



SAUG Canberra Conference 2026 | Agenda

Monday 16th March | Hotel Realm Canberra

8:30am – 9:00am		Registration / coffee & tea
Keynote Sessions		
9:00am – 9:10am	Welcome & SAP Australian User Group Update George Papadopoulos Chief Executive Officer, SAP Australian User Group	
9:10am – 9:15am	<i>Transition</i>	
9:15am – 9:35am	Expert Keynote: Predictive Cyber Intelligence for Strengthening Digital Supply Chain Resilience <p>As public sector ecosystems become more interconnected, cyber threats are outpacing traditional defences in both scale and strategic intent. Government agencies now manage sprawling digital supply chains and cloud-integrated infrastructures that offer attackers a massive, fragmented surface. Relying on legacy, rule-driven security is a losing game against modern ransomware and supply chain compromises. This session will examine the transition to Predictive Cyber Intelligence. By integrating behavioural analytics, machine learning, and adaptive risk modelling, organizations can move beyond reactive patching to a state of proactive resilience. We will explore how intelligence led decision making can identify emerging threats before they manifest, ensuring operational continuity and safeguarding public trust in an increasingly contested digital landscape.</p> Abu Barkat ullah (Barkat) Associate Professor and Program Director of Cyber Security, University of Canberra	
9:35am – 9:40am	<i>Transition</i>	
9:40am – 10:00am	SAP International Keynote: Creating harmonized, intelligent systems – SAP Business Suite and Business AI <p>Our special international guest is one of SAP’s most experienced executives, formerly the global head of SAP Industries and a long-standing advisor to leading SAP customers worldwide. He will share strategic insights and global best practices on SAP Business Suite and Business AI, illustrating how organizations are connecting applications, data, and AI into a unified system of intelligence.</p> Peter Maier SVP Strategic Customer Engagements – Office of the CEO, SAP SE	
10:00am – 10:05am	<i>Transition</i>	
10:05am – 10:25am	Customer Keynote: Business Process Management in the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing <p>This session will explore how Business Process Management and SAP Signavio are being applied in the Innovative Ways of Working SAP S/4HANA transition, to drive process optimisation, strengthen governance and enable meaningful organisational change.</p> Dinesh Ramasundara Director – Innovative Ways of Working Program Governance, Capability and Innovation, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing	
10:25am – 11:00am		Morning Break

Expert Sessions	
11:00am – 11:20am	<p>From ECC to S/4HANA – What Public Sector leaders should consider in the next 24 months</p> <p>With deadlines and changes looming, many in the Public Sector face uncertainty as they plan for the next 12 to 24 months. This session, especially focused on the Public Sector will address the most common questions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What RISE actually changes (and what it doesn't) for Public Sector • A practical decision framework: Private Cloud vs Public Cloud • How architects can guide business leaders through the trade-offs <p>Venkat Rao Bhamidipathi Senior Architecture Advisor, SAP Australia</p>
11:20am – 11:25am	<i>Transition</i>
11:25am – 11:45am	<p>The value and impact of AI on productivity and operational efficiency</p> <p>AI is emerging as a powerful lever to lift productivity and efficiency across the Australian Public Service, by streamlining routine work and enabling more responsive services for citizens. This presentation will examine recent government analysis which suggests that broader AI adoption could materially boost public-sector output and add value over the coming decade.</p> <p>Neel Plahe Head of Value Advisory, SAP ANZ</p>
11:45am – 11:50am	<i>Transition</i>
11:50am – 12:10pm	<p>Ethical challenges of Generative AI and Large Language Models</p> <p>This session will give a structured overview of the ethical challenges associated with Gen AI and LLMs, drawing on technical architecture, real-world case studies, and applied experience. Suhayb will survey key risk areas including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sourcing and Hallucinations • Environmental and Infrastructure Impact • Privacy and Guardrail Failure • Creative Ownership • Cognitive Offloading • The erosion of meaningful consent in everyday AI use. <p>The presentation will also reflect on how these issues become relevant in public-sector and enterprise contexts, where GenAI tools are increasingly embedded into decision-making, documentation, and workflow systems.</p> <p>Suhayb Faran Mir AI Graduate, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads</p>
	<i>Transition</i>

