

PLANNING CONGRESS PROGRAM

Please note program is subject to change



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PLANNING CONGRESS 2025

DARWIN • GARRAMILLA • 28 – 30 MAY 2025

Darwin Convention Centre

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Wednesday 28 May 2025
PRE-CONGRESS

FULL DAY TOURS - Timings subject to change due to tour or venue changes.
If you would like to be added to a tour waitlist, please email congress@planning.org.au

9.00 - 16.00	Tour 1 - Sustainability in action: Exploring innovation in water resource management - SOLD OUT
10.00 - 16.00	Tour 2 - Industry and Economic Developments in the NT - SOLD OUT
10.30 - 16.00	Tour 3 - Exploring the Top End's housing, from high to low - SOLD OUT
11.00 - 15.00	Tour 4 - Defence and Development within the Top End - SOLD OUT

HALF DAY TOUR - tours are limited and you must pre-book. Timings subject to change due to tour or venue changes.

12.00 - 16.00	Tour 5 - Exploration of Darwin's history - SOLD OUT	
12.00 - 16.00	Tour 6 - Innovating the future, exploring NT's urban transformation - SOLD OUT	
9.00 - 12.00	Larrakia Nation On-country activity: Gurumbai Cultural Trail	
14.00 - 17.00	Larrakia Nation On-country activity: Darwin Harbour Cruise	
17.30 - 19.00	Planning Congress 2025 Welcome Reception Main Hall, Parliament House	Hosted by The Honourable Joshua Burgoyne MLA, Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment

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Objective



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Thursday 29 May 2025
CONGRESS DAY 1

08.45 - 10.20	PLENARY 1 - First Nations knowledge and planning: reimagining planning systems and processes Auditorium 2						
8.45 - 8.55	Welcome and Opening Address MC, Ingrid Cumming						
8.55 - 9.15	Larrakia Welcome to Country						
9.15 - 10.00	First Nations Knowledge and Planning Yarn - Voicing First Nations Country, Culture and Community in Urban Policy Elle Davidson MPA, University of Sydney; Brendan Thomas, Dharug community; Julie Jones, Dharug community; David Broman, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Corporation; Wade Garvey, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Corporation						
10.00 - 10.10	Minister Address The Honourable Joshua Burgoyne MLA, Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment, Northern Territory Government						
10.10 - 10.20	PIA President Address Emma Riley RPIA (Fellow), PIA President						
10.20 - 11.00	MORNING TEA WITH EXHIBITORS Hall 1						
11.00 - 12.30	CONCURRENT 1/ WORKSHOP 1 Auditorium 2						
	CONCURRENT 1A Delivering great communities: housing, resilience, connectivity and infrastructure	CONCURRENT 1B New ways of planning: from AI to zoning and everything in between	CONCURRENT 1C Future of place: changing cities, towns and regional settlements	CONCURRENT 1D First Nations knowledge and planning: reimagining planning systems and processes	EXCLUSIVE MASTERCLASS WITH ELLEN DUNHAM JONES Hands-on Exercises to Identify Good (and Bad) Urban Design	PIA YARNING SPACE First Nations knowledge and planning	HEART FOUNDATION WALKSHOP
Room	Auditorium 2	Damibila 1 and Madla 2 (Meeting Room 1 & 2)	Betbiyan 3 and Bundirrik 4 (Meeting Room 3 & 4)	Waterfront Room 1	Waterfront Room 2	Waterfront Room 3	Offsite
Chairperson	Jo Garrettty	Sue Weatherley	Patrick Fensham	Ray Haeren	STRICTLY LIMITED - MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND		

