

Smart Urban Futures

Building Liveable, Walkable, Sustainable Communities

National Conference

Key themes:

- Transport integration and better street design
- Climate change response, including how to deliver emissions reduction through travel mode shift to walking, cycling and public transport
- Fostering more equitable communities, including gender equality
- Pandemic response – building back better with liveable cities
- Building community support and the case for necessary investment

Who should attend?

- Transport planners and engineers
- Strategic and statutory planners, urban designers, place makers
- Practitioners in gender equality, community wellbeing, economic development, sustainability or health promotion
- Managers, directors and councillors with an interest in these areas



Thursday 5 May and Friday 6 May 2022

William Angliss Conference Centre (Level 5, Building A), 555 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

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Smart Urban Futures

Building Liveable, Walkable, Sustainable Communities

Keynote speakers



- *Matthew Baldwin, Deputy Director-General, European Coordinator for Road Safety and Sustainable Mobility, European Commission (online)*
Matthew's role includes managing the Commission's Horizon Europe Mission for 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030.



- *Ellie Cosgrave, Director, Publica (UK – online)*
Dr Ellie Cosgrave is a civil engineer and expert in inclusive urban development, with a particular focus on safer cities for women and girls. She led the research programme for C40 Cities Women4Climate.



- *Helge Hillnhütter, Associate Professor at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (online)*
Helge's influential research focuses on the role of urban environments to support active mobility modes, health and walking to access public transport.



- *Bec Mouy, Director Streets and Centres, NSW Dept of Planning and Environment*
With experience from advocacy, consulting and politics, Bec now leads the Department's street and centres revitalisation work, focusing on the role of placemaking in economic recovery.



- *Niki Vincent, Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Sector*
Dr Vincent is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Gender Equality Act 2020 and plays a key leadership role in promoting gender equality in the Victorian community.

To view full profiles of all speakers, see the speakers page of the conference website



To view full outline of all presentations, see the agenda page and click on the links



To register, please click here



Time	Speaker details
8.30 am	Registration and tea/coffee
9.00 am	Welcome to Country
9.05 am	Welcome from MAV President and Victoria Walks Board
INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE – DOING IT DIFFERENTLY	
9.15 am	<p>Ellie Cosgrave, Director, Publica UK (virtual presentation)</p> <p>The urgency of the need to reduce urban inequality is inarguable. However, developing consensus as to what this means for the practical day to day delivery of projects is where the cracks start to appear. In this talk, Dr Cosgrave will explore how we might look to radically different design fields to offer new tools and perspectives.</p> <p>Dr Ellie Cosgrave is a researcher, policy advisor and expert in inclusive urban development. She led the research programme for C40 Cities Women4Climate programme and produced the Greater London Authority’s ‘Making London Safer for Women and Girls’ scoping study.</p>
9.55 am	Questions
10.10 am	Morning Tea
BETTER STREETS	
10.40 am	<p>Bec Mouy, Director Streets and Centres, NSW Dept of Planning and Environment</p> <p>Bec will outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence gathered from the community about their use and appreciation of public spaces • Temporary interventions as rapid responses that engage the community in placemaking • Lessons from street activation and transformations <p>Bec Mouy leads the Department’s street and centres revitalisation work in the Public Spaces division, focusing on the role of placemaking in economic recovery. Bec brings experience from advocacy, consulting, and politics, having previously advised the Hon. Rob Stokes, former Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.</p>
11.10 am	Questions
11.20 am	<p>Eric Denholm, Associate, Taylor Burrell Barnett (Perth)</p> <p>Eric will explain how traffic modelling practices, political incentives and legislation are working against people-centric street design and walkability and promote a Healthy Streets approach as a solution.</p> <p>Eric is a Perth-based urban planner with 15 year’s experience, skilled in both urban design and statutory planning.</p>
11.40 am	Questions
11.45 am	<p>Chris De Gruyter, Vice-Chancellor’s Research Fellow, RMIT University</p> <p>This presentation reports on a study undertaken at 57 activity centres, with the amount of street space allocated to each mode of transport compared to the use of each mode to identify locations where street space could be allocated more equitably.</p> <p>Chris De Gruyter conducts research in the area of transport and was previously Deputy Director in the Public Transport Research Group at Monash University and also worked in transport planning both with the Victorian government and in consulting.</p>
12.05 pm	Questions
12.10 pm	Lunch, including optional short walk
EQUITABLE CITIES	
1.00 pm	<p>Niki Vincent, Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Sector</p> <p><i>Gender impact assessment for councils</i></p> <p>The Gender Equality Act 2020 requires public sector organisations, including councils, to conduct gender impact assessments when developing or reviewing policies, programs and services that have a direct and significant impact on the public.</p> <p>Dr Niki Vincent has a wealth of experience in gender equality and organisational leadership, including as South Australian Commissioner for Equal Opportunity and CEO of the Leaders Institute of South Australia.</p>

