

Career options: Urban and environmental Planning

Planners are involved at all levels of government - local, state and federal - with most in local government. Australian-trained planners also find employment overseas in developed and developing countries.. Large development companies increasingly employ their own planners to develop and implement proposals. This degree will enable you to practise in all these areas. In addition, you will have specialised environmental knowledge and skills, which are in high demand by government, industry and the community.

As an Environmental Planning student, you should be aware that in addition to discipline-related content and skills, you are acquiring other skills that are highly valued by employers. These skills, known at Griffith as “generic” or “professional” skills are sometimes referred to as “transferable”, as they can be transferred from one environment to another (learning to the workplace, part-time to professional work). To learn more about recognising your skills, go to [Skills Explorer](#).

Occupations and industries

Environmental Planning graduates are employed in a wide range of occupations and industries including:

Transport planning	Property development
Urban planning	Recreational planning
disaster recovery	Land use and economic development
Strategic land use	Developmental assessment
Tourism	Energy and greenhouse issues
Urban renewal	Heritage planning
Environmental impact assessment	Commercial and industrial planning
Port authorities	Building statutory compliance
Electricity supply companies	Railways

Positions and employers

Many graduate employers recruit from a wide range of disciplines. The major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia, [Graduate Opportunities](#), lists employers by the disciplines from which they are recruiting. You might be surprised by the range of employers recruiting from your degree and the sectors of the workplace where you might establish a career.

Examples of positions and employers include:

Assistant Environmental Planner	Maher and Cooper
Assistant Town Planner	Delfin
Development Assessment Planner	Caboolture Council
Environmental Advisor	Brisbane City Council
Environmental Officer	Main Roads Department
Environmental Planner	Brown and Root
Environmental Planning Officer	Planning NSW

Environmental Scientist	IT Environmental
Infrastructure Planner	Brisbane City Council
Greenhouse Project Officer	Maroochy Shire Council
Planner	Buckley Vann Town Planning Consultants
Graduate Planner	Department of Public Works
Graduate Planner	GHD
Planning Officer	Noosa Council
Policy Officer	Queensland Transport
Policy Resource Officer	Queensland Housing
Program Officer, Air and Energy	Brisbane City Council
Project Transport Planner	Queensland Transport
Policy Resource Officer	Queensland Housing
Research and Policy Officer	Property Council of Australia
Research Assistant	Caloundra City Council
Strategic Planner	Gold Coast City Council
Technical Officer	Logan City Council
Town and Environmental Planner	Heathwood Cardillo Wilson
Town Planner	Brisbane City Council
Town Planner	Queensland Building Consulting Group
Transport Planner	Eppell Olsen and Partners
Technical Officer, Transport Planning	Redland Shire Council
Urban Design Graduate	Roads Traffic Authority NSW
Water Quality Assistant Officer	Brisbane City Council

Some sample job advertisements

Queensland Main Roads has a vacancy for a Graduate Town Planner.

As a Town Planner within Main Roads you could be involved in some of the State's largest and exciting planning projects. Town Planners are involved in the planning for road transport infrastructure, considering anticipated land use, town planning scheme requirements, demographics, projected employment patterns, social and environmental issues, safety and budget constraints. A key role of Town Planners in the department is to actively participate in the drafting and reviewing stages of Integrated Planning Act (IPA) planning schemes. Town Planners are also involved in undertaking development assessment and participating in regional transport strategies and studies.

This program is for recruitment of persons graduating in mid 2005 and/or end of 2005. A degree or higher qualification which has been recently received from a recognised tertiary institution and accredited by the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) as a prerequisite for Corporate Membership of PIA is mandatory to take up this position.

Caboolture Shire Council is seeking applications from urban and regional environmental planning graduates.

Caboolture Shire is growing! As a result of continued population growth and urban development, they require the services of dedicated planning personnel to join their award winning planning team.

They are seeking applications from urban and regional planners who wish to join their enthusiastic Planning team, committed to the sustainable management of their Shire's natural

and built assets.

These positions are newly created positions.

The positions will:

- Undertake land use assessment functions associated with development applications and enquiries.
- Investigate breaches of the planning scheme and approval conditions.
- Be involved with the ongoing implementation of Council's new Shire plan.
- Have the opportunity to gain experience and be involved with strategic land use planning and environmental policy formulation.

The successful applicants will have:

- Relevant qualifications/and or experience in urban and regional planning, built environment, or a related discipline.
- Ability to prepare and present reports and submissions of a complex nature and excellent communications skills
- An ability to undertake thorough investigations and knowledge of evidence gathering techniques.
- Knowledge, or an ability to attain a thorough knowledge, of Council's planning scheme, policies, local laws and relevant State and Commonwealth planning and environmental legislation.

