

PIA WA Regional Conference Thursday, 18 June 2026 | Bunbury BREC

Opening / Scene Setting		
09.00 – 09.05	Welcome	Kanella Hope MPIA PIA WA Regional Planners Network Convenor
09.05 – 09.25	Welcome to Country	Invited
09.25 – 09.30	Welcome to Bunbury: A Regional City on the Rise	Jaysen de San Miguel, Mayor City of Bunbury
09.30 – 09.45	From the Minister	Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West
09.45 – 10.00	WAPC Regional Address	Emma Cole MPIA, Chairperson WAPC
Inspirational		
10.00 – 10.50	Against the Tide: A Story of Resilience and Reinvention	Sean Pollard Paralympian
10.50 – 11.10	MORNING TEA	
Big Picture Trends & Drivers		
11.15 – 11.30	The Future of PIA: Our Strategic Direction	Matt Collins MPIA, CEO PIA
11.30 – 11.50	Not One Regional Story: Demographic Diversity and Planning Challenges in WA	Professor Amanda Davies, Head of the School of Social Sciences The University of Western Australia
11.50 – 12.05	Native Title, Land Tenure and Planning Pathways: Enabling Regional Development in Western Australia	Simon Davis, Land Access & Native Title Senior Advisor RFF
12.05 – 12.20	From Transition to Opportunity: How Collie and iif Are Shaping the South West's Future Industries	Allison Christou, Director Regional Development Grants and Engagement South West Development Commission & Kat McKinnon, Director, People and Place South West Development Commission
12.20 -12.40	Collaborative settlement planning in regional WA	Gary Barbour PIA (Assoc.), Director Community Planning City of Busselton & Henry Dykstra MPIA, Director Harley Dykstra
12.40 – 13.30	LUNCH	
Concurrent Sessions		
1. Housing Challenges The Cube		 2. Regional Growth & Infrastructure Pressures Harvey Room
13.35 – 13.55	Rethinking Ancillary Accommodation in Rural WA Paul Nuttall MPIA, Executive Manager Planning and Regulatory Services Shire of Toodyay	Planning for Parking: Lessons for growing Regional Cities Jacob Martin MPIA, Senior Principal – Transport Planning WSP
Session Changeover		
14.00 – 14.20	Approval Pathways for Tiny Homes on Wheels Emmet Blackwell, Strategic Planning Officer Shire of Denmark	Hard hats on the horizon: What industrial growth means for regional WA landscapes Aaron Augustson, Technical Director – Planning GHD & Emma van der Velde, Pursuit Lead – Environment GHD
Session Changeover		
14.20 – 14.40	Modern planning & WW2 soldier settlements Richard Hindley MPIA, Shire of Jerramungup	Heritage as a Health Asset Kylie Christian ARHistS, CPPD, MSc, CEnvP-HER, State Manager Everick Heritage
14.40 – 15.00	AFTERNOON TEA	
15.00 – 15.50	Planning issues arising from unapproved camping activities	Tim Beckett, Partner McLeods Lawyers
Place, Design & Liveability		
15.50 – 16.05	Design Review in the Regions: Lessons from the First 18 Months of the South West Joint Design Review Panel	Matt Slocomb, Coordinator Planning Services Shire of Augusta Margaret River & Joanna Wilson MPIA, Manager Planning and Development City of Busselton
Discussion & Wrap-Up		
16.10 – 16.40	Panel Session Planning in Regional WA: Unpacking Metro vs Regional from the Regional Perspective	Cate Gustavsson, Executive Planning Director – Regional DPLH & Chaz Roberts MPIA, Manager Planning & Economic Development Town of Port Hedland & Owen Hightower MPIA, Director RFF Facilitated by Warren Giddens MPIA (Fellow), Coordinator Strategic Planning City of Busselton
16.40 – 16.45	It's a Wrap	Cameron Leckey MPIA, PIA WA State President

Disclaimer - The speakers, topics and times are correct at the time of publishing. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, PIA reserves the right to delete or alter items within the conference program.

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