

PLANNING CONGRESS 2026

CANBERRA 20 - 22 MAY

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



PRE-CONGRESS

Wednesday 20 May 2026

PROGRAM

FULL DAY STUDY TOURS Tours are limited and must be pre-booked	
Inside Canberra's Housing Future - SOLD OUT A behind-the-scenes look at the ideas, projects and partnerships shaping the next chapter of housing in the nation's capital.	Proudly Sponsored by Purdon
The Griffin's Plan for Canberra - SOLD OUT 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 GML Heritage
Inside Australia's Political Capital - SOLD OUT Step inside the places and systems that influence how Australia is governed, planned and shaped at a national level.	Proudly Sponsored by National Capital Authority
HALF DAY STUDY TOURS Tours are limited and must be pre-booked	
She Shapes History Tour - SELLING FAST An intimate exploration of the women, places and decisions that have quietly shaped Canberra's history and identity.	
The Capital Uncovered: Canberra City (Walking) - SELLING FAST Discover the layers and design of Canberra's City Centre and civic spaces.	Proudly Sponsored by City Renewal Authority
On Country Tours AM - SELLING FAST A guided experience grounded in Country, offering insight into First Nations knowledge, and connection	Proudly Sponsored by City and Environment Directorate
On Country Tour PM - SELLING FAST A guided experience grounded in Country, offering insight into First Nations knowledge, and connection	

