



# Capability Statement

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*Unlocking regional potential  
through collaborative solutions*



## Acknowledgement of Country

UP North acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, air and waters where our offices are based. We also pay respect to the Elders, past and present, and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people we work with and whose ancestral lands we visit. We also pay our respects to the Papua New Guinea people and Pacific Island communities who have played a significant role in shaping the places we live and work.

ABOUT US

## Our Community Vision

Working at the intersection of community, industry, government, and place. Our approach is partnerships with purpose. UP North brings together a team of the best and brightest in their collective fields to collaborate on projects that deliver on our shared passion for regional equality.

Our knowledge and experience has been forged by the social fabric of our regional location, set amid irreplaceable ecosystems and cultures that fire our intellects and imaginations.

We understand living and doing business in regional and rural areas. Small enough to be flexible, but large enough to offer a complete range of government and community services, we are a team of industry leaders that share a genuine passion for the work we do.

Our team combine their industry leading engagement skills, with technical backgrounds in planning, government, communications, community development, social science, health, environment, design, infrastructure, and economics & advisory services.

We strive to make a positive difference for our clients, our community, our practice and our planet, for today's generation and those to come.

Putting the big questions



front



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OUR PEOPLE

## Stronger Together

We are planners, engineers, economists, environmental scientists, and strategic thinkers dedicated to community outcomes.

Individually, we're experts in our chosen field, but our greatest strength is when we come together, supporting our clients with exceptional service, navigating complexities, solving problems, and delivering a lasting outcome.

We value true client relationships and we work with you to refine your idea and create great places, one project at a time.



The team we present  
is the team you get.



**Kelly Reaston**



**Peter Boyd**



**Nikki Huddy**



**Matthew Kelly**



**Rudd Rankine**



**Sean Kelly**



**Lynette Bunker**



**Shea Reaston**



**Kelly Barnes**



**Ben Carroll**



OUR PEOPLE

## Kelly Reaston

Kelly is an unapologetic regionalist who believes that rural and regional towns are the custodians of our nation's future.

She has a passion for nurturing professional pathways to retain talent in the regions and firmly believes that the best results are achieved when we collaborate.

Kelly has over 20 years' experience in the planning, property and Local Government sectors. Kelly was the Director of Planning at the Cairns Regional Council for over 10 years.

Kelly's Local Government portfolio included the following areas of responsibility:

- Strategic planning & development and engineering assessment
- Sustainability & environment
- Economic Development and event procurement
- Property services
- Cemeteries
- Public health approvals & public health inspection and enforcement
- Environmental & planning compliance
- Local Laws & animal management
- Regulated Parking
- CCTV and Citysafe security patrols

Prior to starting her career in Cairns, Kelly worked abroad in the U.K. and Canada giving her a global context on which to base her planning and policy advice.

Kelly specialises in town planning, major project planning and delivery, property and local government advice.

Her Local Government experience is unmatched in the market.

### Get in contact

**Mobile** 0400 974 688

**Email** [kelly@upnorthgroup.com.au](mailto:kelly@upnorthgroup.com.au)

**Location** Far North Queensland & Brisbane

### Specialising in

- Planning
- Community Development
- Tourism
- Government Services
- Tourism & Strategic Project Advice
- Advocacy
- Policy
- Leadership and Cultural Change

### Sectors

- State
- Government Owned Corporations
- Local Government
- NGOs
- PBCs
- Not for Profit Organisations
- Land Councils
- Qld Government Statutory Bodies
- Environmental Management Organisations
- Education Sectors
- Housing
- Tourism Organisations



## Get in contact

**Mobile** 0402 803 203

**Email** peter@upnorthgroup.com.au

**Location** Far North Queensland

### OUR PEOPLE

## Peter Boyd

Peter has more than two decades experience in the development of policy and the implementation of projects in the following areas: economic development, neighbourhood planning, heritage strategy, urban design, regional planning, strategic planning & infrastructure coordination.