Time	Speaker details
1.20 pm	<p>Chris Edwards, Manager Government Relations, Advocacy, NDIS & Aged Care, Vision Australia</p> <p>This presentation will explore those things that advance equity within cities and those that are leading to a more divided city for people who are blind or have low vision.</p> <p>Chris has performed a range of strategic and operational leadership roles for Vision Australia and supported Government and many businesses with implementing inclusive practices.</p>
1.35 pm	<p>Hoa Yang, Senior Design Consultant, Daylight and Experiential Lighting, Arup</p> <p>Hoa will present on new knowledge on the influence of urban lighting on perceptions of safety for women and girls in the design of inclusive, footpath-centric cities.</p> <p>Hoa's practice brings together 24-hour lighting design with human-centric strategies to transform experiences for minority groups within the built environment.</p>
1.50 pm	Questions together – equitable cities
2.10 pm	Table discussion session – how can we build a more equitable and inclusive urban form?
2.40 pm	Afternoon Tea
CITIES FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE	
3.05 pm	<p>Bridie Guy, CASBE Project Lead, MAV (virtual presentation)</p> <p>Bridie Guy will share key learnings from the Sustainable Subdivision Framework (SSF) trial, a planning framework developed by local government which seeks to improve sustainability and climate resilience in subdivisions across Victoria.</p> <p>Bridie is Project Lead at the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE).</p>
3.20 pm	<p>Amanda Dodd, Manager Sustainable Environment, Whittlesea City Council</p> <p>Amanda will outline a case study on the integration of SSF principles at precinct scale in a growth area context, highlighting what is possible when placing a resilient lens over urban planning.</p> <p>Amanda is a member of the SSF Governance Board and has been involved in numerous Precinct Structure Plan, large-scale subdivision and environmental protection processes.</p>
3.30 pm	Questions for Bridie Guy and Amanda Dodd
3.35 pm	<p>Panel session – cities for a changing climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridie Guy, CASBE Project Lead • Martin Hartigan, Living Melbourne Program Manager, Greater Western Water Martin was the inaugural coordinator of the Inner Melbourne Action Plan group of councils and led the development of the Living Melbourne strategy with The Nature Conservancy and Resilient Melbourne. • Helen Rowe, Transport Program Impact Manager, ClimateWorks Helen leads ClimateWorks' transport program, and was previously a driving force behind the startup CoDesign Studio, as Head of Innovation and Strategy, and Director of Sustainable Transport Programs at the Department of Transport.
4.05 pm	<p>Matthew Baldwin, Deputy Director-General, European Coordinator for Road Safety and Sustainable Mobility, European Commission (virtual presentation)</p> <p><i>The EU Mission for 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities</i></p> <p>Pushing for 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities in the European Union: why sustainable urban mobility is essential. Matthew will explore the interface between climate action, road safety and sustainable urban mobility.</p> <p>Matthew Baldwin has served in the European Commission for over 20 years, and has been Deputy Director-General at DG MOVE, the transport department, since 2016.</p> <p>His main current focus is as Manager of the Commission's Horizon Europe Mission for 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030.</p>
4.45 pm	Questions
5.00 pm	Networking hour

