



THE NEXT
CONVERGENCE

2026 STATE PLANNING CONFERENCE

PIA

Planning
Institute
Australia

DATE: Study Tours – Thursday 27 August
Conference - Friday 28 August 2026
VENUE: Eos by Skycity

STUDY TOURS | More Information [here](#)

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE: 07:30am – 8:30am

PLENARY SESSION 1: 8:30am

8:30am

Alison Lloyd-Wright and Kayla Johnson, The Good Trouble Group

MC

Welcome, House Keeping

8:40am

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Luke Wilson, Kuma Kaaru

Proud Kurna Man

8:55am

Cate Hart RPIA (Life Fellow), State President
Planning Institute of Australia (SA Division)

State Conference Opening Address

9:05am

Hon. Nick Champion MP, Minister for Planning

Pre-Recording

9:15am

Marc Voortman MPIA, Executive Director of Planning and Building

Department for Housing and Urban Development

9:30am

KEYNOTE

Ludo Campbell-Reid, Global Cities Advisor

MORNING TEA: 10:10am – 10:40am

CONCURRENT SESSION 1: 10:40am – 11:40am

10:40am

Ellen Liebelt, City of Adelaide

ARCHI: Unlocking Housing Supply Through Adaptive Reuse

The City of Adelaide’s Adaptive Reuse City Housing Initiative (ARCHI) is one of Australia’s first local government-led programs unlocking housing supply through adaptive reuse. Developed in partnership with the Government of South Australia, ARCHI combines strategic policy, financial incentives, case management, and applied research to help owners convert vacant buildings into homes. This presentation examines ARCHI’s enabling conditions, intergovernmental and industry collaboration, and program design, reflecting on early delivery outcomes and the role of partnerships in adaptive reuse innovation.

Michael Davis, Mott MacDonald

Lessons from Mega Projects

What planners can learn from mega projects and how to apply that approach to planning for growth.

11:00am

Luci Ward, Heart Foundation

Planning for Lifelong Health: Embedding Healthy Active by Design in South Australia’s Growth

Michael McKeown, Jensen PLUS

Gawler Town Centre: Aligning Growth, Infrastructure and Place

As Adelaide’s growth areas and infrastructure investments accelerate, the next planning challenge is town centres. Drawing on

	As South Australia grows, planning decisions must balance housing delivery with long-term community health. This presentation explores how the Healthy Active by Design principles can help create walkable, connected and equitable communities that support physical and mental wellbeing. Drawing on local partnerships and practical examples, it highlights collaborative approaches that integrate health outcomes into planning decisions. With a focus on equity, the session examines how planning can reduce health disparities through inclusive design and access to supportive environments, providing attendees with practical insights to deliver healthier, more liveable and resilient communities.	the 2026 Gawler Town Centre Structure Plan, this presentation demonstrates how a “Town Centre First” approach can align land use, infrastructure and community outcomes, positioning town centres to deliver integrated, place-based growth.
11:20am	Brooke Swaffer, SA Water Reservoirs for Nature: Delivering Biodiversity, Carbon and Climate Resilience Outcomes The Reservoirs for Nature program is a landscape-scale restoration initiative that demonstrates how reservoir reserve land can deliver integrated biodiversity, carbon and climate resilience outcomes. Commencing at the Myponga and Mount Bold reservoir reserves, Stage 1 will restore 320 hectares of previously cleared land, reintroduce 140 native flora species (including 40 of conservation significance), and create habitat for 15 threatened fauna species. The project is expected to generate approximately 67,000 Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) over 25 years, supporting SA Water’s emissions reduction objectives while enhancing ecosystem function and landscape resilience. If expanded across additional reservoir reserves, the program has the potential to restore significant areas of grassy woodland and native vegetation and generate more than 330,000 ACCUs.	Emily Killin, MESH – a Veris Company Too many gatekeepers, not enough leadership: avoiding over engineered planning systems for SA’s new growth areas Too many growth area planning systems become overengineered because too many gatekeepers force too many issues to be resolved too early. Using the Concordia and Kudla Growth Areas, this session shows how South Australia can capitalise on its leadership moment by prioritising housing delivery, disciplined scope and strong Government–industry partnerships in structure planning.
CONCURRENT SESSION 2: 11:40am – 12:30pm		
11:40am	Orr Niv Shallev, ARUP Beyond the Masterplan: How Digital Evidence is Changing the Way We Plan Cities Using examples from Adelaide and around the world, this presentation explores how planners can move from predicting a future to testing many possible futures, helping governments, infrastructure providers, and communities make more coordinated, evidence-based decisions across transport, water, energy, education, health, and recreation systems. Shifting the role of planners from predicting the future, to help society collectively choose between multiple possible futures.	Madeleine Parker, DHUD Grounding Housing Policy in Community Preference: What Greater Adelaide Residents Actually want. Does housing sell because it’s what people want, or simply because it’s all that’s on offer? The Housing Preference Investigation, undertaken by Adelaide University for the Department for Housing and Urban Development, unpacks what Greater Adelaide residents actually want, to build an evidence base for more responsive housing policy.
12:00pm (30 min session)	Leanne Robb and Andrew Coulson, Open Point Beyond the Checkbox: Why Community Engagement Isn’t Shaping Decisions Community engagement is now firmly embedded in South Australia’s planning system, but increased participation does not always mean increased influence. Despite more sophisticated engagement methods and stronger legislative requirements, communities are often invited to contribute only after key decisions have been made. This presentation explores the gap between participation and influence, examining how engagement can become a procedural exercise rather than a tool for shaping outcomes. It highlights the risks to trust when community input is not reflected in decisions and discusses practical ways planners can create more transparent, collaborative and genuinely influential engagement processes.	Will Harmer MPIA and Ben Russ MPIA, PointData Urban Policy Model: Testing Planning Scenarios to Shape Housing Outcomes Planning for housing in South Australia requires understanding both theoretical capacity and financial feasibility. PointData’s Urban Policy Model integrates planning controls with development economics to assess realistic outcomes. Case studies show variations across locations and demonstrate how policy changes can improve feasibility and better guide housing supply decisions future planning.
LUNCH: 12:30pm – 1:30pm		

