**The Potential of Planning**

**Dr Wendy Steele**

Abstract

What is the potential for planning as a governance tool for living within our ecological limits? Is it possible for planning to better serve, protect and nurture our human and non-human worlds? Or is it locked into a monstrous almost cartoonish role as the ‘handmaiden of capitalism’ supporting and promoting developers (private and state) in economic growth and development ambitions? The role of planning as a whipping post for all society’s discontents is well rehearsed, yet few envisage a world sans planning. Many of us have serious doubts about the prospects for planning but what of its progressive role, its potential? Picking up on the work of Kenny and Meadowcroft (1999) who have focused on the synergistic relationship between sustainability and planning, the focus of this presentation is exploring the nexus of possibilities between planning and environmental justice broadly defined.  The role of the ethical ecological imagination needed to drive progressive change is outlined.

Speaker Biography

Wendy Steele is a Senior Research Fellow and Australian Research Council (DECRA) Fellow located in the Urban Research Program at Griffith University. Her current work focuses on the planning and governance of cities and in particular climate justice in the Australian city (with Jean Hillier, Diana MacCallum, Jason Byrne and Donna Houston)