



AELERT 2026 CONFERENCE

*Future ready regulation: embracing innovation,
leading change & strengthening regulatory systems*

6-8 October 2026 | Sofitel Melbourne on Collins

AELERT 2026 CONFERENCE: PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Day 1: Embracing Innovation on the Frontier of Regulatory Practice

Day 1: Big-picture shifts in digital innovation, AI, data, climate and national regulation reform

Plenary	Conference opening Welcome to Country Opening Frame
Plenary	State Of Environmental Regulation In 2026
Plenary	National Reforms — Climate and Nature Positive Regulation
Plenary	Digital Innovation and Emerging Technologies
Plenary	Poster Presentation Lightning Round Rapid-fire practitioner and research showcase

Concurrent breakout sessions — Concepts in Focus

A) AI-enabled and automated regulation	B) Digital evidence and chain of custody
C) Advanced monitoring technologies	D) EPBC reform in practice

Social event | Welcome reception | Sofitel Melbourne on Collins

Day 2: Fostering Regulatory Excellence

Application across compliance, enforcement, approvals and environmental regulation

Plenary	Regulatory Excellence in Practice
Plenary	Beyond Compliance — Harm Reduction in Environmental Protection
Plenary	Building Public Trust, Legitimacy and Social Licence
Showcase	Technology and Innovation Showcase — Sponsor Show & Tech Sponsor-led demonstrations of digital tools No-pitch format

Concurrent breakout sessions — Regulation in Practice

A) Compliance and enforcement excellence	B) Approvals and impact assessment reform
C) Workforce and capability building	D) Leading change in transitioning industries

Concurrent workshop sessions - Mini Masterclasses	
Workshop 1: Risk-based regulatory design	Workshop 2: Behavioural insights for compliance
Workshop 3: Emergency readiness and environmental resilience	Workshop 4: Communications, risk communication and outrage mitigation
Social event Conference gala dinner Plaza Ballroom Melbourne	
Day 3: Collaboration and Co-Design for Better Outcomes Cross-sector leadership, First Peoples partnerships, ethical governance and public trust	
Plenary	First Peoples Leadership and Co-Governance
Plenary	Regulatory Stewardship and System Leadership
Plenary	Cross-Agency and Cross-Sector Collaboration
Closing	Closing plenary — the Future-Ready Regulator Synthesis, commitments and close
Workshop	Regulatory Knowledge Exchange — open space technology session Self-nominated topics speakers available all rooms
Day 4: Optional site visits and tours Friday 9 October Melbourne and surrounds Registration details to follow	
Optional	Site visits and tours — Melbourne and surrounds Curated visits to regulatory facilities, environmental sites and industry operations