Peter's experience covers the full range of planning activities — project management, research, policy, strategy, local area planning, statutory planning, master planning, feasibility and development application lodgement and assessment.

Peter's knowledge and experience allows him to effectively engage with multidisciplinary teams to deliver outcomes from concept phase through the development assessment process.

His focus on sustainable development practices seeks to create successful places where people live, work and visit. His strong network of positive working relationships with government and industry, assist in giving him a solid grounding in corporate governance and business practices.

### Specialising in

Town Planning

Strategic Project Advice

Community Development

Government Services

### Sectors

Local Government

NGOs

PBCs

Not for Profit Organisations

Land Councils

Qld Government Statutory Bodies

Environmental Management Organisations

Private Education Sector

Tourism Organisations



## Get in contact

**Mobile** 0437 673 947

**Email** [nikki@upnorthgroup.com.au](mailto:nikki@upnorthgroup.com.au)

**Location** Far North Queensland

### OUR PEOPLE

## Nikki Huddy

Nikki Huddy is based in Far North Queensland, is a passionate Regionalist and the Australian Town Planner of the Year (2020/21) which is an acknowledgment of her advocacy work across Regional Queensland.

Nikki is a champion for place-based solutions, she is highly regarded for her work with Local Governments and community groups, identifying opportunities and solutions that respond to local issues.

Nikki is known for her passion and ability to see opportunities for great community outcomes. Her capacity to see and think strategically is the value she contributes to projects and organisations.

Nikki is a Churchill Fellow, Planning Institute Fellow, mentor and Adjunct Senior Lecturer at JCU. These roles demonstrate her commitment to connecting industry, research and community.

Nikki says that her best work is done in cross-disciplinary teams and over the last 5 years she has been recognised at the State and National level for her work including the National Community Wellbeing & Diversity Award for road safety programs with JUTE Theatre; Improving Planning Processes Award with Terrain NRM and FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils; Public Engagement & Community Planning Award with JCU and UN Habitat; and the inaugural Outstanding Female Planner.

Working closely with Regional communities provides opportunity to conceive and implement projects that have significant social benefit for relatively little capital outlay.

Nikki has unique set of experience and skills that enables her to assist Agencies and Communities to translate their messages and plans into actions that are realistic, adoptable and readily implemented.

### Specialising in

Planning | Community Development

Tourism | Government Services

Indigenous Co-design

Transport & Micro-mobility

### Sectors

Aboriginal Shire Councils

Local Government | NGOs | PBCs

Not for Profit Organisations

Land Councils | Energy & Renewables

Tourism Organisations



## Get in contact

**Mobile** 0417 790 016

**Email** [matthew.kelly@regionaladvisory.com.au](mailto:matthew.kelly@regionaladvisory.com.au)

**Location** Far North Queensland

### OUR PEOPLE

## Matthew Kelly

Matthew is a leading economist with a passion and drive for developing regional Australia.

He has led a number of significant infrastructure and private development projects and has over a decade of experience across project management, stakeholder engagement, economic and financial analysis, and strategic planning.

Key areas of technical expertise include economic and social impact assessment, cost benefit and triple bottom line analysis, financial appraisal and cost recovery pricing. Work has frequently extended to advocacy, marketing, and public awareness to support major projects and key policy decisions.

Matthew has a strong background in stakeholder consultation, economic development planning, and management of multi-disciplinary project teams having led significant projects across Australia and internationally for all three levels of government, the private sector, and not for profit clients.

### Specialising in

Economic & Financial Appraisal

Demand Forecasting

Market Appraisal

Economic Development

Strategic Planning

### Sectors

Commercial & Residential Property

Local Government

Agriculture

Recreational/Tourism Infrastructure

Value Adding



Capability  
Statement



## Get in contact

**Mobile** 0488 388 895

**Email** rudd@aroindustries.com.au

**Location** Far North Queensland  
& Brisbane

### OUR PEOPLE

## Rudd Rankine

Rudd's qualifications in Engineering, Business and Education allows him to work collaboratively across a range of industries.

