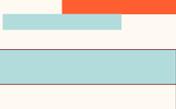




# PLANNING CONGRESS 2026

CANBERRA 20 - 22 MAY

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



## PROGRAM

### PRE-CONGRESS

#### Wednesday 20 May 2026

<b>FULL DAY STUDY TOURS</b> Tours are limited and must be pre-booked	
<b>Inside Canberra's Housing Future - SOLD OUT</b> A behind-the-scenes look at the ideas, projects and partnerships shaping the next chapter of housing in the nation's capital.	
<b>The Griffin's Plan for Canberra - SOLD OUT</b> A bus tour through Canberra's iconic planning landscape, exploring how the visionary design for Australia's national capital was brought to life and continues to shape the city today.	Proudly sponsored by <b>GML Heritage</b>
<b>Inside Australia's Political Capital - SELLING FAST</b> Step inside the places and systems that influence how Australia is governed, planned and shaped at a national level.	
<b>HALF DAY STUDY TOURS</b> Tours are limited and must be pre-booked	
<b>She Shapes History Tour - SELLING FAST</b> An intimate exploration of the women, places and decisions that have quietly shaped Canberra's history and identity.	
<b>The Capital Uncovered: Canberra City (Walking) - SOLD OUT</b> Discover the layers and design of Canberra's City Centre and civic spaces.	Proudly sponsored by <b>City Renewal Authority</b>
<b>On Country Tours AM</b> A guided experience grounded in Country, offering insight into First Nations knowledge, and connection	Proudly sponsored by <b>City and Environment Directorate</b>
<b>On Country Tour PM</b> A guided experience grounded in Country, offering insight into First Nations knowledge, and connection	
<b>Emerging Planner Event</b> QT Canberra, QT Lounge	Proudly Sponsored by <b>NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</b>
<b>2026 PIA National Awards for Planning Excellence</b> QT Canberra, Ballroom	Proudly Sponsored by <b>Objective</b>
<b>2026 Congress Welcome Reception</b> QT Canberra, Lucky's Speakeasy	

### CONGRESS DAY 1

#### Thursday 21 May 2026

<b>REGISTRATION</b>							
<b>PLENARY 1</b> <i>Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra</i>							
<b>Welcome to Country</b>							
<b>Master of Ceremonies, Tim Ross</b> Welcome and Opening Address							
<b>First Nations Knowledge and Planning Yarn</b> Voicing First Nations Country, Culture and Community in Urban Policy							
<b>The Hon Clare O'Neil MP</b> Minister Address							
<b>Emma Riley RPIA (Fellow)</b> PIA President Address							
<b>MORNING TEA WITH EXHIBITORS</b>							
<b>CONCURRENT 1 / WORKSHOP 1</b>							
<b>CONCURRENT 1A</b> Housing and Innovation	<b>CONCURRENT 1B</b> Turning Plans into Places	<b>CONCURRENT 1C</b> Country, Climate + Resilience	<b>CONCURRENT 1D</b> Planning for a Changing Nation	<b>CONCURRENT 1E</b> The Future of the Profession	<b>WORKSHOP 1</b> Turning Plans into Places	<b>PIA YARNING SPACE</b> First Nations Knowledge and Planning	<b>HEART FOUNDATION WALKSHOP</b>
<b>Delivering Housing for a 2035 Australia: A New Blueprint</b> Karmi Palouf, MPA, Tract Consultants	<b>Designing for Minds We Don't See: Practical and Strategic Actions for Neuro-Inclusive Planning</b> Liesl Cordington, Vaera Social	<b>A River needs its Lands: Planning for Birrarung as a Living Entity</b> Mitra Anderson-Oliver, Department Of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Georgia Wellington, Department of Transport and Planning	<b>Should we plan more Canberra's?</b> Emeritus Professor Paul Burton MPA, Griffith University	<b>Inspiring the Next Generation: Equipping Planners to Engage Australia's Future Professionals</b> Emily Robertson PIA (Assoc.), City of Subiaco and Joyce Chung PIA (Assoc.), DevelopmentWA	<b>Will It Actually Get Built? Financing Realities of the Infill Affordable Housing Scheme</b> Michael Connors MPA, Astrolabe Group	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 90 minute 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.  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.  <b>Hosted by The Heart Foundation</b>  *Limited to 20 places, must be pre-registered to attend
<b>Density Deals: Not all players are equal, deal me in</b> John Engeler, National Shelter	<b>Masterplanning Safety: The Strategic Decisions That Shape Behaviour, Perception and Risk</b> Codée Ludbey, Core42	<b>Using Flood Risk Evidence to Inform Transformative Recovery in Indigenous Communities</b> Ryan McNally Smith MPA, Meridian Urban and Upendo Kowero, Plan Locally	<b>The Canberra Congress that launched the Institute 75 years ago</b> Professor Robert Freestone RPIA (Fellow), UNSW	<b>The Planning Renaissance: Why This Decade Will Define Our Profession</b> James Mant MPA, Spero-ai			
<b>BUILD - Beyond Zoning: Why feasibility drives development</b> Dr Anthony Burton MPA, City and Environment Directorate ACT Government	<b>The Future Form of TODs - What is the big deal with 5 minutes?!!</b> David Barnard, Tract Consultants	<b>Integrating Hazard, Socio-Economic Disadvantage and Accessibility into a Lot-Scale Climate Vulnerability Index for South East Queensland</b> Dr Heather Shearer MPA, Griffith University	<b>Planning the National Capital Under Self-Government</b> Richard Johnson MPA (Life Fellow)	<b>Planning in 2040: Adaptive Leadership for a Disrupted Future</b> Daniel Cavallo RPIA (Fellow), Cumberland City Council and Romina Cavallo, GHD			

