



# STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES

- Specialist environmental and cultural heritage consultants
- Expertise that is focused on drilling and exploration projects

*A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP FROM NICHE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE AND THE ILLAWARRA PROJECT MANAGEMENT GROUP*

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# The Partnership



For more than a decade the Directors of Niche Environment and Heritage (Niche) and the Illawarra Project Management Group (IPMG) have worked together to deliver mining and exploration project approvals and manage exploration and mining projects in sensitive environments. Since the inception of both companies in 2009 the companies have worked together to bring their specialist experience to a broader client base.

Niche is a specialist environmental and heritage consultancy and IPMG provides expertise and resources to undertake the review and management of projects primarily focused on coal exploration and coal seam gas capture.

The Niche-IPMG partnership is unique in its scope and capabilities. What we offer is an approach to exploration and mining projects which takes your concepts from possibility to production. We can manage your stakeholder engagement and landowner access negotiations, project design and development as well as State and Commonwealth environmental approvals, environmental compliance and social responsibility. We have a proven track record in consultation and negotiation with traditional owners and custodians and have the internal expertise to address ecological constraints and opportunities for any project. With our extensive industry networks we can manage your projects for you or we can tailor a team to suit your project needs.

This statement of capabilities introduces the Niche-IPMG partnership. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss your project needs and to partner with you and assist you to meet your strategic planning or production goals.

# Niche Environment and Heritage

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

## About Niche

Niche Environment and Heritage is a new environmental consulting company established by Dr Rhidian Harrington, Matthew Richardson and Jamie Reeves. Together they bring to Niche over 30 years 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.



## 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
- Stakeholder Consultation
- Landholder Access Negotiation

## 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 and Environment Court

# Niche Services



Niche is a multidisciplinary environmental and heritage consultancy. Our 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)
- Part 3A Environmental Assessments
- EPBC Act Referrals
- Subsidence Management Plans (SMP)
- Statements of Environmental Effects (SEE)

## Biodiversity Assessment

- Terrestrial and Aquatic Flora & Fauna Survey and Impact Assessment
- Vegetation Mapping
- BioBanking and Offset Negotiation
- Vegetation Management Plans (VMP)
- Species Impact Statements (SIS)
- Ecological Monitoring

## Heritage Assessment

- Aboriginal Archaeological Survey and Excavation
- Aboriginal Community Consultation and Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Cultural Heritage Management Plans
- Artefact Analysis and Interpretation
- Assessment of Heritage Significance
- Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIP)
- Statement of Heritage Impact
- Conservation Management Plan

## Other

- Expert Witness – Land & Environment Court
- Policy and Legislation Input
- Peer Review
- GIS
- Landholder Access Negotiation

## 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

# Niche People

Niche has three co-founders and directors

Dr Rhidian Harrington, Jamie Reeves and Matthew Richardson. Prior to founding Niche Rhidian, Jamie and Matt worked together for over 6 years. Now that experience and strong working relationship is combined in Niche.



## Jamie Reeves

BA (Hons)

Jamie has worked as a professional archaeologist and project manager for 11 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 Coal Field of NSW.

With 11 years experience Jamie has worked in every region of NSW and has established a strong record for producing high quality, highly innovative cultural heritage assessment and management projects.



## Rhidian Harrington

PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

Rhidian has been a professional ecological consultant for over seven years, but has over 14 years experience in teaching and practicing terrestrial wildlife ecology. He has experience in flora and fauna survey, GIS and project management of environmental approvals projects. Rhidian has conducted ecological work throughout Australia (NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory) 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 for the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, NSW Department of Planning and Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Rhidian is experienced in the application of state and federal legislation which relates to the conservation of threatened species, populations and communities, and related planning instruments, including State Environmental Planning Policies and Regional Environmental Plans. As the project manager for both large and small projects, Rhidian has been required to develop methodology, co-ordinate multi disciplined field teams, prepare reports incorporating results from several disciplines and maintain effective communication with the client and various regulatory and/or public authorities. Rhidian has acted as an expert witness in the NSW Land and Environment Court.



## Matthew Richardson

BSc (Hons), Grad Dip Div

Matt has been a professional environmental consultant for over 12 years. He has principally worked with large projects and clients in infrastructure, utilities provision, mining, extractive industry and minerals exploration. Matt has experience flora and fauna surveys, Species Impacts Statements, Vegetation mapping and Environmental Approvals.

Since 1998 Matt has worked with the mining and related industries to develop mining approvals, impact monitoring programs and approvals for minerals and gas exploration projects. He has led stakeholder consultation for exploration programs in the Southern Coalfields of NSW, achieving solid outcomes for his clients exploration programs to the satisfaction of regulators and consent authorities. Matt has also led landowner access negotiations in the Southern Highlands and on the Cumberland Plain and has successfully negotiated access to public and private lands. Matt also has a specialist knowledge of the relationship between mine subsidence and ecological values.

# Illawarra Project Management Group

Illawarra Project Management Group is a local company providing services within the natural resources industry. The company was established in 2009 and since this time has proved the strength and quality of the services it has to offer.

## About IPMG

The Illawarra Project Management Group provides the expertise and resources to undertake review and management of projects primarily focused on coal exploration and coal seam gas capture.

The group offers personnel with many years of industry experience in CBM, mining and exploration evaluation and project design.

Our skills base covers all aspects of project management; including the review of existing geological and gas information, development of strategic and operational plans, management of drilling, seismic and other geophysical operations, stakeholder engagement, regulatory compliance, mapping and GIS services, safety management systems, contractor engagement and reporting.



## Our strengths include:

- Excellent project management skills
- A thorough understanding of mining and minerals exploration legislation
- Leadership and technical skill
- Community engagement and consultation
- High quality independent advice
- Good working relationship with government authorities
- Mining and exploration evaluation and project design
- Safety management systems
- Contractor engagement and management

## IPMG consults to:

- Mining and extractive Industry
- Gas Industry
- Service companies associated with resources

# IPMG People



The Directors, Greg Poole and Peter Riley, have extensive experience in the resource area, primarily coal mining and coal bed methane gas exploitation. Both Greg and Peter have worked for large and small corporations within the resource sector, primarily onshore activities and understand what is required in an extensive range of circumstances and scenarios.



## **Greg Poole**

MSC (Hons), BSc

A professional with over 30 years of industry experience in coal mining, gas exploitation and exploration. Greg was head of the Gas Utilisation and Exploration group for BHP Billiton Illawarra Coal.

Greg's proven leadership and technical skills have been utilised internationally in management positions. He has been associated with projects in China, India and South Africa.



## **Peter Riley**

Peter commenced his career in the industry over 30 years ago. Peter has proven leadership skills and technical expertise in the management of drilling, exploration and gas utilisation with a strong emphasis on contractor management and safety.

Having worked extensively in oil, gas and coal exploration, Peter was formerly the Operations Manager for Illawarra Coal's Resource and Exploration group.

Peter has recently held a management position in Queensland concentrating on CSG production and safety management.



## CONTACT US



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