



EIANZ 2024 NATURE POSITIVE CITIES SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday 26 March - Wednesday 27 March
Museum of Contemporary Art Australia | Sydney

The concept of utilising nature to deliver improved economic, social and ecological outcomes in urban settings has been with us for some time, so why does it still feel like it is in its infancy?

Ahead of the Australian government’s Global Nature Positive Summit in October 2024, EIANZ’s Nature Positive Cities Symposium will advance the field of urban ecology by fostering discussion on the latest research, policy, and practice. The Symposium will bring together planners, architects, ecologists, natural resource managers, landscapers, local government, and others that play an important role in shaping our cities.

The benefits of Nature Positive Cities can be far-reaching for the economy, health, social wellbeing and biodiversity. Urban environments designed with nature front of mind have been shown to lead to increased property values, a reduction in crime, better social inclusion, and improved mental and physical wellbeing. They can also reduce air pollution, make spaces more habitable through urban cooling, and cut down on heating and cooling costs. Of course, Nature Positive Cities also provide improved natural habitats for local fauna, and refuges for threatened species.

Our cities still co-exist with a diverse range of threatened flora and fauna. Many cities in our region also face significant water supply challenges, pollution, and a loss of connection to nature. Meanwhile, Australia is one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet yet has seen an alarming rate of species loss in the last 240 years.

At a global level, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s 2023 Synthesis Report found that human-induced climate change has had ‘adverse impacts on human health, livelihoods and key infrastructure’. These impacts are most severe in urban and suburban areas. Cities have had a huge influence on the decline in biodiversity and changes in climate. Can they also be the epicentre of positive change and recovery?

In this context, the Nature Positive Cities Symposium seeks to move beyond debates that assume a dichotomy between economy or environment, housing or habitat, and progress or plants by promoting nuanced discussion on how we can build, plan, design and live in our urban centres. The Symposium will explore what is needed to improve delivery of Nature Positive Cities and develop a communiqué in the lead up to the Global Nature Positive Summit.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Defining ‘Nature Positive’ and avoiding greenwashing
- Benefits of a nature positive city and how we measure them
- Embracing First Nations knowledge of Nature Positive
- Overcoming obstacles to Nature Positive Cities
- Where does nature positive fit in strategic urban planning and design
- Financing Nature Positive
- Urban ecology in practice.

Professionals from any field with an interest in urban ecology are encouraged to join us at this timely symposium.

We are calling for presenters to submit abstracts to contribute to the EIANZ 2024 Nature Positive Cities Symposium. Abstracts must be no more than 300 words and be accompanied by a presenter biography. The closing date for abstract submissions is Monday 22 January 2024. We aim to notify presenters by Monday 29 January 2024 if their abstract has been accepted. Submit an abstract [here](#)

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION Until 1 February 2024

EIANZ members	\$600 AUD
EIANZ student members	\$180 AUD
Non-members	\$780 AUD

VENUE: The Harbourside Room
Museum of Contemporary Art Australia
140 George Street, The Rocks, NSW

DATES: 26 - 27 March 2024