<b>LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS</b>							
<b>PIA PlanTech, National Conversation   AI in Planning</b> Lunchtime Session, Registration Opening Soon							
<b>PLENARY 2</b> <i>Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra</i>							
<b>John Duguid FNZPI</b> Keynote Address							
<b>Planning the Long View   Choices, Trade-offs and Resiliencies</b> Ben Rimmer, Director General, Housing Group Treasury   Emeritus Professor Barbara Norman MPA (Life Fellow), Foundation Chair/Professor Urban and Regional Planning, University of Canberra Sue Schwartz FAICP, President, American Planning Association   Facilitated by Amy Wilkins MPA, Emerging Planner Director, Planning Institute of Australia Panel Session							
<b>AFTERNOON TEA WITH EXHIBITORS</b>							
<b>CONCURRENT 2 / WORKSHOP 2</b>							
<b>CONCURRENT 2A</b> Housing and Innovation	<b>CONCURRENT 2B</b> Turning Plans into Places	<b>CONCURRENT 2C</b> Country, Climate + Resilience	<b>CONCURRENT 2D</b> Planning for a Changing Nation	<b>CONCURRENT 2E</b> The Future of the Profession	<b>WORKSHOP 2</b> Country, Climate + Resilience	<b>PIA YARNING SPACE</b> First Nations Knowledge and Planning	
<b>Central Coast Council Housing Strategy</b> Daryl Connelly PIA (Assoc.), Tasmania's Central Coast Council and Nikki Hill MPA, Colliers Urban Planning	<b>Giving Active Recreation a Sporting Chance</b> Dan Ferguson PIA (Assoc.), Swinburne University	<b>Country, Partnerships and Resilience: Lessons learned for planners from the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Nomination</b> Trevor Budge AM MPA (Life Fellow), Consultant	<b>Planning for a Continent of Cities: Long-range scenarios for Australian urbanisation</b> Julian Bolleter and Professor Robert Freestone RPIA (Fellow), The University of Western Australia	<b>Session in Progress</b> Please check the program for updates	<b>From Engagement to Relationship: A Practical Caring for Country Workshop for Planners</b> Gregory Andrews, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	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.	
<b>Planning Beyond the Border: Rethinking Regional Planning at the ACT-NSW Interface</b> Dr Erin Shotton RPIA, Chris O'Dell MPA and Melanie Krzus RPIA, Gyde Consulting	<b>From Games to Gains: Leveraging the Green and Gold Runway to 2032 Across Australia</b> Dyan Currie AM RPIA (Life Fellow), Dyan Currie & Associates	<b>"Country" as the Central Organising Principle for Climate Adaptation</b> Toktam Tabrizi, Western Sydney University	<b>Housing, Homes and Homelessness</b> Aiko Syafari PIA (Assoc.), DevelopmentWA, Emily Robertson PIA (Assoc.), City of Subiaco and Keyon Yang MPA, City of Swan	<b>AI and Planning: Beyond the Hype, from Pattern Books to Playbooks</b> George Giannakodakis MPA (Fellow), PointData & InfraPlan			
<b>Beyond rezoning: delivering livable neighbourhoods</b> Katherine Sundermann, Monash University and Professor Andrew Butt MPA (Fellow), BUtt University	<b>From mapping to planning to growing - how housing policy continues to shape Australian cities</b> Oliver Bowering, id	<b>Restoring Country through Indigenous Knowledge: Creative Pathways to Country Centred Planning</b> Liz Cameron and Edna Grigorou, Department Of Planning, Housing And Infrastructure	<b>The Implementation Of Informal Urban Art In Residual Urban Spaces</b> Maia Cavendish MPA, Logan City Council	<b>Planning Policy - What Will Actually Get Built? Using the Urban Policy Model to Support Strategic Planning Decisions</b> Benjamin Russ MPA and Will Harmer PIA (Assoc.), PointData			

