



Stewart Doran

Role: Planning Consultant - Urbis

Age: 23

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts BA (Hons.) (Urban and Regional Planning) Curtin University



Brief Biography: What is our relationship as human beings with our built environment? This is the question that led me to pursue a career as an urban planner. As a planning consultant I have the opportunity to work on a diverse range of projects from high density development to regional structure plans. My passion with planning lies within the human element of the built form, and how this define show we live. I'm driven behind finding innovative ways to explore how planning can influence Perth's urban context and delivering new ideas to promote best practice planning. Beyond life as a planner I play basketball and I enjoy kicking back to some live music.

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

A: The obvious challenges are there – e.g. how do we develop and plan for an increasingly growing population sustainably. The solutions are there too – urban infill, higher density, improved public transit infrastructure etc. I believe the ultimate challenge will be how the property industry adapts to a new generation of public perception in the face of confronting development outcomes. In an age where information is digitally available in an instant and change is rapid and unforgiving, being transparent, educating and providing simple information to the community will be key.

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: The nature of my role at Urbis has allowed me to explore a diverse range of projects and gain experience through a number of facets in the property industry. One of my most significant projects had been working as part of a team to facilitate approval for the major expansion of the Westfield Innaloo shopping centre. The project required a range of consultation with key stakeholders and various project consultants. What was interesting with this project was the collaboration that was involved throughout the entire development process and the amount of negotiation required with both local and State Government in seeking the most effective development outcome. This gave me invaluable experience in developing negotiating skills required for delivering a project of this nature.

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

A: Planning is often referred to as the jack of all trades, master of none. We as planners have contextual knowledge of a range of industry fields and therefore act as the intermediary between these fields. Ultimately we act to deliver built outcomes for the public good. My role within the urban development industry and the future of our state is in the guiding of development. As a planning consultant we will work on behalf of clients seeking to facilitate a specific development outcome – at a strategic level this may involve the shaping of cities and communities in master planning sustainable, effective neighbourhoods and town centres that are both livable and economically sound. At a statutory level we will interpret and facilitate development with the vision of a locality as identified by local Governments.