



PLANNING CONGRESS 2026

CANBERRA 20 - 22 MAY

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



PROGRAM

PRE-CONGRESS

Wednesday 20 May 2026

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.	
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.	
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) - SOLD OUT 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	
Emerging Planner Event QT Canberra, QT Lounge	
2026 PIA National Awards for Planning Excellence QT Canberra, Ballroom	
2026 Congress Welcome Reception QT Canberra, Lucky's Speakeasy	

CONGRESS DAY 1

Thursday 21 May 2026

Why Not to Plan (or) Catch Up <i>Pre-congress networking, Exhibition Hall</i>							
REGISTRATION							
PLENARY 1 <i>Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra</i>							
Welcome to Country							
Master of Ceremonies, Tim Ross <i>Welcome and Opening Address</i>							
First Nations Knowledge and Planning Yarn <i>Voicing First Nations Country, Culture and Community in Urban Policy</i>							
The Hon Clare O'Neil MP <i>Minister Address</i>							
Emma Riley RPIA (Fellow) <i>PIA President Address</i>							
MORNING TEA WITH EXHIBITORS							
CONCURRENT 1 / WORKSHOP 1							
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
Delivering Housing for a 2035 Australia: A New Blueprint Karin Palatoff MPA, Tract Consultants	Designing for Minds We Don't See: Practical and Strategic Actions for Neuro-Inclusive Planning Liesl Copingston, Vase Social	A River needs its Lands: Planning for Birrangung 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's? Emeritus Professor Paul Burton MPA, 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 Cominos 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. Hosted by The Heart Foundation *Limited to 20 places, must be pre-registered to attend
Density Deals: Not all players are equal, deal in 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 MPA, Meridian Urban and Upendo Kwoero, 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 MPA, Spero.ai			
BUILD - Beyond Zoning: Why flexibility drives development Dr Anthony Burton MPA, 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 MPA, Griffith University	Planning the National Capital Under Self-Government Richard Johnston MPA (Life Fellow)	Planning in 2040: Adaptive Leadership for a Disrupted Future Daniel Cavallo RPIA (Fellow), Cumberland City Council and Romina Cavallo, GHD			
LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS							
PIA PlanTech National Conversation AI in Planning <i>Lunchtime Session, Registration Opening Soon</i>							
PLENARY 2 <i>Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra</i>							
John Duguid, Auckland Council <i>Keynote Address</i>							
Planning the Long View Choices, Trade-offs and Responsibilities Dany Rimmer, Director General, Housing Group Treasury Emeritus Professor Barbara Norman MPA (Life Fellow) Urban and Regional Planning, University of Canberra, and Honorary Professor ANU Sue Schwartz FAICP , President, American Planning Association Selja Wellington MPA , Principal, Arup Facilitated by Amy Wilkins MPA , Emerging Planner Director, Planning Institute of Australia <i>Panel Session</i>							
AFTERNOON TEA WITH EXHIBITORS							
CONCURRENT 2 / WORKSHOP 2							
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	
Central Coast Housing Strategy: A Strategic Planning Sprint in Regional Tasmania Dany Connolly PIA (Assoc.), Tasmania's Central Coast Council and Nikki Hill MPA, Colliers Urban Planning	Oliving 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 MPA (Life Fellow), Consultant	Planning for a Continent of Cities: Long-range scenarios for Australian urbanisation Julian Boller and Professor Robert Freestone RPIA (Fellow), The University of Western Australia	Session in Progress Please check the program for updates	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.	
Planning Beyond the Border: Rethinking Regional Planning at the ACT-NSW Interface Ingrid Shelton RPIA, Chris O'Dell MPA and Melanie Krzus RPIA, Gyde Consulting	From Games to Gains: Leveraging the Green and Gold Across Australia Dyan Currie AM RPIA (Life Fellow), Dyan Currie & Associates	"Country" as the Central Organising Principle for Climate Adaptation Liz Cameron and Edna Sydney University	Housing, Homes and Homelessness Aiko Syafari PIA (Assoc), DevelopmentWA, Emily Robertson PIA (Assoc.), City of Subiaco and Keyon Yang MPA, City of Swan	AI and Planning Beyond the Hype, from Pattern Books to Playbooks George Giannakodakis MPA (Fellow), PointData & InfraPlan			
Beyond rezoning: delivering liveable neighbourhoods Katherine Sundermann, Monash University and Professor Andrew Butt MPA (Fellow), RMIT University	From mapping to planning to growing - how housing policy continues to shape Australian cities Oliver Bowering, id	Session in Progress Please check the program for updates	The Implementation Of Informal Urban Art In Residential Urban Spaces Lagan Cavendish MPA, Logan City Council	Planning Policy - What Will Actually Get Built? Using the Informal Urban Art Model to Support Strategic Planning Decisions Benjamin Russ MPA and Will Harmer PIA (Assoc.), PointData			
Planners Take Over Verity Lane Market Hall, Verity Lane, Canberra <i>Tickets available for purchase</i>							
						Proudly Sponsored by City Renewal Authority ACT Government	