CONCURRENT 3: 1:30pm – 2:00pm		
1:30pm (30 min session)	Emma Herriman <i>Herriman Legal</i> Legal Update	Nick Kamols, Queensland Government. Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Game-changing technology: Image Generative AI in exploring urban futures <i>Drawing on doctoral research and practice-based case studies, this session explores how generative AI and strategic foresight help planners and allied professionals co-create visual scenarios of plausible urban futures. It highlights how these tools can democratise engagement, reveal risks and trade-offs, and require new ethical, facilitative and leadership capabilities for resilient planning.</i>
PLENARY SESSION 2: 2:00pm – 3:10pm		
2:00pm	INTERACTIVE SESSION Alison Lloyd-Wright and Kayla Johnson, The Good Trouble Group Making ‘good trouble’ - Creating change inside the system <i>Planning has always been about balancing competing interests, but in a rapidly changing environment, simply following established practice isn't enough. The profession needs people who are willing to respectfully challenge assumptions, ask uncomfortable questions and test whether the problems being solved are actually the right ones. This session explores what "good trouble" looks like in a planning context, and how planners can create positive change without creating unnecessary conflict. Participants will leave with:</i> <i>Greater confidence to respectfully challenge ideas, regardless of seniority.</i> <i>Practical techniques for asking questions that uncover better thinking.</i> <i>An understanding of the difference between constructive challenge and unnecessary conflict.</i> <i>A renewed appreciation that progress often begins with someone willing to ask, "Are we solving the right problem?"</i>	
2:30pm	Craig Holden, Chair <i>State Planning Commission</i>	
2:45pm	Nicole Bennetts, Head of Policy and Advocacy <i>Planning Institute of Australia</i>	
AFTERNOON BREAK: 3:00pm – 3:40pm		
PLENARY SESSION 3: 3:40pm – 4:40pm		
3:30pm	Alison Lloyd-Wright and Kayla Johnson, The Good Trouble Group <i>MC</i> <i>Keynote Introduction</i>	
3:30pm	KEYNOTE Zoe Eather The Future Planner - More Human Than Ever <i>Technology is becoming smarter, faster and more capable. At the same time, planners are being asked to navigate increasing complexity, balance competing priorities and help shape better outcomes for communities.</i> <i>In this thought-provoking keynote, engineer, futurist and stand-up comedian Zoe Eather explores how emerging technologies are changing the way we work and why that makes human judgement, curiosity, collaboration and creativity more valuable than ever. Through real-world examples and practical insights, this session will help attendees understand where technology can accelerate progress, where people remain indispensable and how planners can train themselves to see opportunities where others see obstacles and possibilities where others see problems. Audiences will leave energised, optimistic and ready to think differently about what comes next, and the uniquely human role they can play in shaping it.</i>	
4:10 – 4:20pm	Jane Strange RPIA <i>State Manager PIA</i>	
4:20 – 4:30pm	Alison Lloyd-Wright and Kayla Johnson, The Good Trouble Group <i>MC</i> Conference Close	
CLOSING NETWORKING FUNCTION – Conference Close – 7pm		

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