

PIA Planet Training Course

Sustainability Provisions in the Planning Scheme

3 March 2020



Event: PIA (Vic) Planet Course: Sustainability Provisions in the Planning Scheme
See training objectives and program on Page 3.

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

21 people attended the seminar.

20 evaluation forms were received and answers are compiled below. 95% response rate.

Please note, the first 5 questions are from the PIA survey and reflect 13 responses. 62% response rate.

The session was facilitated by Sheridan Blunt from Loci Environment & Place and Vickie Huang from LID Consulting. A guest presentation was provided by Natasha Palich from the Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environments.

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| 1. Out of 5, how satisfied were participants with this seminar? | Average 3.9 |
| 2. Out of 5, how well did participants feel the stated objectives were met? | Average 3.5 |
| 3. Out of 5, how satisfied were participants that they had enough time? | Average 4.2 |
| 4. Out of 5, how well did participants feel that discussion was encouraged? | Average 4.5 |
| 5. Out of 5, how knowledgeable did participants feel the facilitators were? | Average 4.2 |

Loci Response: After several years of increasing our scores, this year has shown a drop in satisfaction. The dissatisfaction primarily comes with a request for more detail. In response to this, Loci will return an activity to its schedule that enables the attendees to work through a sustainability application. It is also noted that the above scores come from a lower sample size whereas the larger samples size in the responses below reflect appreciation of the benefits of spending time on big picture. From last year, we were asked to increase the consultants' perspective and cover enforcement more. These were not raised as issues this year and we hope this reflects our improved coverage.

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| 6. Out of 10, how likely are you to recommend this seminar to your colleagues? | Average 8.1 |
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Participant background	No
Strategic Urban Planning	5
Statutory Urban Planning	15
Environmental Planning	2
Ecological Sustainable Design	1
Landscape Architecture	1
Architecture	2
*attendees could tick more than one box	

7. What were the most valuable parts of today's seminar for you?	Ticked by
Reminder of global environmental challenges & the value of local planners seeking change	30%
Learning more about ESD in buildings and existing ESD planning controls	70%
Learning more about the need to set up systems to support planning controls	50%
Learning more about CASBE and its support program	70%
Opportunities for questions and feedback with specialists	40%
Learning from, and networking with fellow participants	20%

Loci Response: This session showed a lot more interest in the global environmental challenges than usual (last year it was 5%). This may be because of our increased awareness of the climate crisis and devastating summer of bushfire. It is great to see an increased appreciation for having support systems (and linking to CASBE) to make planning controls work effectively. This session has a higher than usual score in learning from fellow participants which is something Loci sought to improve.

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| 8. This session was designed to cover the bigger context before delving into detail. Out of 10, how well did participants feel the bigger picture helped their understanding of sustainability? | Average 8.0 |
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9. **What changes do you think today's session will generate for you?** More than one could be selected.

<p>20% Information and momentum to help introduce new or updated planning controls for sustainability</p>	<p>50% Information and momentum to help set up better systems to support existing planning controls for sustainability (eg permit conditions, tracking, training, policy, monitoring etc)</p>	<p>20% Will better apply the existing ESD controls themselves (rather than focusing on system changes)</p>	<p>5% No changes.</p>
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Loci Response: *This is a higher rate of attendees indicating that they will work to improve supporting systems and appears to be a positive follow on from the high rate that this issue got in Question 7. No changes was selected by a consultant already applying high standards. Two others did not tick any box and therefore this is more likely to be 15%. All statutory planners indicated they would undertake some action following the course. It would be great to undertake follow up survey.*

Comments (the following comments are direct quotes; however they have been clustered by Loci)

Strengths

- Presentation from LID was really helpful as it gave basic information about how to introduce ESD requirements in developments and ideas for conveying information required/expectations to others within Council. The practical examples at the end were very useful especially the apartment reconfiguration activity.
- Good information, targeted at Councils with less previous exposure. Enough for me to refresh concept of ESD. (I will) use the knowledge to influence the developments before they get to Council. I will use the SDAPP fact sheets more. (The course will) help with writing SDA's for clients. It was beneficial to both Council and private consultancies.
- Greater confidence about planning level issues and interactions. Greater clarity about what planners can and can't do with the existing system, and what needs to be addressed by others/other processes.
- The main components that I got out of it was hearing the experience from other Council's, having a presenter from LID consulting chat about her experience, as well as a useful overview of how CASBE was formed and how we got here. Really bubbly and information presenter. Sheridan helps convey a lot of the principles about sustainability and importantly provided hope.

Room for Improvement

- I was hoping that more time would be spent on what to expect from a good quality assessment. The course was a bit high level and introductory - perhaps a more detailed version could be offered for more experienced practitioners that delves into specifics
- The course was too high level, I acknowledge the course description states it won't go into detail for BESS and WSUD, but there was not much discussion on HOW to apply sustainability detail for BESS and WSUD, but there was not much discussion on HOW to apply sustainability and environmental provisions - it merely focused on the tools that exist. I felt this was more useful for consultants and Councils who have no ESD policy...but for the majority of councils who have ESD or WSUD provisions the session did not add much value. Lose the 'bigger context' and add more detail. Too many questions around the room.
- (It would be good to) provide examples of sustainable development, examples of good outcomes/bad outcomes in built form, case studies for BESS report. A real-life application could have been worked through. A little more detail at the end were very useful especially the apartment reconfiguration activity. A little more detail on what a good assessment (SDA/SMP) looks like. Tips on what to look for.
- It would be good to have a few screen shots of BESS to demystify the interface. It would be helpful to show some more of how BESS tool is used/operates. I was hoping the session might drill a little further into preparing a BESS reports however I found out that CASBE offer this training separately. If this additional training could be recognised by PIA in terms of professional development that would be good
- You did the big picture to planning arena connection really well. Could you also do a planning arena to architecture /building regulations and certification?
- Great session - maybe few more opportunities to raise what issues we experience in our day to day job and what other Councils do to address it so we can learn from each there. Hard copy handouts are also useful if we could get.

Loci Response: *Attendees were almost universal in their request for more detail. Loci will respond to this by returning the activity of investigating a sample BESS report. This will satisfy many of the requests, however there will always be attendees who want greater detail only (and tell us to drop the big picture) and this goes against the intent and value of this session. Loci responded to this request by organizing DELWP to host a separate detailed stormwater session for planners, but I understand there is no separate detailed ESD session provided by for statutory planners.*

FYI – Session Program

Tuesday 3 March 2020

Sustainability provisions in planning schemes

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.



Content

Planning scheme controls with links to sustainability rating tools are playing an increasing role for cities in response to climate change, population growth and environmental pressures.

This course is designed to help planners apply current environmental planning provisions while also addressing ways future urban planning policies, controls and rating tools can keep improving to better achieve environmental objectives.

Learning Outcomes

- a) Provides Victorian context for current and potential site specific environmental controls
- b) Provides statutory planners with outline of steps needed to meet relevant State and Local Planning Policies for Environmental Sustainable Urban Design (ESD), Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD).
- c) Provides strategic planners with practical knowledge and guidance to pursue planning scheme controls for sustainability and supporting systems to ensure their successful application.
- d) Provides environmental planners with an understanding of statutory planning processes and procedures.
- e) The session will provide an overview of the BESS and STORM tools (however will not do this in detail).

Planning scheme controls with links to sustainability rating tools are playing an increasing role for cities in response to climate change, population growth and environmental pressures.

We want attendees to leave the event

- Knowing how the existing Victorian ESD and WSUD planning controls work
- Knowing how the existing ESD and WSUD controls can continually be improved to work better in future