11.00 - 11.30 (20m+10m Q&A)	North Wright Sustainable Housing Precinct – a future - proof missing middle typology <i>Petra Oswald PIA (Assoc.), Surban Land Agency</i>	Disinformation in the City: What it means for planning professionals <i>Ika Trijsburg, Municipal Association of Victoria</i>	Planning the Never Never Country: A place-based approach to developing Northern Australia <i>Dr Sharon Harwood RPIA (Fellow), GOHA Indigenous Planning and Development</i>	Walking Together, Working Together: Connecting Cultural Tourism and Strategic Planning in the Northern Territory <i>Tracey Diddams, TRC Tourism, Victor Cooper, Ayal Aboriginal Tours Kakadu</i>	Hands-on Exercises to Identify Good (and Bad) Urban Design <i>Professor Ellen Dunham-Jones, Georgia Institute of Technology</i>	PIA is providing a dedicated Safe Yarning Space for Congress delegates - a culturally respectful and inclusive environment to support First Nations knowledge sharing, reflection, and open conversation throughout Planning Congress.	The Heart Foundation is offering 90minute Walkshops. This is a great opportunity to find out more about their evidence-based Healthy Active by Design resources for planning and design outcomes which support heart health.
11.30 - 12.00 (20m+10m Q&A)	Transforming Broadmeadow: A 30-Year Blueprint for Vibrant Communities in Newcastle <i>Michelle Bisson MPIA, Sara Kelly, City of Newcastle</i>	Current and future use of AI in Planning and Assessment <i>Chris Clark, Archistar.ai</i>	UN SDG11 and International Planning <i>Seija Wellington, Arup</i>	Yalu on a mission to build an innovative, first of its kind, culturally led development in a seriously remote island and thrive <i>Anahita Tonkin, Yalu Aboriginal Corporation</i>	The exercises in this masterclass for non-designers will teach you how to assess proposed projects for contributing (or not) to the basic principles of good urbanism. Attendees will learn how to quickly identify plans that enhance the public realm, create a connected urban framework and ecosystem, layer in higher-performing infrastructure, and accommodate diverse building types for changing demographics.		Join us for a walk in the neighbourhood of the Convention Centre where you will be guided through a practical activity to help you apply the Heart Foundation's active living principles in your projects.
12.00 - 12.30 (20m+10m Q&A)	Regional Communities - Finding Solutions to the Housing Crisis <i>Steve Dunn RPIA (Fellow), Roger Hastrich, Regional Housing Australia</i>	AI and urban planning – what are the risks? <i>A/Prof Nicholas Stevens MPIA, University of the Sunshine Coast Australia</i>	Beyond boundaries: Building Australia's first national population forecasting program <i>Johnny Barnard, jd (informed Decisions)</i>	Yarning on Country: A methodology for reviewing the Aboriginal Land Planning Framework <i>Danny Lester, James O'Keefe, Casey Miller, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</i>	performing infrastructure, and accommodate diverse building types for changing demographics. *Strictly limited to 30 places, must be pre-registered to attend. Please note, this Masterclass is an additional cost to your registration fee		Hosted by The Heart Foundation <i>*Limited to 20 places, must be pre-registered to attend</i>
12.30 - 13.20	LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS Hall 1						
13.20 - 15.00	PLENARY 2 - New ways of planning: from AI to zoning and everything in between Auditorium 2						
13.20 - 13.50	Keynote Address - Title to be announced <i>Professor Anthony Burke, Grand Designs Australia/ University of Technology Sydney</i>						
13.50 - 14.20	Keynote Address - Retrofitting Suburbia for Urgent Challenges - Lessons from the US <i>Professor Ellen Dunham-Jones, Georgia Institute of Technology</i>						Session Sponsor 
14.20 - 15.00	Panel Discussion - Planning for the housing we need <i>Chair: Ray Haeren RPIA (Fellow) – PIA VP and PAC Chair / WA Planning Commission / Urbis</i> <i>Panelists: Professor Anthony Burke, Grand Designs Australia/ University of Technology Sydney, Jeanie Govan, GOHA Planning, Ross Elliot, Lord Mayor's Better Suburbs Initiative (Brisbane)/Suburban Futures</i>						
15.00 - 15.30	AFTERNOON TEA WITH EXHIBITORS Hall 1						
15.30 - 17.00	CONCURRENT 2/ WORKSHOP 2						
