



POSITION DESCRIPTION/SPECIFICATION

1. POSITION IDENTIFICATION

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| Title | Senior Urban Planner | Level | 7/8 |
| Business Unit | Planning Services | Position Number | 00115, 00122, 00125, 00511, 00609, 00778, 01479, 01674, 01740 |
| Directorate | Planning & Community Development | Date Established | June 2006 |
| Reporting to | Coordinator Planning Approvals; Coordinator Urban Design and Policy | Date Updated | March 2026 |

2. KEY OBJECTIVES

- Undertake the performance of the City's statutory planning function by examining, processing, and reporting on development applications, subdivision applications/clearances, structure plan applications and local planning scheme amendments.
- Demonstrate consistency in decision making and a high level of understanding of the City's planning framework when exercising delegation.
- Contribute to the leadership of the team, including monitoring and reviewing the work of Urban Planners, to build knowledge and expertise and ensure the City's service levels are achieved.
- Undertake or participate in planning project initiatives and policy development, including Urban Design and Policy projects.
- Provide professional planning advice to the general community, other government agencies, developers, consultants, and other City employees.

3. KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Exercise delegation in accordance with the City's Delegated Authority Register with a key emphasis on achieving quality-built form and land use outcomes within the City of Joondalup.
- Provide guidance and advice to Urban Planners to deliver high quality of service, assessments and other relevant work.
- Provide accurate and timely planning advice, information, and recommendations/decisions in accordance with the City's protocols, procedures and relevant legislation.
- Prepare and review planning assessments and/or reports for decisions makers and determinations to ensure they are accurate and meet all statutory requirements.
- Ensure project work is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the City's Project Management Framework and business unit plan.
- Customer service is delivered in accordance with the City's Customer Service Charter and relevant protocols and procedures.
- Ensure prompt and accurate capture of corporate information and documentation in accordance with the City's record keeping system and associated policies, protocols, and practices.
- Comply with Work, Health and Safety (WHS) legislation, City protocols, procedures and other WHS related requirements, and actively support the City safety systems.

4. KEY ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Outcome: Senior Planning Activities

- Assessment of a range of planning proposals including development applicants, subdivision referrals and clearances, structure plans, scheme amendments and local development plans.
- Preparation of reports to Council, Development Assessment Panel, Joondalup Design Review Panel and for determination under delegation authority.
- Review planning assessments, correspondence and reports prepared by Urban Planners and Senior Planners (peer review) on a range of planning matters and provide feedback when required to improve the quality of assessment and decision making/recommendations.
- Negotiate with applicants, consultants and developers to achieve quality planning outcomes which align with the expectations set by the City's planning framework.
- Assist in the allocation and monitoring of the team's day to day activities to ensure that responsibilities, obligations, and functions are discharged in a professional and timely manner.
- Assist in the supervision, feedback, and training of Urban Planners within the team with a strong emphasis on customer service (internal and external).
- Prepare and review a range of planning assessments and reports on statutory planning items including Local Planning Scheme amendments, structure plan proposals, subdivision applications and clearances, development applications, liquor licenses and Crown land matters, in accordance with statutory requirements, planning policies and sound planning principles.
- Research and draft responses or information for the general community, applicants, other business units, Elected Members, Members of Parliament, and others on matters pertaining to planning and the subunit, including complaints.
- Proactively build positive working relationships with, but not limited to, planning, building, infrastructure, compliance, and environmental health to assist with resolution of matters.
- Perform other duties as requested within the scope of this level and in accordance with skills, knowledge, and experience.

Outcome: Projects

- Undertake projects relating to development assessment, strategic planning and urban design and policy, including preparing local planning policies, strategies, local development plans, structure plans and scheme amendments.
- Prepare and review submissions under consideration by State Government agencies.
- Effective engagement and collaboration with project team members to receive required inputs.
- Undertake project management tasks including setting priorities, establishing objectives and milestones, estimate times and scheduling activities.
- Prepare briefs for consultant involvement in undertaking planning related tasks and supervise the resulting work.
- Prepare relevant project reporting documentation.
- Deliver projects in accordance with agreed scope, timeframes, and budgets.