Drawing from these different backgrounds allows Rudd to develop successful and innovating solutions to problems for his clients. This coupled with a strong work ethic and continual improvement approach to work practices, have resulted in the development of a very dynamic and responsive approach to problem solving.

He is a trusted advisor to private and local government clients throughout Queensland.

Rudd has extensive experience in large civil construction projects and has completed multiple infrastructure planning and design projects for many Councils across Queensland and has prepared the Cairns and Douglas Priority Infrastructure Plans (now LGIPs).

Rudd is the leading consultant for Local Governments carrying out works supported by the State Funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

### Specialising in

Engineering & Infrastructure

Economics

Government Services

Infrastructure Planning

Design & Delivery

Municipal & Development Engineering

Civil & Geotechnical Engineering

Project & Program Management

Remote & Regional Communities

### Sectors

State

Government Owned Corporations

Local Government

NGOs

PBCs

Not for Profit Organisations

Land Councils

Qld Government Statutory Bodies

Environmental Management Organisations

Private Education Sector

Tourism Organisations



## OUR PEOPLE

## Sean Kelly

Sean is a PhD candidate at James Cook University with previous experience in regional economics, wealth management and teaching. He has spent several years in data analysis, developing skills in statistical analysis and presentation, often using excel and specialised software.

Much of his early work was on portfolio investments and financial time series but has since shifted to focus on regional economies. He has taught several subjects in economics and financial planning at James Cook University.

Sean's recent work has included an Economic Impact Assessment of a new active transport corridor in Bega NSW, Economic Analysis of the AEIOU Foundation Townsville Expansion, and socio-economic profiling associated with new sporting and recreational facilities in Mount Isa.

Sean was awarded first class honours on completion of his Bachelor of Economics.

### Get in contact

**Mobile** 0457 400 115

**Email** [sean@regionaladvisory.com.au](mailto:sean@regionaladvisory.com.au)

**Location** Far North Queensland

### Specialising in

Economic & Statistical Analysis

Demand Forecasting

Economic Development

Strategic Planning

### Sectors

Commercial Property

Financial Services

Local Government

Agriculture

Recreational/Tourism Infrastructure



OUR PEOPLE

## Lynette Bunker

Lynette is a town planner with over 30 years' experience, working in both the private and public sector, with a passion for working with organisations to create liveable, sustainable and vibrant communities.

She has extensive experience in local government planning, particularly understanding how planning can play a role in achieving the community's vision. Her focus is on creating the best outcome, often juggling competing needs and interests.

Lynette has demonstrated experience in the preparation and implementation of strategic planning projects, planning scheme preparation, regional planning and local planning.

Lynette works effectively as a project manager or key contributor and enjoys collaborating with multi-disciplinary teams.

Lynette is committed to engaging with stakeholders and the community. Lynette has always sought to develop strong working relationships with community, development industry and government, and passionately believes in the power of working together to get positive outcomes.

Lynette has extensive experience in dealing with legal proceedings in the Planning and Environment Court, including managing appeals and originating applications. This honed her skills and ability to distil complex issues, find solutions and ways to move forward.

### Get in contact

**Mobile** 0487 221 801

**Email** [lynette@upnorthgroup.com.au](mailto:lynette@upnorthgroup.com.au)

**Location** Far North Queensland &  
Airlie Beach

### Specialising in

Planning

Community Development

### Sectors

Local Government



## Get in contact

**Mobile** 0484 235 272

**Email** shea@upnorthgroup.com.au

**Location** Far North Queensland &  
Brisbane

### OUR PEOPLE

## Shea Reaston

Shea is able to draw from his qualifications in law and business to interpret and apply policy across a broad range of areas.

