

In Focus Sessions: Thursday 27 August 2026

3.30 – 5.00pm

<i>Cultural Immersion Experience – off-site walk</i> <i>Proudly sponsored by Contour Consultants</i>	<i>Building Smarter: Modern Methods of Construction and the Circular Economy Shaping the Future of Development</i> <i>Proudly sponsored by Hansen Partnership</i>	<i>We Tried This In Another Country: What Travels, What Fails, and What Sticks – learnings from international planning and design experts</i>	<i>AI, Modelling, Smart Networks and the next Generation of Transport Engineering</i>
Facilitator: Ebony Hickey, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation <i>This session will take participants for a walk and yarn about the significance of ancestral stories that explain the geological and spiritual creation of the south-west Victorian landscape.</i> <i>It will also include discussion also about the significant biocultural landscapes, mountains, or coastal regions to understand how the Eastern Maar look after the land, air, and waterways.</i>	Facilitator: Damian Iles, Managing Director, Hansen Partnership and VPELA (Executive) Board Member Panellists: Damien Collins, Director, f Neverstop Group Dr Matt Dingle, cofounder, Formflow Luis Sorrentino, Senior Associate at NH Architecture <i>As the development sector faces growing pressure to deliver faster, greener, more cost-effective and more resilient outcomes, traditional construction models are no longer enough. This session explores how Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)—including prefabrication, modular systems, and digital design—can be integrated with circular economy principles to fundamentally</i>	Panellists: Dean Landy, Partner, ClarkeHopkinsClarke Lucinda Peterson, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Pro Bono Planners Australia Lucy Saunders, Healthy Streets Founder UK Matt York, Director, Landscape Architect – Ratio <i>This panel brings together international practitioners working at different scales to shape cities and communities all over the world. From delivering entirely new towns to rethinking everyday streets, this panel will explore what it takes to turn ideas into places from a range of perspectives.</i> <i>Drawing on first-hand experience across Africa, Fiji, New Zealand, Austria and beyond, the panellists will reflect on the lessons, innovations and partnerships that have made their projects possible. The discussion will focus on what travels well between contexts, what does not, and how</i>	Panellists: Rita Arrigo, AI Strategist and others <i>AI can create a video of a cat driving a sports car and make it turn into a rocket. But can it help us plan, model, design, build and manage our transport networks into the future?</i> <i>What Smart Tools are being used as we speak and what new tools are being developed to help us create more refined transport models, manage the road and transport network better.</i> <i>Join us to focus on the different perspectives of the future of Transport Engineering, and how it's going to help us plan, build and manage the travel demands of our future cities.</i>

	<i>rethink how we plan, build, and operate the built environment.</i> <i>Through real world examples and forward-looking discussion, the session will examine how embracing offsite manufacturing, material reuse, adaptable building systems, and data driven design can reduce waste, lower embodied carbon, improve cost certainty, and unlock new development models. Attendees will gain insight into how circular thinking and MMC can move from niche innovation to mainstream practice—informing future planning frameworks, investment decisions, and delivery approaches across residential, commercial, and infrastructure projects.</i>	<i>international experience can inform our work closer to home.</i>	
--	---	--	--

In Focus Sessions: Friday 28 August 2026

11.30am – 1.00pm

<i>Modern Methods of Research – Streets for the People</i>	<i>Environmental Tour of Point Grey Redevelopment</i> <i>Proudly sponsored by Fyfe</i>	<i>Dr Who?</i> <i>PhD Candidates from the RMIT Centre for Urban Research</i>	<i>Where do I even start? Understanding and navigating the ICP system in the context of recent change</i> <i>Proudly sponsored by UPco</i>
James Aloï, Senior Engineer, onemilegrid <i>On the back of his travels to Europe as the 2025 VPELA YPG Award winner, James Aloï will present on his findings and recommendations to the industry, followed by an interactive design workshop where you get to design streets for the people, treating key segments of our network as a blank canvas for public realm and sustainable transport integration.</i>	This site tour by Rob Armstrong and Steve Blackley from Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority will involve a short car-pool or minibus ride to visit the nearby Point Grey redevelopment. <i>Feedback helped shape the final vision for Point Grey, ensuring it reflects community values and celebrates the site’s maritime, cultural, and environmental significance. Rob and Steve will introduce the environmental issues surrounding the area, it’s history and tribunal hearing outcomes.</i>	Mehdi Alidadi <i>Apartment living and travel in Australian cities</i> Khilda Nur <i>Coastal land reclamation and social conflict in Makassar, Indonesia</i> Hamed Farhadi <i>Optimising urban micro-climate and building energy consumption in residential growth areas</i>	Panellists: Briana Eastaugh, Partner, Maddocks Ellen Tarasenko, Principal, Polis Legal Jim Ingemann, Manager, Department of Transport and Planning Paul Shipp, Managing Director, Urban Enterprise <i>An Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP) facilitates the collection of land and monetary contributions for essential infrastructure for new and growing communities. This infrastructure may include roads, local parks, community centres or kindergartens. The ICP system has been used in greenfield areas in Victoria for almost a decade. In the future the system will also include declared activity centre areas, and Suburban Rail Loop structure plan areas.</i> <i>Those experienced in the use of ICPs can find the issues they raise challenging to navigate. Anyone</i>

			<i>new to the ICP system may (understandably) be completely overwhelmed.</i> <i>Through the lens of those who regularly navigate this system – the Victorian Planning Authority, Councils and developers - the panel will explore how the ICP system works, issues that commonly arise in the consideration of ICPs and how these issues may be resolved. Designed for anyone who works (or may in the future work) with ICPs, this session offers a practical approach to understanding the ICP system, including the identification and demystification of complex issues that can arise.</i>
--	--	--	---