



## Michael O'Brien – Principal, OS&E

Associate (Australia/NZ) AtKisson Inc  
Senior Associate, SustainUs

BAppSc (Surveying)  
GD Nat Res Mgt & Wildlife Systems

**O'Brien Sustainability & Environment (OS&E)** has its focus in the area of sustainability, linking environmental, social, and economic issues to achieve better development outcomes. Its Principal, Michael O'Brien, is an environmental and sustainability professional with considerable experience in providing advice, assessment, and consultation to facilitate good outcomes for land development. Michael's focus is primarily on achieving sustainable urban development through a multi-faceted approach including environmental planning, effective management of environmental impacts, connecting people, and engaging communities.

Michael has experience in both the public and private sectors in the development assessment arena, addressing key issues of water and air quality, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, waste management, town planning, landscape planning, and regulatory requirements under relevant environmental and planning legislation.

Prior to heading out on his own, Michael was engaged by a Brisbane-based private consultancy to support the development industry, providing advice on a wide range of environmental and sustainability issues, including energy efficiency, water efficiency, water sensitive urban design, habitat management, climate responsive design, and including social outcomes to achieve sustainability.

Michael has worked with a number of State and Local Government agencies in Queensland, Australia, furthering sustainable development through identifying barriers and constraints, devising strategies and policies, coordinating partnerships, and engaging stakeholders.

In addition to starting OS&E, Michael represents an internationally recognised sustainability consultancy, SustainUs ([www.SustainUs.com](http://www.SustainUs.com)) as Senior Associate and lead Australian representative. SustainUs is part of the AtKisson Inc. global sustainability network ([www.atkisson.com](http://www.atkisson.com)) lead by Alan AtKisson, a world renowned exponent of sustainability. The vision for both OS&E and SustainUs is simple - **"Accelerate Sustainability"** - and to make the transition as easy as possible for businesses and communities.

With problems such as climate change, global poverty, economic and social insecurity visible in the forecasts and analyses of many of the world's leading authorities, it is time for a major paradigm shift for land development. It is going to take a tremendous amount of innovation to cultivate this shift. Moving government, business leaders, and communities in the direction of sustainability represents a significant challenge. Michael firmly believes that the transformation is possible because it is already under way. Through OS&E and SustainUs, Michael is dedicated to supporting this historical shift - and to speeding it up - for you, and your business.

## What OS&E does.

ABN: 42 447 396 472

While the advancement of sustainable development is not difficult, it does require that sustainable and environmentally responsible alternatives be chosen over the 'business as usual' approach.

Through OS&E, Michael can assist clients to achieve **genuine outcomes in the area of sustainability and environmental planning**. This is achieved through detailed project analysis, identifying specific requirements, and recommending appropriate solutions for each individual project. Further, the achievement of real outcomes is supported by Michael connecting clients with the right people and service providers, and providing additional information where necessary, to ensure the recommended solutions can be implemented 'on the ground'.

Professional services offered through OS&E include:

### Sustainable Development

- Sustainability reporting & assessment
- ESD construction options & inclusions
- Climate responsive design analysis and advice
- Energy efficiency & Smart housing options
- Water efficiency - reuse and demand management options
- Sustainability workshops, training and information

### Environmental Planning & Management

- Environmental impact assessment, reporting & development applications
- Environmental Planning - constraints analysis & reporting
- Environmental Approvals & licence applications under Environmental Protection Act 1994
- Environmental Management Plans

Through excellent relationships with a network of colleagues & professional associates, Michael can also arrange further assistance with:

- Ecology & mapping
- Vegetation Management
- Water quality & stormwater management
- Technical drafting - sustainable building design
- Marketing and communication
- Town planning & environmental approvals

## Experience Highlights

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### Sustainability

- PETRAC Redland Bay Leisure Life, Redland Bay: Sustainability Reporting for development application, and Sustainability Project Briefs for development activities. Completion of reporting and documentation to obtain Green Globe 21 Precinct Planning and Design Accreditation, 2005-2006.
- Brisbane City Council: Implementing Sustainability in Brisbane's Built Environment Strategy and Action Plan. Prepared for BCC Sustainability Project Team, 2005.
- The Green 'Sustainable Living for Seniors', Brisbane: Environmental Management Plan and environmental licence application for development approvals processes, 2004.
- Whitmore Square, Adelaide: Community Housing Design Competition (for Adelaide City Council) – ESD analysis and reporting to support sustainability inclusions in community housing, 2004.
- Pradella Group, Brisbane: Sustainability assessment and report for mixed-use development incorporating ESD initiatives, 2004.
- Investa – 'Riverpoint'. Sustainability analysis and reporting for apartment complex, West End, 2004.
- Multiplex – Trade Coast Central. ESD Analysis and recommendations for proposed industrial precinct incorporating principles of industrial ecology, 2004.
- Pikos Holdings, Gold Coast: Sustainability assessment and report for 8 storey residential apartment and beachhouse incorporating ESD initiatives, 2003.
- Cosmopolitan Developments, Brisbane: Sustainability assessment and report for medium rise residential apartment development incorporating ESD initiatives, 2003.
- EPA Sustainable Industries / UDIA Sustainable Urban Development Program, Brisbane (EPA), 2003.

