

# Evaluation PIA Planet Training Session

## Green Infrastructure and Urban Planning

21 May 2019



Event: PIA (Vic) Planet Course: Green Infrastructure and Urban Planning  
See training objectives and program overleaf.

Venue: PIA (Vic), Level 3. 124 Exhibition St, Melbourne 3000

19 people attended the seminar.

17 evaluation forms were received, and answers are compiled below. 90% response rate.

The session was facilitated by Sheridan Blunt from Loci Environment & Place.

Guest presentations were provided by Claire Farrell, University of Melbourne and Meg Caffin, Urban Forest Consulting.

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|---|---------------------|
| 1. Out of 5, how satisfied were participants with this seminar?               | <b>Average 4.25</b> |
| 2. Out of 5, how likely were participants to recommend this seminar?          | <b>Average 4.17</b> |
| 3. Out of 5, how well did participants feel the learning objectives were met? | <b>Average 4.33</b> |
| 4. Out of 5, how satisfied were participants that they had enough time?       | <b>Average 4.18</b> |
| 5. Out of 5, how well did participants feel that discussion was encouraged?   | <b>Average 4.55</b> |
| 6. Out of 5, how knowledgeable did participants feel the facilitators were?   | <b>Average 4.55</b> |

**Loci Response:** these scores have remained very high as per previous years. We will continue to seek improvements.

### 7. How interesting, practical and beneficial were today's presentations?

Presentation	Rating (out of 5)
Green Infrastructure – Dr Claire Farrell	<b>4.5</b>
Biodiversity Context & Interdisciplinary GI principles – Sheridan Blunt	<b>4.5</b>
Urban Forest and Urban Heat Island – Meg Caffin	<b>4.7</b>
Tutorial – Trees on Private Land (activity re planning controls)	<b>3.9</b>
Tutorial - Open Space Planning (VPA open space analysis)	<b>4.0</b>
Better Best Practice Notes - Sheridan Blunt	<b>4.0</b>

Background of attendees*	No.
Strategic Urban Planning	<b>10</b>
Statutory Urban Planning	<b>7</b>
Environmental Planning	<b>3</b>
Horticulturalist	<b>1</b>
Arborist	<b>1</b>
Engineering	<b>2</b>
Water	<b>1</b>

\*attendees were able to select multiple disciplines

**Loci Response:** these scores are very high for the first three sessions which may reflect a preference for heavy content from specialists rather than a tutorial activity. There are opportunities for the tutorial activities to be further improved and linked to growth area planning which may help raise these scores from 'high' to 'very high' for future sessions.

8. Prior to today, how much did you feel you knew about green infrastructure? **Average 5.1**

9. After today, how much do you feel you know about green infrastructure? **Average 8.1**

**Loci Response:** The growth in self-reported knowledge averaged 3 points and ranged from 0 (selected by one person – a horticulturalist) to 7 (selected by one person – a strategic planner).

**10. What were the most valuable parts of seminar for you?** % of attendees that ticked option. Multiple options could be ticked.

<b>76%</b> General understanding of green infrastructure	<b>41%</b> Opportunities for questions and feedback with specialists
<b>65%</b> Changing roles for future urban planning (transformative policy, global context, greater spatial applications, quantifiable outcomes.	<b>11%</b> Learning from, and networking with fellow participants.
<b>40%</b> Learning more about the existing Victorian planning system and considering new controls	<b>0%</b> Other

**Loci Response:** Interestingly this breakdown is almost identical to last year which had a more mixed group of attendees. Loci is heartened to see the value placed on the changing role of urban planning, as this is something that busy planning practitioners do not get a lot of opportunity to explore and appreciate. Learning from other participants is a low priority for attendees but remains a high priority for Loci as we seek to explore greater understanding across disciplines.

**11. What changes do you think the session will generate for you?** % of attendees that ticked option. Multiple options could be ticked.