<b>Planners Take Over Verity Lane</b> Market Hall, Verity Lane, Canberra Tickets available for purchase							
						Proudly Sponsored by <b>City Renewal Authority</b> ACT Government	

### CONGRESS DAY 2

#### Friday 22 May 2026

<b>REGISTRATION</b>							
<b>PLENARY 3</b> <i>Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra</i>							
<b>Welcome to Country</b>							
<b>Master of Ceremonies, Tim Ross</b> Welcome and Opening Address							
<b>Simon Kuestenmacher, The Demographics Group</b> Keynote Address							
<b>Leading Change   Heads of Planning and Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning Division, City and Environment Directorate   Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</b> Peta Harwood MPA, State Planner and Deputy Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning   Colleen Peterson MPA, Deputy Secretary for Planning and Land Use Services, Department of Transport and Planning Facilitated by Nicole Bennetts RPIA, National Head of Advocacy, Planning Institute of Australia Panel Session							
<b>MORNING TEA WITH EXHIBITORS</b>							
<b>CONCURRENT 3 / WORKSHOP 3</b>							
<b>CONCURRENT 3A</b> Housing and Innovation	<b>CONCURRENT 3B</b> Turning Plans into Places	<b>CONCURRENT 3C</b> Country, Climate + Resilience	<b>CONCURRENT 3D</b> Planning for a Changing Nation	<b>CONCURRENT 3E</b> The Future of the Profession	<b>WORKSHOP 3</b> Planning for a Changing Nation	<b>PIA YARNING SPACE</b> First Nations knowledge and Planning	<b>HEART FOUNDATION WALKSHOP</b>
<b>Guiding Planners Through Digital Transformation: PIA's PlanTech Program</b> Dr Claire Daniel MPA, Chair - PIA National PlanTech Group	<b>A Planning Paradox: Canberra, Australia's National Capital</b> Rachel Jackson, GML Heritage	<b>Reshaping urban planning for regenerative places</b> Clare Mayberry, Tract Consultants	<b>Planning For Growth for a Region Under Pressure - Lessons From Planning and Design in South Australia</b> Orr Niv Shallev and Tim Pearson MPA, Arup	<b>Designing With, Not For: Comparing 2D, VR and AR Co-Design with Older Residents for Age-Friendly Parks</b> Dr Zinan Chen, Tract Consultants	<b>Is this the end of the open space culture in Australia?</b> Jo Noesgaard MPA and Aliza Levy, SGS Economic and Planning	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 90 minute 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.
<b>The Future of Planning is Here, Right Now</b> Andrea Breen, GYIP - Local Government Solutions, Objective	<b>The Silent Hum: How EVs are redefining the traditional sounds of the street</b> Sophie Gittins, Stantec	<b>A Progressive Vision for Our National Capital</b> Dr Erin Brady PIA (Assoc.) and Karen Doran, (Assoc.) Capital Authority	<b>From Planning to Impact: City of Swan's Sustainable Growth Story</b> Ian Humphreys MPA, City of Swan	<b>Riding the Waves of Change with New Digital Consultation Tools</b> Fiona McFarlane, Sunshine Coast Council	Registration Opening Soon		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.
<b>The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan</b> Seija Wellington, Arup	<b>Session in Progress</b> Please check the program for updates	<b>Planning an integral key to Self-Determination for First Nation Australians: A Right, Not a Policy.</b> Dr Allan Teale, UTS	<b>Jacka Small Footprint Housing - an SLA demonstration precinct</b> Rob Henry, DNA Architecture	<b>CATS Redefining the SA Planning Ecosystem</b> Nadia Gencarelli MPA and Saba Adil Malik MPA, Department of Housing Urban Development			<b>Hosted by The Heart Foundation</b> *Limited to 20 places, must be pre-registered to attend Registration Opening Soon

