

Rhys Johnson

Role: Assistant Development Manager at Blackburne

Age: 26

Qualifications: Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management and Economics)

Brief Biography: I gained my start in the industry at the age of 20 when he began working for an award winning construction company in the capacity of Contracts Administrator, successfully delivering more than \$20m worth of projects in both the commercial and retirement living sectors. This ignited my passion for property development which lead to me joining Blackburne at the start of 2015 and since then I have assisted in the delivery of over 245 apartments, including Monarc Apartments, Winner of the 2015 UDIA Awards for Excellence – Medium Density Development.



Q: What challenges do you see the property industry facing in the next 5 years?

A: With more people wanting to live near great amenity and the CBD, we need to ensure that we continue to get the most out of our existing infrastructure and limited resources to ensure we are able to satisfy this growing demand for years to come. It's really important that we're not short sighted when making pivotal planning decisions.

Q: Within the urban development industry what is the most significant project that you have worked on/been part of within your career to date?

A: Aria Apartments is a really exciting development in Swanbourne that I have been working on over the last 12 months. Due for completion this year, the development is made up of 156 Apartments with a level of amenity which will have residents feeling as though they are living in a five-star resort. The project is significant because it will showcase what can be achieved when urban density is embraced and done the right way.

Q: Within the urban development industry what influence does your role have on the future of our state (Building design, new estates, etc.)?

A: The apartment market in Perth is still in its infancy and I'm excited to see how it develops over the next 30 years. Population growth and shifting demographics look set to drive apartment demand. You now have more young professionals looking for affordable housing options along with that vibrant city lifestyle as well as the ageing demographics looking to downsize and move into low maintenance properties. It will be important that we continue to nurture and develop this demand by creating great places for people to live with a real focus on delivering value for the end user.