

Call for Abstracts



franc.2025

**15 – 16 October 2025
Mercure Hunter Valley Gardens
Resort, Pokolbin NSW**

www.franc-conference.com.au



Building Partnerships, Finding Solutions



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Finding Solutions**

franc.sydney

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Call for Concurrent Presentations

Call for Presentation Submissions due by
Monday, 14 April 2025

Authors advised of the outcome of their submission by
Monday, 19 May 2025

Authors to confirm their involvement in the program by
Friday, 30 May 2025

Early Bird Registration Closes
Thursday, 31 July 2025

Final Presentation Media due by
Friday, 10 October 2025



STORMWATER
NEW SOUTH WALES



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Invitation to Participate

On behalf of the **franc.2025** Conference Organising Committee, we are delighted to invite you to present at **franc.2025**, which will be held at the Mercure Hotel Hunter Valley Gardens, Pokolbin, on 15 and 16 October 2025. The Conference will feature two days of conference presentations, a day of Pre-Conference Workshops, and a Technical Tour showcasing practical examples of stormwater management in the Hunter region.

The theme for franc.2025: **Building Partnerships, Finding Solutions**

franc.2025 will build on the success of previous franc.sydney conferences and continue to create a place where industry professionals, community members and key stakeholders can come together to collaborate, share knowledge, network and learn together. It will provide an opportunity for attendees to connect, discover and upskill, while contributing to the collective knowledge of our industry via our unique participatory knowledge sharing format. In addition, the Stormwater NSW Awards for Excellence will be announced at a special event to be held on Wednesday 15 October.

What is franc?

Franc is dedicated to being future-focused and fostering resilient, networked communities to tackle the complex environmental and social challenges ahead. Issues like stormwater management, urban waterways, marine environments, urban development, human health, biodiversity, and climate change are all interconnected, yet they are often treated in isolation. This separation is understandable, as addressing them together presents complex social, economic, and technical challenges. However, if we are to overcome the challenges facing us, these issues must be tackled as a whole.

Franc recognizes the importance of this integrated approach and seeks to meet the challenge by fostering collaboration and mutual understanding. No single group has all the answers, so the franc community is made up of professionals, scientists, researchers, business leaders, and advocates from diverse sectors who share a commitment to systemic change. This collaborative effort aims to design resilient cities, incorporating urban water management and blue-green infrastructure to create sustainable, humane development that mitigates the environmental risks we face, such as urban expansion, pollution, and climate change.

By advocating together for the necessary policy changes, franc aims to ensure a healthy and prosperous future for society. The challenges ahead are daunting, but with the franc mindset, we can achieve meaningful change.

Presentation Streams

1. Policy and Partnerships

The Policy and Partnerships stream could feature presentations related to the following topics:

- First Nations leadership and involvement in urban water management, Caring for Country, culture and people;
- Community engagement, community education and water literacy;
- Cultural transformation: shifting perceptions, behaviours and capabilities in the water sector;
- The role of integrated water management and land-use planning in smart, green, and resilient cities;
- Insights from taskforces kicked off at franc 2024 – key outcomes, lessons learned, and future directions.

2. Urban Waterways and Catchments

The Urban Waterways and Catchments stream could feature presentations related to the following topics:

- Restoring and revitalising urban rivers and streams;
- The role of urban waterways in public spaces and for recreation;
- Monitoring and reporting on waterway health – strengthening data-driven decision-making;
- Enhancing biodiversity, protecting habitat, and improving waterway health in urban waterways;
- Pollution prevention and mitigation strategies;
- Integrating green infrastructure and Water Sensitive Urban Design in development.

3. Future-proofing Stormwater

The Future-proofing Stormwater stream could feature presentations related to the following topics:

- Urban flooding challenges - innovative solutions for growing risks and flood resilience;
- Improved stormwater management to mitigate the impact of climate change and urbanization;
- Adapting to climate change; storm surge, coastal inundation, heatwaves, droughts, storms and floods;
- Advancing stormwater harvesting and reuse;
- Opportunities for a more holistic Integrated Water Cycle Management approach to new development;
- Innovative approaches, smart technologies. Harnessing digital twins, GIS, AI, and IoT for smarter stormwater management and leveraging real-time flood modelling, early warning systems.

4. Asset Planning and Management

The Asset Planning and Management stream could feature presentations related to the following topics:



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- Delivering capital works and ongoing operations and maintenance in a changing financial/ flood risk environment
- Risk based asset renewal and predictive maintenance strategies
- Integrating asset management across silos and sectors
- Overcoming procurement, funding, skill shortages to deliver stormwater infrastructure

Type of Submissions

The Conference aims to create a Program with a mix of the following presentation types:

1. Oral Presentations – Main Program (15 mins)

Oral presentations will be 15 minutes in length. 3 x 15 minute presentations will be followed by a 15 minute Q&A panel of all presenters speaking in the concurrent block. We encourage presenters to think outside of the box with this presentation format, doing-away with the traditional PowerPoint presentation and considering interactive multimedia such as Slido, Visme, Vyond etc.

2. Poster Presentations

Poster presentations will be on display in the Exhibition Area for the duration of the Conference. Poster presenters will have the opportunity to interact with delegates during the lunch break on the 16 October.

3. Oral (15 mins) and Poster Presentations

Presenters have the opportunity to conduct an oral presentation and display a poster presentation on the submitted topic.

4. Pre Conference Workshops – Full and Half Day proposals will be considered.

Submissions for half day or full day Pre Conference Workshops are welcome. These workshops should be designed to allow for a deep dive into your topic. Presenters should aim to make their workshop as interactive and engaging as possible. Please indicate in your submission the maximum number of delegates that can attend your workshop, along with any pre-requisites for attendees.

Supporting Information

All Oral and Pre Conference Workshop submissions must be accompanied by answering the following questions so we can promote your involvement as a presenter should your submission be successful:

1. Why should someone attend your presentation? (100 word limit)
2. What are the key 3 messages that attendees will learn from your presentation?



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Submission Guidelines

The following guidelines apply for the submission of all presentations:

- All presentations are to be submitted online via the **franc** presentation portal at <https://gems.eventsair.com/franc-2025/abstracts>
- Submissions on any topic related to the presentation themes and topics of the Conference will be considered.
- Abstracts should be a maximum of 400 words
- Submissions must include a biography of the presenter/s of up to 200 words. Submissions not including a biography of the presenter/s will not be considered
- Abstracts should be submitted by no later than **Monday 14 April 2025**.
- Contributors will be provided with advice of acceptance or rejection of their submission. The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any submissions and extend or shorten presentation duration. The timelines for this advice are included on page 1 of this document.
- Presenters will be advised of the outcome of their submission by no later than **Monday, 19 May 2025**.

Important Information for Presenters

The presenting author/s must register to attend the Conference for at least the day in which they are scheduled to present. If you have co-presenters, they must also register to attend the Conference. For all registration enquires and details, we refer you to the conference website.

Sponsorship Opportunities

At **franc**, we believe in networked communities and supporting partnerships. If you know of any organisations who may wish to support **franc** as sponsors of your session, please provide details to registration@gemsevents.com.au

Further Information

For further information regarding **franc.2025**, please contact:

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