<b>LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS</b>							
<b>CONCURRENT 4 / WORKSHOP 4</b>							
<b>CONCURRENT 4A</b> Early Career Research Poster Session	<b>CONCURRENT 4B</b> Turning Plans into Places	<b>CONCURRENT 4C</b> Country, Climate + Resilience	<b>CONCURRENT 4D</b> Planning for a Changing Nation	<b>CONCURRENT 4E</b> The Future of the Profession	<b>WORKSHOP 4</b> The Future of the Profession	<b>PIA YARNING SPACE</b> First Nations Knowledge and Planning	
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. 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!	<b>AI-Driven Planning: From Wildfire Recovery to Regulatory Reform - How Australia's eCheck Technology is Transforming Development Approval</b> Dr Benjamin Coorey, Archistar	<b>Reimagining Washpool Creek: A Blueprint for Resilient Regional Renewal</b> Stuart Tedford and Timothy Fichera, Tract Consultants	<b>Housing Trend Tracker: Is planning really the cause of the housing crisis?</b> Scott Walker MPA and Jack Richardson, Borondara City Council	<b>Inspiring the Young Planners with a Business Idea to Assist Australia's Planning Reforms and Housing Targets</b> Haven Barr PIA (Assoc.), Bayside Council	<b>Digital engagement strategies: From consultation to coalition building</b> Nicola Morgan, Aurecon	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.	
	<b>Hidden Layers: Complexity and Discovery in Open Cities</b> Anahita Mirzaei Poinak, Urban Ideas Researcher	<b>Cooler Cities Through Smarter Data: Tackling Heat Stress with Foot Traffic Data</b> Veitch Miller PIA (Assoc.), Steph Lister Consulting	<b>Charging for development rights: a vision for housing affordability grounded in Walter Burley Griffin's economic philosophy and Canberra's distinctive approach to land value capture</b> Tim Helm, Prosper Australia	<b>The "Plan-demic": Cures for a Planner Shortage</b> Dyan Currie AM RPIA (Life Fellow), Dyan Currie & Associates			
	<b>How Planning and Design Decisions Influence Development Cost and Deliverability</b> James Barwood, EESI	<b>Improving shade provision for UV protection from the Australian sun: Free resources to assist planners</b> Elizabeth King, Cancer Council NSW and Jan Falding RPIA (Fellow), NSW Shade Working Group	<b>Smart Tech for Planners: Urban technology and the public realm</b> Nathaniel Bavinton, Urbis				

<b>AFTERNOON TEA WITH EXHIBITORS</b>							
<b>PLENARY 4</b> <i>Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra</i>							
<b>AI in Planning: Hype, Help or Hazard?</b> Panel							
<b>Hannah Ferguson</b> Keynote Address							
<b>Matt Collins MPA</b> Congress Close							
<b>PIA Planning Congress Gala Dinner</b> Main Hall, Parliament House						Proudly Sponsored by <b>Objective</b>	

Program Subject to Change

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