



Capability Statement

*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



Capability
Statement

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 time.



**The team we present
is the team you get.**



Kelly Reaston



Peter Boyd



Nikki Huddy



Matthew Kelly



Rudd Rankine



Sean Kelly



Lynette Bunker



Isley Peacey



Kelly Barnes



Ben Carroll



Get in contact

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Location Far North Queensland
& Brisbane

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.

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



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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



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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



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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



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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

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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



Get in contact

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Location Far North Queensland &
Airlie Beach

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.

Specialising in

Planning

Community Development

Sectors

Local Government



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Location Far North Queensland &
Brisbane

OUR PEOPLE

Isley Peacey

Isley is the kind of planner who can move comfortably between the technical detail of a complex development application, the careful drafting of a planning scheme provision and a room full of people trying to understand what a legislative change means in practice.

Her experience spans State and local government, including working within the Queensland Government's State Assessment and Referral Agency and supporting councils across Queensland with complex development assessment, scheme drafting, strategic planning and regulatory compliance. She has also delivered training on new legislative provisions, with a talent for turning planning language into practical advice people can actually use.

Isley believes good planning should make sense to the people it affects. Whether she is presenting at an industry forum, working alongside a council planning team or introducing school students to planning, she brings clarity, curiosity and genuine enthusiasm to the conversation.

A keen traveler and lover of the outdoors, Isley is drawn to the landscapes, communities and character that make regional places extraordinary. Now living in the Canadian Rockies, she draws on planning ideas and experiences from across Canada to bring a broader perspective to her work in Australia. For Isley, planning is about helping remarkable regional places grow and change without losing what makes them special.

Specialising in

Planning

Community Development

Government Services

Sectors

Local Government

Qld Government Statutory Bodies



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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



Get in contact

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Location Far North Queensland

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.

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.

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