CONGRESS DAY 2

Friday 22 May 2026

REGISTRATION							
PLENARY 3 <i>Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra</i>							
Welcome to Country							
Master of Ceremonies, Tim Ross <i>Welcome and Opening Address</i>							
Simon Kuestenmacher, The Demographics Group <i>Keynote Address</i>							
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 Peta Harwood MPA , State Planner and Deputy Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Kathy Bonus RPIA (Fellow) , Chief Planning Advisor at Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage <i>Panel Session facilitated by Nicole Bennetts RPIA, Planning Institute of Australia</i>							
MORNING TEA WITH EXHIBITORS							
CONCURRENT 3 / WORKSHOP 3							
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
Growth Strategy Implementation in South Australia Selja Wellington MPA, Arup and Brett Steiner MPA, Department For Housing And Urban Development	A Planning Paradox: Canberra, Australia's National Capital Rachel Jackson, GML Heritage	Resilient urban planning for regenerative places Claire Mayberry, Tract Consultants	Planning For Growth for a Region Under Pressure - Lessons from Planning and Design in South Australia Or Niv Shallev and Tim Pearson MPA, Arup	Designing With, Not For: Comparing 2D, VR and AR Co-Design with Older Residents for Age-Friendly Parks Dr Zhihan Chen, Tract Consultants	Is this the end of the open space culture in Australia? Jo Noosgaard MPA and Aiza 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. Hosted by The Heart Foundation <i>*Limited to 20 places, must be pre-registered to attend</i> Registration Opening Soon
The Future of Planning is Here, Right Now Andrea Breen, GVP - Local Government Solutions, Objective	The Silent Hum: How EVs are redefining the traditional sounds of the street Sophie Gittins, Stantec	Restoring Country through Indigenous Knowledge: Creative Pathways to Country-centred Planning Liz Cameron and Edna Grigorovic, Department Of Planning, Housing And Infrastructure	From Planning to Impact: City of Swan's Sustainable Growth Story Ian Humphrey MPA, City of Swan	Riding the Waves of Change with New Digital Consultation Tools Fiona McKennarley, Sunshine Coast Council			
Guiding Planners Through Digital Transformation: PIA's PlanTech Program Dr Claire Daniel MPA, 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 Policy. Dr Allan Teale, UTS	Jacka Small Footprint Housing - an SLA demonstration precinct Rob Henry, DNA Architecture	CATS Redefining the SA Planning Ecosystem Nadia Goncetti MPA and Saba Adil Malik MPA, Department of Housing Urban Development			
LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS							
CONCURRENT 4 / WORKSHOP 4							
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	
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 the profession!	AI-Driven Planning: From Wildfire Recovery to Regulatory Reform - How Australia's Check Technology is Transforming Development Approval Dr Benjamin Coorey, Archistar	Reimagining Washpool Creek: A Blueprint for Resilient Regional Renewal Stuart Tedford and Timothy Fichera, Tract Consultants	Housing Trend Tracker: Is planning really the cause of the housing crisis? Scott Walker MPA and Jack Richardson, Booroodara City Council	Inspiring the Young Planners with a Business Idea to Assist Australia's Planning Reforms and Housing Targets Haven Barr PIA (Assoc.), Bayside Council	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.	
	Hidden Layers: Complexity and Discovery in Open Cities Anahita Mirzaei Poinak, Urban Ideas Researcher	Cooler Cities Tackling 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 Tim Helm, Prosper Australia	The "Plan-demic": Cures for a Planner Shortage Dyan Currie AM RPIA (Life Fellow), Dyan Currie & Associates Greg Vann RPIA (Life Fellow), Urban Mentors Collective			
	How Planning and Design Decisions Influence Development Cost and Deliverability James Barwood, EES!	Improving shade provision for UV protection from the Australian sun: Free resources to assist planners Elizabeth King, Cancer Council NSW and Jan Falding RPIA (Fellow), NSW Shade Working Group	Smart Tech for Planners: Urban technology and the public realm Nathaniel Bavinton, Urbis				
AFTERNOON TEA WITH EXHIBITORS							
PLENARY 4 <i>Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra</i>							
AI in Planning: Hype, Help or Hazard? <i>Panel Session</i>							
Hannah Ferguson <i>Keynote Address</i>							
Matt Collins MPA <i>Congress Close</i>							
PIA Planning Congress Gala Dinner <i>Main Hall, Parliament House</i>							
						Proudly Sponsored by Objective	

Program Subject to Change

PLATINUM PARTNERS	Objective	ACT Government	THANK YOU TO OUR CONGRESS PARTNERS
SILVER SPONSORS	SALT	SLR	GYDE Consulting
STUDY TOUR PARTNERS	GML HERITAGE	ACT Government	ARUP
CONGRESS SUPPORTERS	ACT Government	Suburban Land Agency	EMERGING PLANNER SPONSOR
EXHIBITORS	ACT Government	national shelter	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
ACCOMMODATION PARTNER	Archistar	Heart Foundation	NSW GOVERNMENT
	ACCOMMODATION LINK	Healthy Active by Design	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	TRAVEL PARTNER	WAPC	AURIN
	QANTAS	Zion Engagement and Planning	

