

Housing@RMIT Network

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2025



Who are we?

Housing@RMIT is an interdisciplinary network of 250+ researchers across 13 disciplines and 18 schools working to address Australia's housing challenges.

We focus on housing supply, sustainability, affordability and equity—collaborating with government, industry and communities to create real-world impact.

Check our [LinkedIn](#) and [website](#) for more details. To become a member, reach out to Karien Dekker (karien.dekker@rmit.edu.au)

Achievements from the Network

One of our team members, [Roman Aizengendler](#), passed his confirmation milestone. His research looks into 'Examining the policy-practice nexus of Indigenous housing provision in the Northern Territory'.

Invitation to join the Housing@RMIT contribution to audit "Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF)"

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) is currently auditing the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF). ANAO is examining two questions related to the HAFF:

- Did Treasury effectively design the Housing Australia Future Fund?
- Has Treasury established effective delivery arrangements?

As part of this audit, ANAO is seeking contributions until **25 January 2026**. We are seeking to make a submission organised through the Housing@RMIT network. Given the timing, we were planning to have a shorter submission which has two sections, one focused on each of the questions. We have tentatively thought of these as policy design and policy implementation. We think that up to five topics for each of these would be reasonable, with each topic having a clear intro/summary and ending with recommendations or policy implications. These would then be brought together in an executive summary (we think this should be less than three pages).

At this stage, we will be holding a meeting on Friday, 5 December at 10 am to discuss the submission and determine some themes. After that we plan on holding two workshops, which can be further planned in the meeting of Friday, 5 December.

More information on the audit can be found at [here](#). Contact karien.dekker@rmit.edu.au if you wish to contribute.

Meet the Team Member!

Muzna Anam is high degree researcher at RMIT's School of Property, Construction and Project Management. Her research looks into developing a **business model for incorporating use of secondary materials with nature-positive solutions to deliver regenerative infrastructures in Australia**. She also has won CSIRO Top-up scholarship for this research.



She was co-organisator of [Housing@RMIT HDR ECR event](#) held on September 11, 2025. As a member, she is keen to create opportunities to lift other researchers in the space to share the knowledge. Click [here](#) to connect with her.

Muzna is passionate about creating a sustainable world for everyone to live in.

Sustainable City Walking Tour

On 18 November, Housing@RMIT members joined the City of Melbourne for Day 2 of AlterCOP 30 Australia on a guided Sustainable City Walking Tour. The tour began at narm ngarrgu Library, a 5 Star Green Star rated building, and the City's flagship public library and family services hub, co-designed with First Nations artists and community. The group then visited leading sustainable projects across the CBD, including 500 Bourke Street, where a major retrofit retained the existing structure and avoided 57,000 tonnes of embodied carbon emissions, and Council House 2 on Swanston Street, Australia's first 6 Star Green Star building. A stop at the Power Melbourne community battery network showcased neighbourhood-scale energy storage supporting renewable integration.

Throughout the walk, the group explored themes of adaptive reuse, city greening, electrification, and water-sensitive urban design. The tour concluded at 120 Collins Street with reflections on Melbourne's evolving sustainable cityscape.



Reflection on Housing on the Edge' seminar with Karien Dekker, Paul Minifie, Ben Milbourne and Yazid Ninsalam

We spoke about the desired future of greenfield developments, and barriers and enablers for that future.

How can we rethink what those suburbs could look like? What design possibilities are there? How can we create active modes of transport, livability, and social cohesion? How can this be done sustainably?

We organised it as part of the Housing @ RMIT network with funding from RMIT University's Enabling Impact Platforms. Thanks to Jess Shepherd for organising, and Ben Milbourne and Amina Basam for assisting. Thank you to Ali Zolghadr, Claire Scorpo Architects, Liam Davies and Thami Croeser for their provocations!