	CONCURRENT 2A Delivering great communities: housing, resilience, connectivity and infrastructure	CONCURRENT 2B New ways of planning: from AI to zoning and everything in between	CONCURRENT 2C Future of place: changing cities, towns and regional settlements	CONCURRENT 2D First Nations knowledge and planning: reimagining planning systems and processes	EXCLUSIVE MASTERCLASS WITH IKA TRIJSBURG Disinformation in the City: developing a three-phase response	PIA YARNING SPACE First Nations knowledge and planning	POSTER CONCURRENT Early Career Research Poster Session
Room	Auditorium 2	Damibila 1 and Madla 2 (Meeting Room 1 & 2)	Betbiyan 3 and Bundirrik 4 (Meeting Room 3 & 4)	Waterfront Room 1	Waterfront Room 2	Waterfront Room 3	Foyer
Chairperson	Sandra Hogue	Laura Murray	Peter Johns	Mick Purves	STRICTLY LIMITED - MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND		Amy Wilkins MPIA
15.30 - 16.00 (20m+10m Q&A)	Digital desert to digital inclusion: Infrastructure planning for connecting new communities <i>Richard Barry MPIA, Dr Nathaniel Bavinton, Urbis</i>	Finding housing realism within zoning optimism <i>Bradley Rasmussen, Siztech</i>	Open houses, open minds: bringing joy back into planning <i>Danai Fadyas, Cofutures, Maureen Johnson, Department of Transport and Planning</i>	Voicing First Nations Country, culture and community in urban policy <i>Libby Porter MPIA, RMIT University; Dr Ed Wensing MPIA (Life Fellow), City Futures Research Centre UNSW; Elle Davidson MPIA, University of Sydney</i>	Disinformation in the City: developing a three-phase response <i>Ika Trijsburg, Municipal Association of Victoria</i>	PIA is providing a dedicated Safe Yarning Space for Congress delegates - a culturally respectful and inclusive environment to support First Nations knowledge sharing, reflection, and open conversation throughout Planning Congress.	To celebrate our fellow emerging planners (EPs), join us for the Early Career Research Poster Session. There will be several early career posters presentation, followed by a Q+A and a casual networking opportunity to meet fellow EPs and industry peers before we head off to PIA National Awards of Planning Excellence. This session is a great opportunity to not only hear about research being undertaken across the country, but also meet fellow congress participants! Don't miss this chance to be inspired and get to know the future of our profession!
16.00 - 16.30 (20m+10m Q&A)	Planning under pressure: how councils can deliver more with confidence Objective	Putting the Planner in PlanTech: co-designing custom digital solutions <i>Jan Christopher Quing PIA (Assoc.), SGS Economics And Planning</i>	Thriving through change: the power of place and identity <i>Bronwyn Watson, Suzie Zuber, Element/SLR</i>	How Planners Can Better Prepare to Engage with Indigenous Communities – A Ngāi Tahu Case Study <i>Courtney Bennett, Kete Planning Consultancy</i>	Playbook: Released in August 2024, this world-first playbook was co-created by 40 multi-sector experts across Australasia, Europe and North America to provide guidance for local response to one of society's most significant challenges. The interactive masterclass will be framed around the three-phase response contained in the playbook: Pre-emption & Early detection; Pre-bunking & Spread Prevention; De-bunking & Recovery. *Strictly limited to 30 places, must be pre-registered to attend. Please note, this Masterclass is an additional cost to your registration fee		
16.30 - 17.00 (20m+10m Q&A)	Hot Topics: Housing, Hydrogen, and Health – Delivering Meaningful Community Engagement <i>Anna Deller-Coombs RPIA, URPS</i>	Exposing the true nature of residential development: An automated property parcel classification approach using multi-modal deep learning <i>Dr John Duncan, The University of Western Australia/Centre for Water and Spatial Science</i>		Upside Down Inside Out Planning: Starting with Country <i>Deborah Swan, School of Architecture and Built Environment, University of Newcastle</i>			
17.00	Close						
17.00 - 17.45	PIA Networking Drinks Hall 1, Join us for networking drinks prior to the National Awards for Planning Excellence						
17.45 - 19.00	PIA National Awards for Planning Excellence Auditorium 2, Darwin Convention Centre						Principal Awards Sponsor 
19.00 onwards	Optional Social Networking Events Locations and options to be announced						
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FRIDAY 30 May 2025 CONGRESS DAY 2

