



# Franc.2026

28-29 October 2026  
Canberra Rex Hotel  
Canberra, ACT

[www.franc-conference.com.au](http://www.franc-conference.com.au)



## Call for Abstracts

**Be Franc and Drive Change**

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## Call for Concurrent Presentations

Call for presentation submissions due by  
**Friday, 1 May 2026**

Authors advised of the outcome of their submission by  
**Friday, 19 June 2026**

Authors to confirm their involvement in the program by  
**Friday, 26 June 2026**

Early bird registration closes - Speaker registration deadline  
**Friday, 31 July 2026**

Final presentation media due by  
**Friday, 23 October 2026**

Presentation dates  
**Wednesday, 28 and Thursday, 29 October 2026**

**Stormwater NSW is proud to partner with the ACT Government for Franc.2026**





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## Invitation to Participate

On behalf of the **franc.2026** Conference Organising Committee, we are delighted to invite you to present at **franc.2026**, which will be delivered in partnership with the ACT Government and held at the Canberra Rex Hotel. The Conference will feature two days of conference presentations on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 October, a day of Pre-Conference Workshops on Tuesday, 27 October, and a Technical Tour on Friday, 30 October showcasing practical examples of stormwater management in the region.

The theme for franc.2026 is **Be Franc and Drive Change**

**Franc.2026** will build on the success of previous franc 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. In addition, the Stormwater NSW Awards for Excellence will be announced at a special event to be held during the conference, on the evening of Wednesday 28 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. Stormwater management, urban waterways, marine environments, land-use planning, human health, biodiversity, and climate change are all interconnected, yet they are often managed 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 considered in a more integrated way.

Franc recognises 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 engage in inclusive conversations for a healthy and prosperous future for society. The challenges ahead are daunting, but with the franc mindset, we can achieve meaningful change.

## Presentation Streams

### Smart Stormwater:

The Smart stormwater stream could feature presentations related to technology, data, models, Artificial Intelligence, and scaling innovation, including the following topics:

- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Smart sensors
- Remote sensing, satellite monitoring
- Data management and governance
- Data visualisation and integration, digital twins, GIS
- Real time automation
- High performance assets

### Driving Change:

The driving change stream could feature presentations related to the mandatory shifts required to advancing stormwater management, the “how” of change and how to finance it.

- Planning laws and policy
- First Nations leadership and involvement in urban water management, integrating Caring for Country philosophy, 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
- Integrating asset management across silos and sectors
- Overcoming procurement, funding, skills shortages to deliver stormwater infrastructure
- Financing models and approaches

### Navigating the Future Challenges for Stormwater:

The navigating future challenges presentation stream should look to future threats and opportunities; for example, climate change, urban heat, managing flooding and urban expansion etc.

- Flood prediction and early warning systems
- Climate change adaptation approaches; storm surges, coastal inundation, heatwaves, droughts, storms and floods
- Designing cities of the future
- Stormwater harvesting and re-use
- Exposure to algal blooms
- Addressing the competing priorities for water – data centres, irrigation
- Monitoring and reporting on waterway health
- Preventing or mitigating the impact of pollution

### Living Landscapes:

The Living landscape presentation stream focuses on ecology & community. With a focus on:

- Water in the landscape
- Restoring and revitalising urban rivers and streams
- The role of urban waterways in public spaces for recreation
- Enhancing biodiversity, protecting habitat and improving waterway health in urban waterways
- Integrating green infrastructure and water sensitive urban design

## 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. Multiple 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 consider ways to engage with the audience, a projector screen for PowerPoint presentations will be available, but consider other 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, with a dedicated poster session to enable focused interaction between presenters and delegates. Poster presenters will have the opportunity to interact with delegates during the lunch break on the 29 October.

### 3. 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. Selected workshops are contingent on achieving minimum registration numbers required to cover costs.

## Supporting Information

All submissions must be accompanied by a response to 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 3 key 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/franc2026/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 **Friday 1 May 2026**.
- 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 2 of this document.
- Presenters will be advised of the outcome of their submission by no later than **Friday, 19 June 2026**.

## Important Information for Presenters

The presenting author/s must register to attend the Conference for at least the day on which they are scheduled to present. If you have co-presenters, they must also register to attend the Conference. For all registration enquiries 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](mailto:registration@gemsevents.com.au)

## Further Information

For further information regarding **franc.2026**, please contact:

### **Sarah Robinson**

Senior Conference Manager

GEMS Event Management Australia

Phone: 02 9744 5252

Email: [registration@gemsevents.com.au](mailto:registration@gemsevents.com.au)

### **Nerida Taylor**

President and Conference Convenor

Stormwater NSW

Phone: 0410 823 860

Email: [president@stormwaterNSW.asn.au](mailto:president@stormwaterNSW.asn.au)