

A Great Debate: Community input in planning decisions - help or hindrance?
Thursday 3 June from 6pm, VLGA - 60 Leicester St Carlton

Meet our speakers who will debate that
community input in planning decisions is helpful...

Cr Heinz Kreutz
VLGA President



Cr Heinz Kreutz works as a senior lecturer at Monash University's School of Languages and holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics. Heinz dedicates most of his spare time to his local community, and his community engagement reflect his passion for social justice, local government and the environment at the local community level.

In addition to being President of the VLGA, Heinz is chairman of the Melbourne Metropolitan Waste Management Board, and serves on the Melbourne Metropolitan Transport Forum, Victorian Litter Action Alliance and Environment Advisory Group of the MAV. He is a member of the Centre for Civil Society and the State Government's Standing Committee for Cultural Diversity in Local Government. His work on cultural learning, neighbourhood cultural exchange, intergenerational education and positive ageing is complemented by a passion for good local government, community governance systems and adequate local support and service delivery to community groups.

Cr Geoff Lake
ALGA President



Cr Geoff Lake is the President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and a lawyer at the Melbourne offices of Minter Ellison Lawyers. He was first elected as a councillor in the City of Monash in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs in 2000 and became the youngest ever mayor in Victoria in 2002 at the age of 22.

Among his duties as President of ALGA, Geoff represents the 565 councils across Australia on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) alongside the Prime Minister and state and territory leaders.

In addition to being President of ALGA, Geoff is also a board member of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) in Melbourne where he also chairs its governance and risk committee, a councillor at the City of Monash and former President of the MAV.

Dr Clare Mouat
Urban Planning Lecturer
Melbourne University



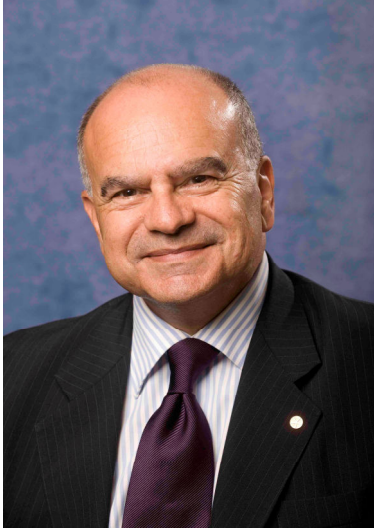
Dr Clare Mouat is an Urban Planning Lecturer at the University of Melbourne. Clare teaches sustainability, economic, social planning, and city futures. She completed a PhD (at The University of Auckland, NZ) about rethinking community in planning by reviewing the role of planners and citizens in building strong communities. Her research interests focus on practical issues in policy and planning including urban governance and multiculturalism, as well as families and children in community development.

She believes in the VLGA mission and purpose and brings a passion for equity and sustainable community living. Her recent move to Melbourne (in June 2009) has been made easier because of the wonderful people, experiences, food, shopping, and sports. Clare's latest adventures include learning Spanish, and taking up sailing (learning to crew) in Port Phillip Bay.

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Tony De Domenico
Executive Director UDIA (Vic)



Tony De Domenico joined the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) in May 2004. Prior to joining UDIA he spent three years in the Trade Commissioner service in Milan, Italy.

Tony was elected to the ACT Legislative Assembly in 1992 and was Deputy Chief Minister in 1995 with a range of portfolio responsibilities including: Industrial Relations, Economic Development and Tourism, Public Works, Transport and Regulatory Reform.

He is a former President of the Canberra Chamber of Commerce and has held numerous Board appointments.

He is currently a Director of ARDOCH and represents UDIA(Vic) on numerous public and private sector committees and working parties.

Rob McGauran
Director,
McGauran Giannini Soon Architects



Rob McGauran has qualifications in architecture, fine arts and business from the University of Melbourne. In 1985 he commenced with Mun Soon and the multi-disciplinary design practice of MGS. The firm has focused on issues including research-based design practice, sustainable urban development models, new mixed-use urban models, design for social inclusion, designing for a smaller environmental footprint, change management in cities and the role of design in creating livable cities.

In 1999, Rob was awarded a Life Fellowship by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and in 2001 was awarded the RAIA Research Prize to edit the first in a new series of annual research journals. Rob serves on a number of design panels for state governments as well as on the building development committees of Melbourne and Monash Universities and the board of Housing Choices Australia.

David Vorchheimer
President,
Planning Institute of Australia (Vic)



David Vorchheimer is President of the PIA (Victorian Division) and a town planner and senior associate at commercial law firm Russell Kennedy where he practices in planning, environment and local government law and is highly regarded in these areas.

David holds a degree in Law from the University New England and Planning from RMIT. Prior to joining Russell Kennedy, David worked as both a statutory and strategic planner in State and local government as well as in private consultancy.

David formerly managed the planning and building department at Knox City Council before which he worked as a planner and advocate at both Yarra and Port Phillip City Councils. David has served on the committee of the PIA since 2005, and has been the convenor of the Institute's continuing professional development program, Treasurer and most recently Vice President.