08.45 - 10.30	PLENARY 3 - Delivering great communities: housing, resilience, connectivity and infrastructure Auditorium 2						
08.45 - 09.00	Welcome and Opening Address MC, Ingrid Cumming						
09.00 - 09.30	Keynote Address - Accelerating sustainability and resilience in our cities, towns and regional settlements Dr Tim Muster, CSIRO Environment						
09.30 - 10.30	Panel Discussion - State of Play: Chief Planners in Discussion Chair: Emma Riley RPIA (Fellow), PIA President Panelists: Douglas Lesh MPIA (Fellow), Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, NT, Kathy Bonus RPIA (Fellow), Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, WA, Sally Smith MPIA, Department for Housing and Urban Development, SA, Monica Gibson, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, NSW						
10.30 - 11.00	MORNING TEA WITH EXHIBITORS Hall 1						
11.00 - 12.30	CONCURRENT 3/ WORKSHOP 3						
	CONCURRENT 3A Delivering great communities: housing, resilience, connectivity and infrastructure	CONCURRENT 3B New ways of planning: from AI to zoning and everything in between	CONCURRENT 3C Future of place: changing cities, towns and regional settlements	CONCURRENT 3D First Nations knowledge and planning: reimagining planning systems and processes	WORKSHOP 1 Delivering great communities: housing, resilience, connectivity and infrastructure	PIA YARNING SPACE First Nations knowledge and planning	HEART FOUNDATION WALKSHOP
Room	Auditorium 2	Damibila 1 and Madla 2 (Meeting Room 1 & 2)	Betbiyan 3 and Bundirrik 4 (Meeting Room 3 & 4)	Waterfront Room 1	Waterfront Room 2	Waterfront Room 3	Offsite
Chairpersons	Rukshan de Silva	Stephen Smith	Wendy Evans		STRICTLY LIMITED - MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND		
11.00 - 11.30 (20m+10m Q&A)	Keeping the buzz in our cities: why its important to create spaces for nature based hobbies Amy Wilkins PIA (Assoc.), Cred Consulting	Automated prototyping of cycle networks in urban council areas Elliott Smith, Wsp	Reimagining the Planning System: AI as a Partner, Not a Threat James Mant MPIA, Sperio-ai	Meet the PIA Knowledge Circle Meet and Yarn with PIA Knowledge Circle Members Further details on this session can be found on the website.	Working in and through community: Using peer research and facilitation in planning Dr Andrea Cook RPIA, Redroad Consulting, Katelyn Butterss, Matilda Hooper, Victorian Public Tenants Association	PIA is providing a dedicated Safe Yarning Space for Congress delegates - a culturally respectful and inclusive environment to support First Nations knowledge sharing, reflection, and open conversation throughout Planning Congress.	The Heart Foundation is offering 90minute Walkshops. This is a great opportunity to find out more about their evidence-based Healthy Active by Design resources for planning and design outcomes which support heart health.
11.30 - 12.00 (20m+10m Q&A)	Accelerating the Uptake of Green Cover in NSW Miranda Snowden, Arup, Claire Martin, OCULUS	Walking a new path: how NSW is changing active transport planning in Australia Steph Miller, Planwisely	Defend? Retreat? Accommodate? How do we plan for future regional settlement in a changing climate Christopher Marinopoulos MPIA, Peter Heinmiller, Value Advisory Partners	Allies Community of Practice Yarning Circle Facilitator: Michelle Howard, Collaborations As Allies we are always learning as we build a new planning practice that is Country-centred. In this session we will learn from 'the best', that is those who have won their state 'Planning with Country' award category and been nominated for the national awards. Further details on this session can be found on the website.	*Strictly limited to 60 places, must be pre-registered to attend		Join us for a walk in the neighbourhood of the Convention Centre where you will be guided through a practical activity to help you apply the Heart Foundation's active living principles in your projects. Hosted by The Heart Foundation <i>*Limited to 20 places, must be pre-registered to attend</i>