CONGRESS DAY 1

Thursday 21 May 2026

7.30 AM								
Women In Planning Catch Up Pre-congress networking, Exhibition Hall								
7.30 AM								
REGISTRATION								
PLENARY 1 Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra								
8.30 AM - 8.40 AM								
Welcome to Country								
8.40 AM - 8.50 AM								
Master of Ceremonies, Tim Ross Welcome and Opening Address								
8.50 AM - 9.50 AM								
Creating a Country-Centred Future for Planning Panel session facilitated by Elle Davidson MP/IA , Planning Institute of Australia								
9.50 AM - 10.05 AM								
The Hon Clare O'Neill MP Minister Address								
10.05 AM - 10.20 AM								
Emma Riley RPIA (Fellow) PIA President Address								
10.20 AM - 11.00 AM								
MORNING TEA WITH EXHIBITORS								
CONCURRENT 1 / WORKSHOP 1								
SESSION TYPE	CONCURRENT 1A Housing and Innovation	CONCURRENT 1B Turning Plans into Places	CONCURRENT 1C Country, Climate + Resilience	CONCURRENT 1D Planning for a Changing Nation	CONCURRENT 1E The Future of the Profession	WORKSHOP 1 Turning Plans into Places	PIA YARNING SPACE First Nations Knowledge and Planning	HEART FOUNDATION WALKSHOP
ROOM	Exhibition Hall	Menzies	Nicholls	Royal Theatre	Bradman	Murray	Fitzroy	Offsite
11.00 AM - 11.30 AM	Delivering Housing for a New 2035 Australia: A New Blueprint Karmi Palatof MP/IA, Tract Consultants	Designing for Minds We Don't See: Practical and Strategic Actions for Neuro-Inclusive Planning Leslie Codrington, Vaere Social	A River Needs Its Lands: Planning for Birrang as a Living Entity Mitra Anderson-Oliver, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Georgia Wellington, Department of Transport and Planning	Should We Plan More Canberra? Emeritus Professor Paul Burton MP/IA, Griffith University	Inspiring the Next Generation: Equipping Planners to Engage Australia's Future Professionals Emily Robertson PIA (Assoc.), City of Subiaco and Joyce Chung PIA (Assoc.), DevelopmentWA	Will It Actually Get Built? Financing Realities of the Infill Affordable Housing Scheme Michael Coninos MP/IA, Astrolabe Group	Allies Yarn This in-person session continues the conversation from the morning plenary and builds on our quarterly online Allies Yarn. It's a facilitated discussion focused on allyship in planning - what it looks like in practice, the challenges, and how we can improve. Open to all, with space to listen, reflect and contribute.	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.
11.30 AM - 12.00 PM	Density Deals: Not all players are equal, deal with it! Cameron Murray, Fresh Economic Thinking	Masterplanning Safety: The Strategic Decisions That Shape Behaviour, Perception and Risk Codee Ludbey, Core42	Using Flood Risk Evidence to Drive Transformative Recovery in Indigenous Communities Ryan McNeilly Smith MP/IA, Meridian Urban and Upendo Kowero, Plan Locally	The Canberra Congress that Launched the Institute 75 years ago Professor Robert Freestone RPIA (Fellow), UNSW	The Planning Renaissance: Why This Decade Will Define Our Profession James Mant MP/IA, Spero.ai			Hosted by The Heart Foundation *Limited to 20 places, must be pre-registered to attend
12.00 PM - 12.30 PM	BUILD - Beyond Zoning: Why Feasibility Drives Development Dr Anthony Burton MP/IA, City and Environment Directorate ACT Government	The Future Form of TODs - What is the big deal with 5 minutes?! David Barnard, Tract Consultants	Integrating Hazard, Socio-Economic Disadvantage and Accessibility into a Lot-Scale Climate Vulnerability Index for South East Queensland Dr Heather Shearer MP/IA, Griffith University	Planning the National Capital Under Self-Government Richard Johnston MP/IA (Life Fellow)	Planning in 2040: Adaptive Leadership for a Disrupted Future George Giannakodakis MP/IA (Fellow), Cumberland City Council and Romina Cavallo, GHD			
12.30 PM - 1.30 PM								
LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS								
12.30 PM - 1.30 PM								
