

Tips for engaging a community that doesn't yet exist.
Meaningful community engagement in urban renewal and urban growth planning areas.

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The role of community engagement in the planning processes is evolving, communities are becoming more diverse and there is a greater government expectation that local knowledge is provided into planning decisions.

Communities are mobilising and increasing their capacity and expectation to “sit at the table” and have their say about how they want their neighbourhoods to evolve over time.

But what happens when there is no community? How can planning and the engagement process balance the needs of nearby existing communities with the rites and opportunities for future communities? Who do you talk to?

This presentation will present two scenarios, the Melbourne inner city and urban growth experience. It will outline the commonality and differences of these locations and will provide tips for engaging emerging communities to provide a balance between certainty for now and flexibility for the future.

Jo will draw on her experience of using different engagement tools and techniques to engage with residents, visitors and workers in inner city locations undergoing urban renewal (Fisherman's Bend and Footscray) and new emerging communities in growth areas (City of Wyndham and City of Casey).

The presentation will outline the importance of

- listening
- evidence based approach blending qualitative, quantitative and other social data
- understanding local and international planning trends
- learning from others through case studies
- engaging with experts to understand existing and emerging needs
- being creative to inspire a new way of thinking.