

# I am a Geographer ...

## Coby Tomlins

Planned Precinct Manager, Sydney

I studied Geography at school through to senior levels and then completed Urban Planning at university. I fortunately have an uncle who is an urban planner, so knew I was interested in this field. I knew I wanted to study Geography as part of the learning and topics included demographics, planning and master planning, which is something I have always been passionate about. A city is a living, breathing place, requiring thoughtful consideration about how it is planned, from a regional level down to a street level. Urban planners need to make sure we are enhancing the elements of places we love and improving on the areas that can be upgraded.

In my role as a Planned Precinct Manager, I provide expert advice, effective management and oversight of the Planned Precinct program. This program plans renewal areas across Sydney, generally around planned or existing infrastructure such as a train station or hospital. The plans are based around local character and community values and future aspirations, ensuring that community services, wants and needs, housing and jobs are provided into the future to support population growth expected in Sydney.

I am responsible for key stakeholder engagement, supporting both internal groups (including the Office of the Minister for Planning, senior executive members and business units) and external groups (including councils, industry, government agencies and the broader community). I work in close collaboration with technical specialists, stakeholder engagement teams and key stakeholders to deliver planned precincts that meet community aspirations.

I use Geography skills and knowledge in all aspects of land-use planning perspective. For example, I am required to make sure essential services and needs for the community are provided in line with population growth. I work with people in many groups including demographers and statisticians who help to understand existing trends in an area and what might be expected future trends. This may range from population, to important employment figures and job types or dwelling types in an area, and what mix of dwelling types may be required into the future with changes in population. All these are very familiar to geographers.

With a growing population expected across the country, there are many job opportunities both in strategic and statutory planning roles.