Outcome: Advice and Representation

- Advise and assist the Coordinators and Manager on planning matters.
- Assist the Coordinator in providing feedback to Urban Planners through the performance review process.
- Liaise with and provide professional advice to the general public, applicants, other City employees and government agencies regarding planning matters.
- Liaise with, and provide direction to, the City's Legal Officers Solicitors regarding planning related legal matters and the preparation of legal documents.
- Represent the City at industry events, workshops and meetings.

- Attend and provide expert advice (including preparation of submissions) on behalf of the City at the State Administrative Tribunal or in court.

Outcome: Continuous Improvement

- Maintain outcome focused work procedures using performance measures.
- Identify and record opportunities for improvement to procedures or systems that will increase efficiency or delivery of better customer service.
- Contribute towards the identification, development, implementation and maintenance of operational procedures and policies.
- Proactively work in conjunction with, but not limited to, planning, building, infrastructure, compliance, and environmental health to ensure efficient and effective communication of cross-functional information.

5. **WORK RELATED REQUIREMENTS**

Essential Skills, Knowledge, Experience and Qualifications:

Highly Developed Skills in the following areas:

- Verbal and written communication skills, including report writing.
- Interpersonal and negotiation skills.
- Decision making, analytical, research and design skills.
- Time management skills.
- Highly developed computer literacy/keyboard skills including the Microsoft suite of programs.
- Highly developed customer service skills.
- Project management skills.
- Coaching and feedback skills.
- Specialist ability to administer and interpret Town Planning, Local Government and associated legislation, local laws and procedures.

Knowledge:

- Comprehensive knowledge of the structure and function of Local, State and Commonwealth governments in relation to statutory town planning, environmental, land use and development issues.
- Comprehensive knowledge of and specialist skills to administer and interpret the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, *Residential Design Codes* and related legislation and government policies.
- Detailed knowledge of activities, processes, and work practices relevant to development applications, subdivisions, local development plans, structure plans, and local planning scheme amendments.
- Working knowledge of community participation processes and methodologies.
- Working knowledge of physical, natural, human, and environmental factors and processes relevant to strategic planning.
- Working knowledge of land related matters, including Crown land matters, and associated legal documents.

Experience:

- Substantial experience in statutory land use planning within the context of Local and/or State Government.
- Sound experience in the assessment, processing, and reporting development applications, subdivision applications and clearances, local development plans, structure plans, scheme amendments.

- Sound experience in the preparation of local development plans, structure plans, scheme amendments, strategies, policies, and other project work.
- Experience in mentoring and coaching within multidisciplinary work teams.

Qualifications / Clearances:

- Tertiary qualification appropriate to Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design.
- Current Western Australian ‘C’ Class Driver’s Licence.

6. EXTENT OF AUTHORITY

- Exercise delegation in accordance with the City’s Delegation of Authority Register.
- Exercises a degree of autonomy but advice is available on complex or unusual matters.
- Establishes work priorities and monitors workflow in area of responsibility.
- This position may exert influence on consultation and negotiation with internal business units, government agencies, developers, and consultants to achieve satisfactory planning outcomes and meet the Council policies.
- Undertake a range of duties within work area, including problem definition, planning and the exercise of judgment.
- Complex decision making requiring analytical approach, development, creativity and adaptation where methods, procedures and processes are often not well defined.

7. WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Level of Supervision:

- Works under limited direction.

Internal:

- All other Business Units

External:

- General public
- Government departments and agencies
- Applicants
- City’s legal advisers
- Appellant bodies/ State Administrative Tribunal
- Other local authorities

8. POSITION DIMENSIONS

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| NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES DIRECTLY REPORTING TO POSITION | 0 |
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