

Cape Otway Road Australia Development Advisory Committee

Member Biographies – November 2019

Surname	First Name	Biography
Chair		
Mitchell	Kathy	Kathryn (Kathy) Mitchell is the Chief Panel Member of Planning Panels Victoria. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Planning, a Graduate Diploma in Urban Sociology and a Master of Arts in Planning (Research). She has previously worked in the private sector, local government, and as an academic, specialising in social and strategic planning, and Activity Centre development. She was a Senior Panel Member with Planning Panels Victoria from 1996 until her appointment as Chief Panel Member in June 2004. Kathy was an occasional sessional member with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal from 1999 – 2004, and is the immediate past President and a Fellow of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association. Kathy regularly chairs planning and environmental matters of State significance, including Fishermans Bend Review Panel, Melbourne Metro EES, East West Link, Logical Inclusions Advisory Committee, Standard Development Contributions Advisory Committee, Princes Highway EES, Victoria Desalination Plant EES, Sugarloaf North South Pipeline, Woolworths 'Oxygen' roll-out, Point Lonsdale EES, and Wyndham Boat Harbour EES. She has a strong reputation for chairing hearings with certainty fairness, and timeliness.
Deputy Chair		
O'Neil	William	William O'Neil is a Director of O'Neil Pollock & Associates, an independent town planning and economic development consultancy based in Harcourt, Central Victoria. William specialises in strategic and statutory town planning services and local and regional economic development strategy preparation. William is also a Senior Sessional Member with Planning Panels Victoria. In his 18 years with Planning Panels Victoria William has chaired or been a member of a wide range of residential, commercial, industrial and whole of planning scheme amendments and Environmental Effect Statement hearings throughout metropolitan Melbourne and country Victoria. In addition to his town planning and Australia-wide regional economic development work, William also serves on the Board of Directors of Coliban Water.
Members		
Bell	Elissa	Elissa is a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria. She has a Bachelor of Science (Marine and Freshwater Ecology and Environmental Chemistry), Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice. She was admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 2013. Elissa has over 10 years' experience in both private and public sectors specialising in environmental impact assessment, environmental and planning approvals, environmental management systems, stakeholder engagement and public participation in environmental approvals. Most recently, Elissa was a Senior Project Manager at PPV managing major Advisory Committee and Inquiry projects including the Government Land Standing Advisory Committee, Melbourne Metro Rail Project, Flemington Hill and Epsom Road Advisory Committee and Animal Industries Advisory Committee.

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Natasha	Reifschneider	<p>Natasha is a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria. She has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Planning), and Diploma of Natural Resource Management. Natasha Reifschneider is an environmental assessment and planning practitioner with over twenty years' experience in the management and delivery of impact assessment and environmental approvals for the industrial and infrastructure sector. Natasha's technical area of focus is navigating environmental approvals for projects and providing strategic advice on the development and delivery of projects to manage and achieve environmental approval requirements, coupled with the development and delivery of community and stakeholder engagement programs.</p> <p>Natasha's core strengths are in management of multidisciplinary teams, options assessment, statutory approvals and consultation/ engagement. Natasha has previously worked in both State and Local Government in statutory approvals prior to her current employment in the private sector as a consultant.</p>