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Planning Inclusive Cities.ai: The Promise and Peril of Artificial Intelligence for Australia’s Communities

Artificial intelligence (AI) that gives machines human like capabilities such as problem solving has the potential to make city planning and management better and to dramatically improve the quality of people’s lives. It can make city services ranging from transportation and road maintenance to water and lighting more efficient, help government and community organizations serve people in need more effectively, and extend the analytical reach of planning professionals. But the opportunities to advance the public interest using AI is tempered by the hard truth that it can also cause harm. While AI can help cities become more open and innovative, it can also harden existing barriers and the status quo. It can help communities become more inclusive and equitable or it can help concentrate power and amplify longstanding prejudices and exclusion. This session will explore the promise and peril of AI for planning professionals and other community leaders. While touching on some technical features of and concerns about AI, this session will also address the importance of people, organizations, and institutions in ensuring AI is developed and deployed for the widest possible benefit.