



# STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES

FROM A SPECIALIST ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



# Niche Environment and Heritage

As a specialist environmental and cultural heritage consultancy, Niche provides expertise in environmental assessment and approvals, biodiversity and archaeological survey, assessment, monitoring and management.

## We have a proven track record in:

- Environmental assessments and regulatory approvals
- Biodiversity assessment and management
- Heritage assessment and management
- Expert witness and peer review
- Policy and legislation input

## Niche consults to:

- Government – Commonwealth, State and Local
- Mining and extractive industry
- Road and rail authorities
- Developers
- Lawyers
- Planners and architects
- Engineers
- Utilities providers
- The Land & Environment Court

## About Niche

Niche Environment and Heritage is an environmental consulting company established in 2009 by Dr Rhidian Harrington, Matthew Richardson and Jamie Reeves. Together, they bring to Niche over 40 years of professional consulting experience and the knowledge and professional contacts gained from the successful completion of over 500 projects across a broad range of industry sectors.

Our experience tells us that our clients need to be heard and expect value for money. Cost management, timely response and a quality product are common goals for all projects. At Niche we understand that our clients and the success of their business is our business. We are committed to providing clear, independent, accurate advice and working with clients throughout their project's life to contribute to successful and efficient project outcomes.

We understand environmental legislation and how this translates on the ground for your project. We also understand the needs of our clients. This knowledge allows us to guide projects through the planning and approvals process to achieve the dual responsibility of project success and appropriate environmental conservation.

## The Niche difference

- ✓ Capacity
- ✓ Experience
- ✓ Commitment
- ✓ Cost Management
- ✓ Timely Response
- ✓ Quality Products



# Niche Services

The breadth of experience and proven track record in project delivery distinguishes Niche as an innovative, client focused company.

## Environmental Assessments and Regulatory Approval

- Review of Environmental Factors (REF)
- EPBC Act Referrals
- Subsidence Management Plans (SMP)
- Statements of Environmental Effects (SEE)
- Major project environmental assessments

## Biodiversity Assessment

- Terrestrial and aquatic flora & fauna survey and impact assessment
- Vegetation mapping
- BioBanking and offset negotiation
- Species Impact Statements (SIS)
- Ecological monitoring

## Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Management Services

- Archaeological and cultural heritage assessment
- Aboriginal cultural heritage management plans
- Heritage surveys and excavations
- Archaeological monitoring, salvage and clearance works
- Statement of Heritage Impact
- Conservation Management Plans
- Heritage regulation and compliance
- Aboriginal objects due diligence assessment
- Community consultation and negotiation
- Geoarchaeological interpretation and analysis
- Expert witness and peer review
- Ethnobotanical analysis and assessment

## GIS and Remote Sensing

- Satellite imagery orthorectification, vegetation indices, change detection, image classification and feature extraction
- Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS - LiDAR), including topographic modelling, vegetation analysis, canopy height models, foliage cover and multi-temporal analysis
- Topographical modelling, including contours, hillshade, slope, insolation, catchments and drainage networks, cross-sections, 3D views and line-of-sight analysis
- Spatial analysis
- Data QA/QC and metadata
- Map production

## Site Rehabilitation

- Landscape restoration planning
- Rehabilitation of mine site vegetation
- Vegetation Management Plans (VMP)
- Fauna management plans, habitat recreation and installation (i.e. nest boxes) and clearing monitoring

## Landholder Access Negotiation

- Land access consultation and negotiation

## Legal and Legislative Support

- Government agency liaison and advocacy
- Expert witness – Land & Environment Court
- Policy and legislation input
- Peer review

## Our strengths include:

- Clear scoping of projects
- Excellent project management skills
- A thorough understanding of environmental and heritage legislation
- Good working relationship with government authorities
- Strong technical skills
- Effective communication
- Community engagement and consultation
- Practical solutions to environmental problems and heritage issues
- High quality and independent advice
- Botany, zoology, Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage
- GIS and remote sensing



## Contact Niche

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## Niche People

Niche has three co-founders and directors – Dr Rhidian Harrington, Jamie Reeves and Matthew Richardson. Prior to establishing Niche Rhidian, Jamie and Matt worked together for over 6 years. Now that experience and strong working relationship is combined in Niche.

### Rhidian Harrington PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

#### Ecologist/Director

Rhidian has been a professional ecological consultant for over seven years and has over 14 years experience in teaching and practicing terrestrial wildlife ecology. He has experience in flora and fauna survey, offsetting and project management for environmental approvals projects.

Rhidian has conducted ecological work throughout Australia (NSW, Vic, Qld, SA and NT), as well as overseas in southern Africa and Pakistan. He has been the senior scientist and project manager on a number of major investigations, including environmental assessments, management plans and mitigation design, particularly for major linear developments. He is experienced in the application of state and federal legislation. Rhidian is an accredited BioBanking assessor.

### Jamie Reeves BA (Hons)

#### Archaeologist/Director

Jamie has worked as a professional archaeologist and project manager for 13 years. Jamie has experience in dealing with community groups, government agencies and representative bodies at all levels. Jamie's project experience extends across a wide range of industry sectors, including: utilities installations; major infrastructure; cultural heritage landscape management; minerals exploration; and in particular impacts to cultural heritage from subsidence in the Southern Coalfields of NSW.

### Matthew Richardson BSc (Hons), Grad Dip Div

#### Botanist/Director

Matthew has worked as a professional consultant for over 13 years. Over that time he has undertaken projects primarily in NSW, but has also worked in Queensland and Victoria. Matthew has experience in managing complex projects, combining a variety of environmental disciplines.

Matthew's experience extends across a wide range of industry sectors. In particular, Matthew has worked extensively with the mining industry in the Southern Coalfields and has specialist knowledge of the interaction between subsidence and the natural environment. He has established a strong record of delivering high quality assessments on time and to the satisfaction of both his clients and the regulatory authorities.

