

## Vivienne Edwards

**Role:** Civil Project Engineer – Principal, Wood & Grieve Engineers

**Age:** 30

**Qualifications:** Bachelor Engineering (Civil) (Honours) UWA, Bachelor Commerce (Management, Human Resource Management, Strategic Management Minor) UWA, MIEAust



**Brief Biography:** As an engineer, I choose a career path in the Urban Development industry as the role enables me to undertake both engineering design and superintendence of projects, giving lots of variety in the work I do and the opportunity to be involved in seeing what you've designed be built. As an engineering consultant, I'm involved with a project from before a client chooses to purchase a parcel of land, right through the planning phases, design and ultimate construction of the subdivision. I enjoy working with a variety of different clients and consultants on a range of projects meaning on one day I could be flying to the Pilbara and the next I could be driving around the metro area. Outside of work I enjoy morning runs along the coast with my dog.

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

**A:** The biggest challenge I see facing the urban development industry as a whole is housing affordability. To address this issue will require a joint effort from all fronts within the industry and will likely require a change in market perceptions including the acceptable site classification of lots, light framed housing product and a change to the great Australian dream of a 4 x2 house, to more cost efficient building structures.

**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 most significant project I've worked on to date would be the Karratha City Centre redevelopment project. This project is still ongoing and has involved the development of Karratha from a regional centre to a city, which appropriately responds to its isolated and harsh environment. It's been very rewarding to watch the transformation of the town, now with a city appropriate main street, complete with traffic lights, plenty of shade and new facilities.

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

**A:** Being involved with our clients in the feasibility stage of them acquiring land, enables me to shape the direction of new subdivisions and provide engineering advice to ensure efficiency and affordability in the development and staging of new subdivisions. This ensures that developments are more affordable to the consumer and that developments proceed in a logical fashion to suit available infrastructure.