Time	Speaker details
TRANSPORT INTEGRATION	
9.00am	<p>Helge Hillnhutter, Associate Professor at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (virtual presentation)</p> <p>This presentation discusses explains how urban environments influence pedestrians’ emotions and perceptions of walking distances, highlights the potential that good walking environments have for transit, and reports briefly on examples of urban planning practice in Scandinavia.</p> <p>Helge Hillnhütter’s research focuses on the role of urban environments to support active mobility modes, health supporting urban environments, and walking to access public transport. He is an active reviewer for international scientific journals, member of the Walk21 Advisory Board and Director of Walk21 Europe. His work is influential for planning practice in Scandinavia and increasingly in other European countries.</p>
9.35 am	Questions
9.45 am	<p>Adele McCarthy, Chief Development Officer, Yarra Trams</p> <p>Trams and the city: transit that supports accessible, walkable and vibrant places; embedding sustainability as we build back better; emerging trends for trams post-covid.</p> <p>Adele previously established the Planning & Precincts Division of the Suburban Rail Loop Authority, led the inaugural state-wide 30-year infrastructure strategy as Director Strategy at Infrastructure Victoria, and led the Metro Tunnel Project through its planning and development phases as Project Director.</p>
10.05 am	Questions
10.10 am	<p>David Levinson, Professor of Transport, University of Sydney (virtual presentation)</p> <p>Traffic signals give priority to motor vehicles over pedestrians. This inequality undermines many of the stated goals of transport, health and environment policy.</p> <p>Prof. David Levinson was previously a Professor at the University of Minnesota, from 1999 to 2016. He is the Founding Editor of the Journals: <i>Findings and the Journal of Transport and Land Use</i> and the author of several books including <i>The 30-Minute City</i> and <i>The End of Traffic and the Future of Access</i>.</p>
10.30 am	Questions
10.35 am	Morning tea
11.00 am	<p>Quickfire case studies: Building communities</p> <p>Rapid presentations (8 mins) followed by questions and discussion together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Bonnie Coogan, Gender Equality Officer, Melton City Council</p> <p>Bonnie will provide an overview of the gender impact assessment on the Pedestrian and Cycling Plan that was completed in conjunction with the Engineering department.</p> <p>Bonnie has a key role in ensuring that gender is considered in all council policies, programs, and services, and previously worked in the health sector in a variety of roles.</p> <p>James King, CEO, Unison Housing</p> <p>The presentation will cover the history of Marjorie Oke Apartments, winner of the Planning Institute (Victoria) 2021 award for ‘Great Place’, why the property was transformed, and the key design principals that were considered.</p> <p>James is a Board member and National representative of the Community Housing Industry Association, Victoria and is transforming Unison into the most sought-after purveyor of social and affordable housing in Victoria.</p> <p>Jo O’Byrne, Planner, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</p> <p>This presentation will discuss how establishing community partnerships benefits community building, where the 2018 Croydon South pilot 20-minute neighbourhood assessment process led to, and what longer term conclusions can be drawn.</p> <p>For Jo, planning is a logical, personal progression from her earlier career in problem-solving Management Consulting (Accenture) and Major Event Tourism Management.</p>

Time	Speaker details
BUILDING THE CASE FOR INVESTMENT	
11.45 am	<p>Matt Colston, Associate Partner – Sports, Events and Venues Advisory, EY</p> <p>An insight into the approach and outcomes of EY’s recent study on the economic contribution of the cycling industry in Australia on behalf of We Ride Australia.</p> <p>Matt is the Asia Pacific leader of EY’s Sports, Events and Venues Advisory group and has over 20 years’ experience in providing consulting services to the sports, events, venues and cultural sectors.</p>
12.05 pm	Questions
12.10 pm	<p>Eleanor Glenn, Co-Director, Common Cause (Brisbane, virtual presentation)</p> <p><i>Streets for Everyone: building support for walking and bike riding</i></p> <p>Eleanor will outline tips and practical examples from the messaging guide she developed for VicHealth on how to build public support for measures that enable walking and bike riding, including safer speed limits.</p> <p>Dr Eleanor Glenn provides tailored support to a range of cause-based organisations and each year trains hundreds of advocates in strategy and communications for social change.</p>
12.30 pm	Questions
12.35 pm	<p>Ben Rossiter, Executive Officer Victoria Walks</p> <p><i>Too much talk and not enough action?</i></p> <p>Ben will examine the state of play in relation to investment in walking and walkable communities and look for solutions to overcome the apparent ongoing under-investment in walking.</p> <p>Ben Rossiter is the founding Executive Officer of Victoria Walks and Vice President of the International Federation of Pedestrians.</p>
12.55 pm	Questions
1.00pm	Lunch
1.45 pm	<p>Quickfire case studies: Better Streets</p> <p>Rapid presentations (8 mins) followed by questions and discussion together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Eng Lim, Coordinator Transport, Maribyrnong City Council</p> <p>Maribyrnong has undertaken an ambitious 4-year speed limit reduction program and a complementary Local Area Traffic Management program to achieve safer and better streets.</p> <p>Eng specialises in transport management with a strong urban planning background having worked in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, India, United Kingdom, Middle East and now Australia.</p> <p>Jo Eady, Senior Adviser, Victoria Walks</p> <p>Jo will present research findings about who uses Victoria’s bus stops and how accessible they really are.</p> <p>Jo Eady is an experienced transport planner who has previously worked in consultancy and council roles with a focus on walking and cycling.</p> <p>Marcus Goonan, Director – Infrastructure Services Rural City of Wangaratta</p> <p>Wangaratta have transformed their town centre with a range of walking, cycling, lighting and landscaping improvements.</p>
2.30 pm - 3.00 pm	<p>Plenary discussion and conference wrap</p> <p>Comment and discussion from the floor</p> <p>Closing comments from the chair</p>
3.00 pm - 4.30 pm	<p>WALKSHOP, Hosted by the Level Crossing Removal Project</p> <p>The design, construction and landscaping teams will showcase the 2.5km of new separated walking and biking paths and community spaces under the elevated Upfield line between Moreland & Coburg stations (limited numbers), register on Day 1 at the conference.</p>