12:15pm – 12:35pm	<p>SAP-RPT-1: a new class of AI for business.</p> <p>While structured tabular data represents only 20% of enterprise data, it powers 90% of the analytical and operational systems that drive critical business processes. SAP-RPT-1 is a first-of-its-kind table-native relational foundation model for enterprise data, released in Q4/2025. It's purpose-built for predictions on tabular data using in-context learning, so one model can serve many enterprise prediction tasks without task- or customer-specific training or fine-tuning. This session will demonstrate how SAP-RPT-1 can address common tabular prediction tasks such as classification (eg fraud detection, eligibility determination), regression (eg budget estimation, demand forecasting), ranking/scoring (eg risk assessment, grant scoring) and imputation (eg record filling, demographic gaps). We'll discuss the business benefits of SAP-RPT-1, advantages over ML and LLMs, and the limitations of this first release Business AI capability.</p> <p>Ryan Van Leent Vice President, SAP Global Public Services, SAP</p>
12:35pm – 1:25pm	Lunch
	Showcase Sessions
1:25pm – 1:45pm	<p>Customer Keynote: The Defence ERP Transformation – an update</p> <p>The Department of Defence ongoing ERP Transformation project is a large scale and wide ranging transformation to help ensure Australia's defence capability in the face of ever changing threats. This presentation will give an update on the state of the transformation including challenges, successes and future plans.</p> <p>Major General Sue Graham Head Business Transformation, Department of Defence</p>
1:45pm – 1:50pm	<i>Transition</i>
1:50pm – 2:10pm	<p>Internal Service: The strategic constraint on Digital Government</p> <p>Governments are delivering increasingly seamless digital front doors for citizens, yet the greatest constraints on digital government now sit behind the interface. Fragmented and highly customised HR, finance and procurement processes are creating operational drag, risk exposure and administrative burden across the Australian Public Sector. In this session, Kathleen will explore why the next wave of public-sector transformation depends on strengthening these internal service foundations. When corporate and shared services are modern, connected and aligned to DTA service standards, agencies can deliver digital government that is not only user-centred—but repeatable, auditable, secure and sovereign. This strategic session examines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal services as a government capability: How workforce enablement, process integrity and platform alignment directly influence service delivery • The connected core: Why a clean, integrated S/4HANA environment underpins resilience, cross-agency consistency and long-term sustainability • Operational sovereignty in practice: How workflow simplification and automation reduce internal friction and free agencies to focus on mission-critical work <p>Kathleen O'Brien Global Public Sector Industry Advisor, SAP Australia</p>
2:10pm – 2:15pm	<i>Transition</i>



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2:15pm – 2:35pm	<p>SAP User Experience – the latest innovations and updates</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of the latest User Experience (UX) Innovations in SAP S/4HANA 2025, and in particular how they can benefit Public Sector organisations. You will understand SAP’s UX mission and how the latest innovations in SAP S/4HANA 2025 help to make it a reality.</p> <p>Simon Kemp Principal Consultant, UX Specialist & SAP Mentor, SAP Australia</p>
2:35pm – 2:40pm	<i>Transition</i>
2:40pm – 3:00pm	<p>Interactive Session: AI – from uncertainty to readiness in the Public Sector</p> <p>The transition from looking at AI with uncertainty to a state of readiness and embracing it as a strategic asset, is a key challenge for many in the Public Sector. This session will explore some aspects of the uncertainty and concerns, the future of work and how we can increase our AI readiness. But that’s only the start; we are interested in your feedback so that you will shape the session and we come away with a set of key AI theme s and questions.</p> <p>Professor Alistair Barros Head of School & Academic Program Leader – School of Information Systems, Queensland University of Technology</p>
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Afternoon Tea/ Networking

Please note:

- All speakers and topics are subject to change.
- If you would like to speak at SAUG events please contact [SAUG Head of Content](#).