PIA PlanTech National Conversation AI in Planning Lunchtime Session, Rooms Murray								
PLENARY 2 Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra								
1.30 PM - 2.10 PM								
John Duguid, Auckland Council Keynote Address								
2.10 PM - 3.00 PM								
Planning the Long View Choices, Trade-offs and Responsibilities Ben Rimmer, Director General, Housing Group Treasury Emeritus Professor Barbara Norman MP/IA (Life Fellow), Urban and Regional Planning, University of Canberra, and Honorary Professor ANU Sue Schwartz FAICP, President, American Planning Association Seija Wellington MP/IA, Principal, Arup Panel sessions facilitated by Amy Wilkins MP/IA , Emerging Planner Director, Planning Institute of Australia								
3.00 PM - 3.30 PM								
AFTERNOON TEA WITH EXHIBITORS								
CONCURRENT 2 / WORKSHOP 2								
SESSION TYPE	CONCURRENT 2A Housing and Innovation	CONCURRENT 2B Turning Plans into Places	CONCURRENT 2C Country, Climate + Resilience	CONCURRENT 2D Planning for a Changing Nation	CONCURRENT 2E The Future of the Profession	WORKSHOP 2 Country, Climate + Resilience	PIA YARNING SPACE First Nations Knowledge and Planning	HEART FOUNDATION WALKSHOP
ROOM	Exhibition Hall	Menzies	Nicholls	Royal Theatre	Bradman	Murray	Fitzroy	Offsite
3.30 PM - 4.00 PM	Central Coast Housing Strategy: A Strategic Planning Sprint in Regional Tasmania Daryl Connolly PIA (Assoc.), Tasmania's Central Coast Council and Nikki Hill MP/IA, Colliers Urban Planning	Giving Active Recreation a Sporting Chance Dan Ferguson PIA (Assoc.), Swinburne University	Country, Partnerships and Resilience: Lessons Learned for Planners from the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Nomination Trevor Budge AM MP/IA (Life Fellow), Consultant	Planning for a Continent of Cities: Long-range Scenarios for Australian Urbanisation Dr Julian Bolleter and Professor Robert Freestone RPIA (Fellow), The University of Western Australia	Game-Changing Visual Futures: A radical redistribution of who creates and controls renderings of the future Nick Kamols MP/IA, Queensland University of Technology	From Engagement to Relationship: A Practical Caring for Country Workshop for Planners 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.	
4.00 PM - 4.30 PM	Planning Beyond the Border: Rethinking Regional Planning at the ACT-NSW Interface Ingrid Shelton RPIA, Chris O'Dell MP/IA and Melanie Krzus MP/IA, Gyde Consulting	From Games to Gains: Leveraging the Green and Gold Runway to 2032 Across Australia Dyan Currie AM RPIA (Life Fellow), Dyan Currie & Associates	"Country" as the Central Organising Principle for Climate Adaptation Dr Toktam Tabrizi, Western Sydney University	Housing, Homes and Homelessness Aiko Syafari PIA (Assoc.), DevelopmentWA, Emily Robertson PIA (Assoc.), City of Subiaco and Keyon Yang MP/IA, City of Swan	AI and Planning: Beyond the Hype, from Pattern Books to Playbooks George Giannakodakis MP/IA (Fellow), PointData & InfraPlan			
4.30 PM - 5.00 PM	Beyond Zoning: Delivering Livable Neighbourhoods Katherine Sundermann, Monash University and Professor Andrew Butt MP/IA (Fellow), RMIT University	From Mapping to Planning to Growing - How Housing Policy Continues to Shape Australian Cities Oliver Bowring, id	Seeing Tomorrow Today - Using data and simulation modelling to plan for climate and energy resilience Laura Little, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Victorian Government	The Implementation of Informal Urban Art in Residual Urban Spaces Maia Cavendish MP/IA, Logan City Council	Planning Policy - What Will Actually Get Built? Using the Urban Policy Model to Support Strategic Planning Decisions Benjamin Russ MP/IA and Will Harmer PIA (Assoc.), PointData			
6.00 PM - 10.00 PM								
Planners Take Over Verity Lane Market Hall, Verity Lane, Canberra Tickets available for purchase here								
Proudly Sponsored by City Renewal Authority and ACT Government								