Vacancies on-line

Useful sites include:

Australia

- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Queensland Government vacancies](#)
- [Brisbane City Council vacancies](#)
- [LG Jobs](#) (Local government jobs Australia wide)
- [Environmental Jobs Network](#)
- [Built Environment Jobs Network](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#) (Specialist graduate recruiter in government & corporate sectors)
- [Seek Campus](#) (specialist graduate recruiter)
- [NRM Jobs](#) (Jobs in environment, water & natural resource management)
- [Road Jobs](#) (Jobs in the local government and Road sectors throughout Australia.)
- [Jobs in Planning](#) (jobs for professional planners: Town, Urban, Social, Economic, Transport)
- [Research jobs](#)
- [Unijobs](#) (Vacancies in Australian Universities)

International

- [Academic careers](#) (Academic vacancies worldwide)
- [Alpha-Maps](#) (specialist Asian graduate recruitment)
- [Contact Singapore](#)
- [Hobsons Careers in Asia](#) (specialist Asia graduate recruitment)
- [Eurograduate live](#) (specialist European graduate recruitment)
- [Going Global](#) (Over 10,000 job vacancies listed across Europe, Asia-Pacific, UK, US. Global key employer directories, work permits & visa regulations, country specific cultural & interviewing advice & more)

- [GradIreland.com](#) (specialist Irish graduate recruitment)
- [Hobsons Careers in Asia](#) (specialist graduate recruitment)
- [Idealist.org](#) (paid & voluntary positions in non-profit organisations globally)
- [Malaysia: Graduan](#) (specialist Malaysian graduate recruitment)
- [Off-shore Employment Links for Australian Professionals](#) (Provides links and information for vacancies within international government and non-government organisations)
- [Prospects Web UK](#) (specialist UK graduate recruitment)
- [Quintessential Careers](#) (specialist US graduate recruitment)
- [United Nations competitive recruitment examination](#)
- [United Nations graduate internships](#)

Targeting potential employers

Many work opportunities are not advertised. It is common practice for jobseekers to search out these opportunities. When approaching potential employers, conducting research to identify links between your selling points (your skills, experience, interests and qualifications) and an employer's needs, increases your chances of success. Research will also reduce the number of approaches you need to make, saving you time in the end. Developing and using your personal and professional networks is also a valuable tool in finding these 'hidden' opportunities.

- [Australian Government Departments & Agencies](#)
- [Australian Universities](#)
- [Australian Water Industries directory](#)
- [Australian Mining Directory](#)
- [Ecotourism Industry Directory](#)
- [Environment Departments in Australia](#)
- [Environment Directory Australia](#)
- [Environment Industry Companies in Australia](#)
- [Infrastructure & utilities companies](#)
- [Local Governments in Australia](#)
- [Minerals industry companies](#)
- [Plastics & chemicals industries companies](#)
- [Petroleum production & exploration companies in Australia](#)
- [Port Authorities in Australia](#)
- [Queensland Government Departments](#)
- [Rail industry companies in Australia](#)
- [Regional development organisations in Queensland](#)

Employment prospects and starting salaries

[Gradsonline](#) provides information on employment rates and median starting salaries by field of study, for Australian university graduates surveyed four months after graduation. Information on occupations Australia-wide, such as the size of the workforce, employment prospects and average weekly earnings is available from [JobOutlook](#).

Professional associations

Joining a professional association is a great way to meet people in your field, who can assist you to explore your career options and potentially find employment opportunities. These associations exist in every field of employment and hold regular professional development and networking events. Students are welcome to join, and membership often costs as little as \$50 per year.

- [Planning Institute of Australia](#)
- [Australasian Urban & Regional Information Systems Association](#)

- [Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute](#)
- [Australian Institute of Building](#)
- [Australian Institute of Traffic Planning & Management](#)
- [Australian Water Association](#)
- [Bayside Creeks Catchment Group](#)
- [Brisbane Region Environment Council](#)
- [Ecotourism Australia](#)
- [Environment & Planning Law Association](#)
- [Environment Institute of Australia & New Zealand](#)
- [Gold Coast & Hinterland Environment Council](#)
- [National Environmental Law Association](#)
- [Queensland Environmental Law Association](#)

Other useful links

- [Careers in Planning](#)
- [What is Planning?](#)
- [Guide to environmental careers in Australia](#)
- [Cyberbia](#) A live forum where people can discuss planning issues.