Although based mostly in Brisbane, he remains passionate about Far North Queensland, where he was born and raised. Prior to beginning his career with UP North, Shea worked with organisations promoting interstate and intrastate tourism; advertising the appeal of regional Queensland to the broader Australian market.

Shea understands the importance of maintaining working relationships between various stakeholders, and endeavours to promote an understanding of shared interests. His approach to stakeholder engagement is informed by his training in mediation, as he seeks solutions which are mutually beneficial and foster ongoing, productive relationships.

While specialising in local government advice and planning, Shea has an enthusiasm for continued learning and process implementation which can be applied to various fields.

### Specialising in

Planning

Tourism

Government Services

### Sectors

Local Government

Tourism Organisations

Qld Government Statutory Bodies

Not for Profit Organisations



### Get in contact

**Mobile** 0404 882 366

**Email** [kellybarnes@upnorthgroup.com.au](mailto:kellybarnes@upnorthgroup.com.au)

**Location** Far North Queensland

#### OUR PEOPLE

### Kelly Barnes

Kelly has over 28 years of Local Government experience, she works with organisations to plan, develop and facilitate community developments, strategic projects and better outcomes.

With demonstrated experience in the fields of planning & development, compliance, property, community consultation, project management, strategic and growth management.

Kelly is dynamic, agile and known for her ability to engage and motivate whilst building strong relationships.

Her focus is on working with local government, NGO's, Land Councils, PBC's and not-for-profit organisations. Kelly is passionate about creating positive change in regional and remote communities and she has a great ability to ask the right questions and find connections across projects and professional disciplines that result in well-rounded and exceptionally strong outcomes.

#### Specialising in

Planning

Government Services

Compliance & Enforcement

Property Tenure

#### Sectors

Local Government

NGOs

PBCs

Qld Government Statutory Bodies

Not for Profit Organisations



OUR PEOPLE

## Ben Carroll

Ben has over a decade of experience in the investigation, planning and environmental management of Resource, Infrastructure and Urban Growth industry projects throughout Queensland.

Ben has specialist technical expertise in erosion and sediment control, holding the internationally recognised Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) accreditation. Ben is highly motivated and experienced in successfully delivering environmental outcomes across all project phases—from pre-construction planning and approvals to on-site construction monitoring and auditing. Ben’s knowledge and understanding of environmental legislation, along with his scientific interpretation and reporting skills has resulted in a demonstrated ability to deliver high quality advice and results on projects of significant calibre and sensitivity.

### Get in contact

**Mobile** 0411 568 402

**Email** [ben@upnorthgroup.com.au](mailto:ben@upnorthgroup.com.au)

**Location** Far North Queensland

### Specialising in

- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Environmental Project Management
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Water Quality Management
- Government Services
- Sustainability

### Sectors

- Local Government
- NGOs
- Construction
- Queensland Government
- Mining
- Energy and Renewables
- Environmental Management Organisations
- Property Development



OUR SERVICES

## Working with you

We work to build trusted relationships with industry leaders, our Traditional Owners, elected representatives (Local, State, and Federal), Government officers, and most importantly the community in which we work.

SECTORS SERVICES

State Government	Planning
Government Owned Corporations	Community Development
Local Government	Engineering
NGOs	Infrastructure and Civil Design
Not for Profit Organisations	Economic Development and Business Advisory
Qld Government Statutory Bodies	Tourism
PBCs	Government
Land Councils	Indigenous Co-design Services
Environmental Management Organisations	Energy and Renewables
Private Education Sector	Environmental Science
Tourism Organisations	Coastal and Climate Adaptation



skilling & developing local capacity

We have project partners in the following Regions



## Our partners



## Work with us

### Connect – Consult - Create

Shaping communities and putting people first.

T: 0400 974 688

E: [kelly@upnorthgroup.com.au](mailto:kelly@upnorthgroup.com.au)

[upnorthgroup.com.au](http://upnorthgroup.com.au)