CONGRESS DAY 2

Friday 22 May 2026

7.30 AM								
REGISTRATION								
PLENARY 3 Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra								
8.30 AM - 8.40 AM								
Welcome to Country								
8.40 AM - 8.50 AM								
Master of Ceremonies, Tim Ross Welcome and Opening Address								
8.50 AM - 9.30 AM								
Simon Kuestenmacher, The Demographics Group Keynote Address								
9.30 AM - 10.20 AM								
Leading Change Heads of Planning George Cilliers MP/IA, Chief Planner and Executive Group Manager, <i>Statutory Planning Division, City and Environment Directorate</i> Kiersten Fishburn , Secretary, <i>Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</i> Peta Harwood MP/IA , State Planner and Deputy Director-General, <i>Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning</i> Kathy Bonus RPIA (Fellow) , Chief Planning Advisor at Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Panel session facilitated by Nicole Bennetts RPIA , Planning Institute of Australia								
10.20 AM - 11.00 AM								
MORNING TEA WITH EXHIBITORS								
CONCURRENT 3 / WORKSHOP 3								
SESSION TYPE	CONCURRENT 3A Housing and Innovation	CONCURRENT 3B Turning Plans into Places	CONCURRENT 3C Country, Climate + Resilience	CONCURRENT 3D Planning for a Changing Nation	CONCURRENT 3E The Future of the Profession	WORKSHOP 3 Planning for a Changing Nation	PIA YARNING SPACE First Nations Knowledge and Planning	HEART FOUNDATION WALKSHOP
ROOM	Exhibition Hall	Menzies	Nicholls	Royal Theatre	Bradman	Murray	Fitzroy	Offsite
11.00 AM - 11.30 AM	Growth Strategy Implementation in South Australia Seija Wellington MP/IA, Arup and Brett Steiner MP/IA, Department of Housing and Urban Development	A Planning Paradox: Canberra, Australia's National Capital Rachel Jackson, GML Heritage	Rethinking Urban Planning for Regenerative Places Anahita Mirzael Poooinak, Urban Ideas Researcher	Planning For Growth for a Region Under Pressure - Lessons from Planning and Design in South Australia Orr Niv Shallev and Tim Pearson MP/IA, Arup	Designing With, Not For: Comparing 2D, VR and AR Co-Design with Older Residents for Age-Friendly Parks Dr Zinan Chen, Tract Consultants	Is This the End of the Open Space Culture in Australia? Jo Noesgaard MP/IA 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. 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.
11.30 AM - 12.00 PM	Myth vs Reality: Planning in 2026 Andrea Breen, GVP Government Solutions, Objective, John Duguid Manager Central Area Planning of Auckland City Council and Chris O'Dell, Gyde Consulting	The Silent Hum: How EVs are Redefining the Traditions Sounds of the Street Sophie Gittins, Stantec	Restoring Country through Indigenous Knowledge; Creative Pathways to Country Steph Miller PIA (Assoc.), Associate Professor Liz Cameron and Edna Grigoriou, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	From Planning to Impact: City of Swan's Sustainable Growth Story Ian Humphrey MP/IA, City of Swan	Riding the Waves of Change with New Digital Consultation Tools Fiona McKennary, Sunshine Coast Council			Hosted by The Heart Foundation *Limited to 20 places, must be pre-registered to attend
12.00 PM - 12.30 PM	Guiding Planners Through Digital Transformation: PIA's PlanTech Program Dr Claire Daniel MP/IA, Chair - PIA National PlanTech Group	A Progressive Vision for Our National Capital Dr Erin Brady PIA (Assoc.), and Karen Doran, National Capital Authority	Planning an Integral Key to Self-Determination for First Nations Australians: A Right, Not a Pity Steph Miller PIA (Assoc.), Dr Allan Teale, UTS	Jacka Small Footprint Housing - an SLA Demonstration Precinct Rob Henry, DNA Architecture	CATS Redefining the SA Planning Ecosystem Nadia Gencarelli MP/IA and Saba Adil Malik MP/IA, Department of Housing and Urban Development			Registration Now Open
12.30 PM - 1.30 PM								
LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS								
CONCURRENT 4 / WORKSHOP 4								
SESSION TYPE	CONCURRENT 4A Early Career Research Poster Session	CONCURRENT 4B Turning Plans into Places	CONCURRENT 4C Country, Climate + Resilience	CONCURRENT 4D Planning for a Changing Nation	CONCURRENT 4E The Future of the Profession	WORKSHOP 4 The Future of the Profession	PIA YARNING SPACE First Nations Knowledge and Planning	HEART FOUNDATION WALKSHOP
ROOM	Exhibition Hall	Menzies	Nicholls	Royal Theatre	Bradman	Murray	Fitzroy	Offsite
1.30 PM - 2.00 PM	To celebrate our fellow Emerging Planners (EPs), join us for the EPs Career Research Poster Session There will be several early career poster presentations, 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!	AI-Driven Planning: From Wildlife Recovery to Regulatory Reform - How Australia's eCheck Technology is Transforming Development Approval Dr Benjamin Coorey, Archistar	Reimagining Washpool Creek: A Blueprint for Resilient Regional Renewal Stuart Teofrod, Tract Consultants	Housing Trend Tracker: Is Planning Really the Cause of the Housing Crisis? Scott Walker MP/IA and Jack Richardson, Borondara City Council	Inspiring the Young Planners with a Business Idea to Assist Australia's Planning Reforms and Housing Targets Haven Barr PIA (Assoc.), Gyde Consulting	Digital Engagement Strategies for Regional Communities: From Consultation to Coalition Building 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.	
2.00 PM - 2.30 PM		Hidden Layers: Complexity and Discovery in Open Cities Anahita Mirzael Poooinak, Urban Ideas Researcher	Cooler Cities Through Smarter Data: Tackling Heat Stress with Foot Traffic Data Steph Miller PIA (Assoc.), Veitch Lister Consulting	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 Dr Tim Helm, Prosper Australia	The "Plan-demic": Cures for a Planner Shortage Dyan Currie AM RPIA (Life Fellow), Dyan Currie & Associates and Greg Yarn RPIA (Life Fellow), Urban Mentors Collective			
2.30 PM - 3.00 PM		How Planning and Design Decisions Influence Development Cost and Deliverability James Barwood, EESI	Improving Shade Provision for UV Protection from the Australian Sun-Free Resources to Assist Planners Elizabeth King, Jan Council NSW and Jan Falding RPIA (Fellow), NSW Shade Working Group	Smart Tech for Planners: Urban Technology and the Public Realm Dr Nathaniel Bavinnton, Urbis				
3.00 PM - 3.30 PM								
AFTERNOON TEA WITH EXHIBITORS								
PLENARY 4 Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra								
3.30 PM - 4.20 PM								
AI in Planning: Hype, Help or Hazard? Bonnie Shaw , Chief Innovator in Residence at the Municipal Association of Victoria, MA(Vic) Professor Chris Pettit MP/IA , Scientia Professor and Director of the City Futures Research Centre, UNSW Michael Coninos MP/IA , Expert reviewer for Infrastructure NSW and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at UNSW, Astrolabe Group Dr Claire Daniel MP/IA , Urban Planner and Technologist, Chair of PIA's National PlanTech Advisory Committee Panel session facilitated by Tina Perinotto , Editor and Publisher, <i>The Fifth Estate</i>								
4.20 PM - 4.50 PM								
Hannah Ferguson, Cheek Media Keynote Address								
4.50 PM - 5.00 PM								
Matt Collins MP/IA Congress Close								
6.30 PM - 11.00 PM								
PIA Planning Congress Gala Dinner Main Hall, Parliament House								
Proudly Sponsored by Objective								

Program subject to change

PLATINUM PARTNERS

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EXHIBITORS

Archistar | **Heart Foundation** | **Active by Design** | Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure | **NSW** | **AURIN** | **myLot**

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