### Land Development Projects and Development Assessment

- Stockland Freshwater Development, Pine Rivers: Environmental assessment and reporting, 2004.
- Ausbuild residential development, Redland: Environmental assessment and reporting, 2004.
- Ausbuild SpringAcre Masterplanned Community, Redland Shire, 2004.
- Ausbuild Masterplanned Community, Brisbane: Environmental assessment and reporting, 2004.
- Lensworth Kawana Waters, Sunshine Coast: Consultation and development assessment (EPA), 2002-03.
- Pacific Harbour Golf Course Precinct, Bribie Island. ESD and development assessment, (EPA) 2002-03.
- Coolum Industrial Estate, Sunshine Coast: Development assessment (EPA), 2003.
- Chancellor Park Masterplanned Residential Estate: Development Assessment and planning (EPA) 2002-03.
- Lensworth Masterplanned Industrial Parcel, Caboolture: Environmental constraints analysis, 2003.

### Environmental Impact Assessment / Review

- Brisbane Urban Corridor Impact Assessment, 2003
- Gateway Motorway Duplication Environmental Impact Assessment, 2003
- Caboolture-Landsborough Bypass Corridor Impact Assessment, 2002
- Port of Brisbane Expansion Environmental Impact Assessment, 2001-2002
- Petrie-Kippa Ring Rail Transport Corridor Environmental Impact Assessment, 2000 - 2001

### Consultation

- Hardrock Haulage Strategy Study, Steering committee member, EPA , 2001-2003
- Caloundra Downs Land Study, Steering committee member, EPA 2000-2001
- SEQ 2021 Sustainability Workshop, 2001

## Project Summary

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### Brisbane City Council: Implementing Sustainability in Brisbane's Built Environment – Strategy and Action Plan

Contact: Jennifer Bartlett, Sustainability Project Team.  
Ph 3403 8888. Email [jennifer.bartlett@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:jennifer.bartlett@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Brisbane (and Australia in general) has developed a sprawling car-based urban form that discourages efficient provision of services such as public transport and reduces social diversity, inter-action and cohesion. Rapid growth is occurring on the City's fringes. Rural land has been largely converted to other uses and our open space is now largely in public hands for conservation or recreation. The increasing density of Brisbane's existing suburbs, driven by historical block sizes, has assisted in reducing the inefficiency of the City but created social tensions as suburbs change their established character. As densification continues, particular care needs to be taken to manage the transition. Residents need mechanisms to maintain or re-establish the sense of community that can be jeopardised by a rapid influx of new residents who do not have the linkages of the established population. Brisbane City Council has recognised that there are both moral and environmental imperatives for working towards a more sustainable Brisbane, with a key focus being the implementation of sustainability relating to the built environment. Southeast Queensland is experiencing high levels of population growth, with resulting demands upon land, resources, services and infrastructure. This increased demand has implications for the way that BCC manages the development of Brisbane City and the provision of services, and the way BCC works with neighbouring Councils to manage growth across the region.

Brisbane City Council has already identified a number of key objectives to support its vision of *Living in Brisbane 2010*. Within Council, a number of divisions already recognise the concept of sustainability and its relevance to the way they do business, for both internal and external stakeholders. Many of these initiatives are relevant to ensuring that Council's vision carries through to the built environment in Brisbane.

Michael was commissioned to assist in identifying means and opportunities to achieve greater results in implementing sustainability in Brisbane's built environment. The project had a number of key objectives including:

- To identify and build on existing knowledge and programs related to sustainability within the urban environment (in both the residential and commercial development sector) internal and external to Council;
- to identify clear opportunities to 'mainstream sustainability' with internal and external stakeholders;
- to communicate the practicalities, report on successes and failures; and
- to apply the knowledge and outcomes related to sustainability in the built environment across Council activities and programs, both now and into the future.

Rather than 'reinvent the wheel' by duplicating initiatives across various Council and other areas, this project seeks to identify existing programs and projects which address issues of sustainability within the urban environment. Identifying the success and/or failings of existing programs will in turn assist in identifying opportunities to apply the learning and experiences to those (relevant) areas of Council business that have not yet begun to (effectively) implement sustainability.

Similarly, by linking to and partnering with existing successful sustainability programs **external** to Brisbane City Council (including private sector projects, and other Local and State Government Agencies), it will be possible to apply the learning and experiences of those projects in identifying opportunities better incorporate and promote sustainability within Brisbane.

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### SALA Homes: 'The Green' – Sustainable Residential Development for Seniors, Greenbank.

Contact: Scott Elsom, SALA Homes.  
Ph 3305 0089. Email [scott@salahomes.com.au](mailto:scott@salahomes.com.au)

The Green is being developed as a world first – a residential home community for seniors, based around the principles of sustainable development. The Green is being developed to provide seniors with a unique opportunity to live in a vibrant community offering security, independence and safety. There is also the added advantage of owning an environmentally responsible home at a very affordable price. This means big savings in the annual running cost of your home and a much healthier environment for you and future generations.

Michael was commissioned to assist with various sustainability and environmental management matters. Since then he has been engaged to work with SALA Homes in developing the sustainable development initiatives from 'The Green' on various projects.



#### Testimonial from Scott Elsom, The Green.

*As a consultant Michael is unique. On the one hand he has 'worked on the inside', and is able to more easily navigate the inner sanctum of both local and state government departments - his experience of both the processes and the culture within Government is highly valued. On the other hand, his experience working with developers and traditional consultancies gives him a clear understanding of the financial and time constraints faced by his clients.*

*Michael's career path illustrates his passion for a more sustainable world. This passion and his commitment to his clients will ensure that he is able to make a positive contribution to his client's projects and, more importantly, a significant contribution to the state of the world we live in.*