

# Paul Summers

## PLANNING STRATEGIES

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## BIOGRAPHY: Paul Summers

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

Paul Summers is a consultant with more than 27 years experience in the formulation and implementation of strategies particularly focused on land use planning.

#### 2 GOLD COAST

Paul was raised on the Gold Coast during the 1960s and 70s and later worked for the Gold Coast City Council as a planning officer in the period 1981-1986. During his childhood and through the boom years of the early 1980s as a planner, Paul experienced the major changes that occurred on the Gold Coast. He later used those experiences to guide Noosa's planning.

#### 3 NOOSA SHIRE

For the period 1987-2002, Paul was Deputy Shire Planner and Manager Strategic Planning with Noosa Council. Noosa's planning and commitment to community consultation is well known and Paul contributed strongly to this reputation.

Paul had responsibility for preparation and maintenance of Noosa's planning instruments and its extensive range of supporting studies – most notably the place-based 1997 Strategic Plan and its 34 planning studies.

He also prepared the first fully operational and adopted infrastructure charges plan in Queensland.

With the CEO of Noosa Council, Paul developed Noosa's innovative community governance model.

#### 4 CONSULTANCY

In 2003, Paul Summers Planning Strategies was established. The consultancy is based in Noosa Shire and:

- Applies contemporary and advanced approaches to strategic thinking and planning theory.
- Uses practicality in developing solutions to problems.
- Produces high level digital outcomes.
- Aims for client understanding of the outcomes and the data on which the outcomes rely.

The client focus of the consultancy is government and community organisations. The philosophical approach is based on helping organisations find their own way forward and providing assistance with developing their own solutions. Paul believes better solutions arise when those who live and work in their communities prepare and take responsibility for implementing those solutions.

It is a small consultancy designed to give high quality products, on budget and on time. At the same time, it is a diverse consultancy with ability to tackle a broad range of projects. Paul undertakes the majority of work, assisted by Noela Summers and from time to time other specialist consultants.

#### 5 EXPERTISE

Paul studied at the then Queensland Institute of Technology and is a Bachelor of Applied Science (Built Environment) and holds a Graduate Diploma in Urban & Regional Planning.

Paul is an expert in managing large, multidisciplinary projects. He is also an expert in designing frameworks to guide such projects including processes for consultation with the community, government and special interest stakeholders; gathering and analysing data with particular emphasis on spatial information and producing policy instruments that respond to community and government needs, environmental capacity and infrastructure capacity.

Dealing with environmentally sensitive areas, in particular in coastal foreshore areas, is another specialist field in which Paul has interest and extensive experience. In his capacities as a local government planner, he has been responsible for preparation of many planning and policy documents that have sought to protect coastal resources and exclude constrained land from development impacts, whilst identifying development solutions that do not bring about such impacts. He was instrumental in bringing about the Noosa River Plan, the first such model in Queensland. In his consultancy career, Paul acts for select developers that are committed to sustainability and has assisted in designing major developments that meet the necessary challenges of protection, whilst providing economic yield.

Another of Paul's specialist areas is the provision of strategic and tactical advice to a diverse range of stakeholders, including State and Local Government politicians, senior policy-makers and community organisations. This advice is designed to cut through the often complex circumstances exposing the likely benefits, outcomes or pitfalls.

Paul is highly computer literate and utilises an extensive range of software including GIS to deliver quality products. Manipulating extensive databases to distil simple and responsive policy outcomes is one such benefit of these skills.

## 6 MAJOR PROJECTS

Current or past major projects include:

- Preparation of the discussion paper on Centres & Residential Development for the SEQ2021 process.
- Preparation of a sub-regional plan for NORSROC<sup>1</sup>, feeding to the SEQ Regional Plan process.
- Preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy for Maroochy Shire (with ecologists) and subsequent implementation plans. This strategy was the recipient of a 'froggy' award in the Sunshine Coast Environment Council's 2007 awards process.
- Preparation of population capacity analyses and guidance on population issues for Sunshine Coast Councils.

<sup>1</sup> Northern Sub-Regional Organisation of Councils - Caboolture Shire, Caloundra City, Kilcoy Shire, Maroochy Shire, Noosa Shire, Pine Rivers Shire and Redcliffe City

- Peer reviewing or preparing documents for local governments including Cooloola, Maroochy, Noosa, Moyne (Vic), Pittwater (NSW) and Tumburumba (NSW).
- Guidance and advice to a variety of community organisations including those in Coolool, Maleny, Noosa, Palmwoods, Pittwater (NSW), Thirroul (NSW) and Tin Can Bay.
- Preparation of horse trail networks for the Queensland Dept Premier & Cabinet associated with the SEQFA process and for Queensland Water Infrastructure P/L associated with the Traveston Crossing dam.
- Preparation of the Northern Catchments Action Plan for the Moreton Bay Waterways & Catchments Partnership.
- Provision of strategic and planning advice relating to the Noosa North Shore Resort, the Cooloola-Great Sandy EcoCentre and the Woodford Folk Festival.
- Secretariat to a range of groups including the Environment Minister's Teewah Beach-Cooloola Working Group.
- Lecturing in community planning and regional planning at QUT in Brisbane.

## 7 FURTHER INFORMATION

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Paul operates his own web page as a tool to assist communicating with his clients. Visit:

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