<b>38%</b> Information and momentum to pursue a range of green infrastructure initiatives eg: community projects, local analysis/modelling, policy updates, asset management etc	<b>62%</b> Information and momentum to pursue planning controls that support the multiple. Benefits of green infrastructure	<b>31%</b> No changes yet, but will seek out more knowledge about green infrastructure for future possibilities.	<b>0%</b> No changes. Unconvinced.
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**Loci Response:** This response is very different from the last two years we have run the course. This is the strongest outcome we have seen for pursuing planning controls. This may be partially due to the higher number of planners in attendance, and it may be partially due to the new State Stormwater Provisions that planners are now required to respond to.

**12. What elements of green infrastructure would you most like to know more about?**

% of attendees that ticked option. Multiple options could be ticked.

<b>41%</b> Biodiversity	<b>12%</b> Air Pollution
<b>82%</b> Urban Forest	<b>41%</b> Open Space
<b>35%</b> Integrated Water Management	<b>71%</b> Integrated green infrastructure planning, policy and strategy
<b>24%</b> Soils	<b>65%</b> Integrated green infrastructure mapping and asset management

**13. General comments (these are direct quotes however they have been clustered by Loci)**

Good pace and mix of presenters. Opportunity to present from the private land side as well as public (land side).

Session was very practical. All speakers were knowledgeable. Really interesting to hear from a range of experts. Liked the range of topics and the two-way discussion.

Presentation style very engaging. Topic is explained/discussed in simple terms. Sheridan is a very engaging presenter. Enjoyed the lunchbreak site walk.

Enjoyed appreciated the session constantly brought back to planning and statutory planning framework.

The resources and links provided (were helpful)- webpages, ppt slides, handouts, spatial mapping techniques, spatial data sets available for free etc. Targets & objectives to use in my strategic plans.

Some content in the slides is a little outdated. Some content was interesting but very niche (first session on green buildings). It would be good to touch on the impact of bushfire regulations.

Was focused on metropolitan Melbourne with development in existing areas. Would be great to understand and test examples and see data from regional. Would have been beneficial to have a less urban-only focus and extended out to more issues relating to urban communities. Would be good to do working tutorials in the greenfield development sites.

**Loci Response:** This feedback reflects that Loci has succeeded in pacing the course well responding to feedback from previous sessions that it was too rushed. We are also presenting in an effective style. The gap that has been identified is the need to address more regional and greenfield planning issues. This reflects that 21% of attendees were from regional areas and 26% from growth area Councils.

# FYI – Session Program



21 May 2019

## **Green Infrastructure and Urban Planning**

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*Loci Environment & Place Inc. is a nonprofit change agent supporting knowledge growth and sharing among practitioners involved in shaping our cities for healthier environments and people.*

### **Event: Green Infrastructure and Urban Planning**

**Attendees:** Strategic urban planners, environmental planners, urban designers, landscape architects, urban foresters, placemakers, asset managers, conservation planners, engineers, project managers.

### **Content**

Green infrastructure planning is about trees, open space, green roofs, waterways and more. And importantly it's also the way that these natural elements fit together via our urban planning to maximise environment, health and liveability benefits.

The course is designed to be an introduction for practitioners on ways green infrastructure and urban planning come together before extending into practical skills in writing policy, provisions, project briefs used in contracts to support better best practice in resilient city shaping with green infrastructure.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Introduction to green infrastructure and how this can be supported across public and private land through urban planning, environmental planning and local action
- Be able to bring different urban specialists together from planners, engineers, landscape architects, water, soil and tree specialists, asset managers, conservation officers, placemakers and community groups to maximise green infrastructure implementation.
- Understand the rapidly emerging evidence base supporting green infrastructure including policy and design recommendations for addressing urban ecology, urban forestry and open space impacts in policy; water, soil and air quality improvements in masterplanning; and community-led design in engagement.
- Examine the role of 'Better Best Practice' in setting targets, frameworks, links and ongoing asset management to implement strategic green infrastructure implementation.