and management of three community information sessions related to the Public Environment Report developed for this major military training exercise.

Workshop facilitation and focus groups:

- Ballarat CBA Traffic and Parking Study – planning and facilitation of stakeholder workshops and community information sessions
- Great South Coast Sustainable Development Plan – facilitated five workshops with regional industry stakeholders
- Knox Road Asset Management Plan – planned and facilitated two workshops with ratepayers
- Casey Waste Management Strategy – planned and facilitated an internal stakeholder workshop for Council
- Ran four focus groups for DoI examining commuter preferences for pedestrian & cycle access to platforms. Also assisted with development of a survey instrument.

*Sinclair Knight Merz*

*1997 – 2005 – Social and Economic Planner*

### **Social Impact Assessment**

*Key projects*

- Geelong Bypass Stage Three: Hamilton Highway to Princes Highway
- Port Phillip Bay Channel Deepening EES:
- Residential Developments in Frankston

*Other Projects*

- Lake Federation Resort at Ballarat - demographic projections and social impact assessment
- Maroondah Highway Deviation at Lilydale Planning Study - social, land use, business and tourism impact assessment
- Calder Highway Faraday to Ravenswood Supplementary Environmental Effects Statement - SIA
- Goulburn Valley Highway Nagambie Bypass Planning Study - SIA
- Goulburn Valley Highway (Strathmerton Section) Planning Study - SIA
- Gas Pipeline Environmental Assessment, Tasmania – peer review of economic and social impact assessment components
- Social Impact Assessment component of the Public Benefit Test of the Corporation and Aggregation Restrictions of the QLD 1994 Land Act

### **Social and Strategic Research and Policy Development**

- Mine Closure Planning (for two major mines in WA)
- Northern Interceptor Sewer concept design
- Mid-term assessment and review of the Victorian Heritage Strategy and evaluation of the Government Heritage Restoration Program for Heritage Victoria
- Darebin Resident Parking Permit Scheme Review

### **Community Consultation**

*Key projects*

- Port Phillip Bay Shipping Channels Deepening Environmental Effects Statement
- Bass Highway Duplication Stages 4, 5 and 6

## Papers and Presentations

Davies, R. 2010 *Soft and Fluffy = Too Hard Basket* presentation at the State Planning Institute of Australia Conference, Wangaratta

Davies, R. *Bums on Seats*, presentation at the International Association of Public Participation Australasian Conference in Melbourne, 2007. Was asked to repeat this successful presentation at the 2008 Conference in Adelaide

Davies, R. *Social Impact Assessment in Transport Planning*, presented at the International Association of Impact Assessment International Conference, May 2008

Davies, R. *Social Impact Assessment in Local Area Planning*, presented at the International Association of Impact Assessment International Conference, May 2008

Davies, R. *Incorporating Social Policy into Social Impact Assessment - How SIA improves the outcomes of planning and development processes*, presented at the Planning Institute of Australia National Conference 2007

Davies, R. *Melbourne 2230: A look at the long term issues of sustainability for Melbourne*, presented at the Planning Institute of Australia National Conference 2005

Davies, R. and Permezel, Dr M. *Is sustainable transport planning possible? What happens when ideology collides with the reality for citizens in their local communities?* presented at the Planning Institute of Australia National Conference 2005

Davies, R. 2004 *A comparison of the Strategic Plans of Australian and International Heritage Management Agencies*, presented at the Planning Institute of Australia National Conference 2004

Cotterill, D. and Davies, R. 2004 *Ned Kelly, Mills and Trains: Issues to consider when planning cultural heritage tourism attractions*, presented at the Planning Institute of Australia National Conference 2004

Cramphorn, B. and Davies, R. 2004 *The Social Impact of Roads and the relevance of the concept of Social Capital to Road Planning*, presented at the Planning Institute of Australia National Conference 2004

Davies, R. 2004 *The social impact of Activity Centres*, September 2004 edition of the Australian Planner.

Davies, R. 2003 *Mid-term Review of the Victorian Heritage Strategy* – Presentation to heritage advisers conference for Heritage Victoria November 2003

## Professional Development Training

Health Impact Assessment (undertaken at the International Association of Impact Assessment International Conference, 2008)

Cultural Impact Assessment (undertaken at the International Association of Impact Assessment International Conference, 2008)

Social Impact Assessment (undertaken at the International Association of Public Participation National Conference, 2005)

## Academic Activities

RMIT University: Lecturer in Social Impact Assessment for the post-graduate Masters Degree program in Environment and Planning. (2006-2011)

William Angliss Institute of TAFE: lecturer in:

- Policy Planning for a Sustainable Tourism Industry – 2008-2009
- Risk Management – 2010 - 2011

William Angliss Institute of TAFE 2005 Curriculum development for two subjects for the degree program at the Institute:

- Policy Planning for a Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Industry
- Logistics for the Tourism and Hospitality Industry