



## ***RURAL PLANNING SERVICES***

AK Consultants (AKC) provide technical reporting for most local Government planning requirements for development in rural areas. Our consultants have a background in bushfire risk assessment, flora, fauna and vegetation surveys, agricultural impact assessments, effluent reuse, farm business management, Land Capability, dam permits and safety reviews, and water licencing. This one-stop-shop approach has the potential to provide efficiencies in delivery and significant savings to our clients.

Our reports consider the potential conflicts between the various factors and provide a consistent and integrated approach to planning including spatial analysis using Geographical Information Systems (GIS). We work closely with Municipal Planners to ensure our assessments meet the relevant Municipal Planning Scheme requirements.

### **Bushfire Assessment**

AKC are accredited Bushfire Hazard Assessors and can undertake bushfire planning and assessments for subdivisions and building construction in bushfire prone areas to meet the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and Bushfire Codes.

### **Land Capability Assessment**

AKC has over 15 years experience in assessing Land Capability in Tasmania for developers, landholders, Councils, and Property Management Plans. We follow State Government guidelines, Planning Scheme requirements and our own State approved methodology (ask to see our protocol for more information).

### **Agricultural Reports**

AKC can provide comprehensive Agricultural Reports to enable Councils to consider the impacts of a proposed development and whether the proposal will meet the Planning Scheme requirements and those of the State Policy on the *Protection of Agricultural Land, 2009* (PAL Policy). This includes consideration of current and potential agricultural productivity (including determination of income potential), Land Capability, existing and potential irrigation water resources, and the potential for the development to constrain adjacent agricultural use.

### **Natural Values Reports**

AKC can undertake surveys for flora, fauna and vegetation with the level of detail provided tailored to suit the requirements of the client. We provide advice on management requirements, development applications for irrigation dams, mining leases, etc., impacts and offsets required as a result of proposed development, and rehabilitation and restoration works. We also have expertise in freshwater crayfish and burrowing crayfish assessments, including relocation for freshwater crayfish.

### **Expert Witness Services**

Each assessment is completed with an appropriate level of rigour to be able to meet the requirements of a Planning Commission hearing or Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal (RMPAT), should the need arise. We have attended a number of Planning Commission hearings and provided Expert Witness Services on behalf of clients in the RMPAT and are familiar with the procedures required under such circumstances.



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### Municipal Planning advice

AKC has a wealth of experience in planning within the Rural Resource Zone and can provide advice to planners, developers, Councils and Regional bodies on applying the implications of the PAL Policy in Tasmania. This includes expert witness reports and attendance at hearings and mediation sessions and conducting specialised studies designed to address specific concerns.

**Astrid Ketelaar**  
**B. Land Man, MAIA**  
Natural Resource Management  
Consultant  
0407 872 743

Astrid has been a natural resource management specialist since 1999 and has a background as a Technical Forester. With over 25 years experience in land management, Astrid specialises in irrigation water resources and land use planning.



**Michael Tempest**  
**B Env**  
Natural Resource Management  
Consultant  
0467 452 155

Michael is currently involved with projects relating to land use planning and environmental assessment and monitoring, including effluent reuse. Michael is a Provisional Bushfire Hazard Practitioner.



**Samantha Gadsby**  
**BSc, M. Env Man,**  
**MEIANZ**  
Natural Resource Management  
Consultant  
0400 143 772

Samantha has worked for AK Consultants since 2012 and specialises in water resources. Samantha also delivers services in natural values and land use planning.



**Sally Scrivens**  
**BSc (Hons)**  
Natural Resource Management  
Consultant  
0409 616 173

Sally started with AK Consultants in 2018 with a background in ecology. Sally specialises in natural values assessments and has experience in water resources and land use planning.