12.00 - 12.30 (20m+10m Q&A)	Just Cities: A Sustainable Future for All Tom Kennedy PIA (Assoc.), Therefor Group	Transforming the education and training of planners: challenges of rapidly changing world Prof. Paul Burton MPIA, Griffith University	Planning for heat mitigation in a warming climate: the role of climate responsive design Stephen Cook, CSIRO, Oliver Penman, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, Northern Territory Government				
12.30 - 13.30	LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS Hall 1						
13.30 - 15.00	CONCURRENT 4/ WORKSHOP 4						
	CONCURRENT 4A Delivering great communities: housing, resilience, connectivity and infrastructure	CONCURRENT 4B New ways of planning: from AI to zoning and everything in between	CONCURRENT 4C Future of place: changing cities, towns and regional settlements	CONCURRENT 4D First Nations knowledge and planning: reimagining planning systems and processes	WORKSHOP 2 Future of place: changing cities, towns and regional settlements	PIA YARNING SPACE First Nations knowledge and planning	
Room	Auditorium 2	Damibila 1 and Madla 2 (Meeting Room 1 & 2)	Betbiyan 3 and Bundirrik 4 (Meeting Room 3 & 4)	Waterfront Room 1	Waterfront Room 2	Waterfront Room 3	
Chairperson	Peter Johns	Sandra Hogue	Amy Wilkins	Laura Murray	STRICTLY LIMITED - MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND		
13.30 - 14.00 (20m+10m Q&A)	Planners as Storytellers Gary White MPIA (Life Fellow), Solve Property Group	Planning Tomorrow Today: Innovative Infrastructure-First Planning for Future Communities Josephine Fisher, Mesh	A Year on from the PIA/Urbis Foresight Report Matt Collins MPIA, Planning Institute of Australia, James White, Urbis	Co-Design Planning Process – Storytelling, Connection and Reconnection to Place. A Case Study...Murray Bridge Sturt Reserve River and Play Precincts Alison Allen, Eleni Kiamos MPIA, The Rural City of Murray Bridge, Auntie Janice Walker, Laurie Rankine	The Future of Planning Education in a time of change Andrew Butt (RMIT), Anna Deller-Coombs (URPS), Rukshan de Silva, Anna Hurlmann (University of Melbourne and Adrienne Keane (University of Sydney)	PIA is providing a dedicated Safe Yarning Space for Congress delegates - a culturally respectful and inclusive environment to support First Nations knowledge sharing, reflection, and open conversation throughout Planning Congress.	
14.00 - 14.30 (20m+10m Q&A)	City Plan - Adelaide 2036: A Place-Based Blueprint for Growth Colleen McDonnell, City of Adelaide, Orr Niv Shallev, Arup	Darwin's Place and Liveability Plan Simone Saunders, City of Darwin	The Darwin City Centre Master Plan – Ten Years On Steve Thorne MPIA, Design Urban	Challenging Exercise: Planning Services and Tenure Recommendations with Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation (TAC) in far north Queensland Jeanie Govan, GOHA Indigenous Planning and Development	*Strictly limited to 60 places, must be pre-registered to attend		
14.30 - 15.00 (20m+10m Q&A)	Building a social license for planning reform Leanne Hodyl MPIA, Hodyl & Co	Presentation to be announced Mecone	Urban Centres. Why we're failing to launch Michael Cullen, Urbacity	Codesign with Community, Country and Culture Sam Johnson, Sean McCarthy, Impact Policy			
15.00 - 15.30	AFTERNOON TEA WITH EXHIBITORS Hall 1						
15.30 - 17.00	PLENARY 4 - Future of place: Our changing cities, towns and regional settlements Auditorium 2						
15.30 - 16.10	Keynote Address - Title to be announced Lucinda Hartley						
16.10 - 16.50	Keynote Address - Understanding Future Cities and Communities: A Demographic Snapshot of Australia Now and Towards 2035 Mark McCrindle, McCrindle Research						

*Please note, program is subject to change without notice

16.50 - 17.00	Congress Close and Announcement of Planning Congress 2026 <i>Matt Collins MP/IA, CEO, Planning Institute of Australia</i>		
18.30 - 23.30	Planning Congress 2025 Gala Dinner The Lawns, Mindil Beach Resort		Gala Dinner Sponsor 
Platinum Sponsors		 Proudly sponsored by NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT	

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