

MEDIA RELEASE

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2026 Rail Industry Awards, Australia and New Zealand finalists announced

The finalists for the 2026 Rail Industry Awards, Australia and New Zealand have been announced today, recognising outstanding examples of excellence and innovation from across the rail industry.

Australasian Railway Association (ARA) Chief Executive Officer and judging chair Caroline Wilkie said the quality of the finalists had impressed judges this year.

“The industry has seen a year of change as new projects have been completed and rail organisations have transformed their operations to address evolving customer demand,” Ms Wilkie said.

“The finalists have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to excellence, innovation and a great customer experience across all sectors of the rail industry.

“The quality of the submissions set a tough task for the judges and I congratulate all of our finalists on their achievements.”

The awards feature 15 categories, including a mix of organisational and individual awards.

“We have been impressed by the improved operational outcomes, innovative sustainability measures, new technology solutions and efficient project delivery demonstrated by this year’s finalists,” Ms Wilkie said.

“The individual award categories also highlight the depth of talent, passion and commitment that exists across the rail workforce.”

The winners will be announced at the 2026 Rail Industry Awards Gala Dinner on Tuesday 1 September at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Sydney.

The awards are delivered in partnership by the ARA, the [Rail Track Association Australia](#), [Rail Technical Society Australasia](#), [Permanent Way Institution](#), [Institution of Railway Signal Engineers](#) and [Australian Rail Industry Standards Organisation \(ARISO\)](#).

ENDS

Note for editors: A full list of finalists is included on the following page.

2026 Rail Industry Awards, Australia and New Zealand finalists

Individual awards

Signalling and Systems Engineering Excellence Award

Supported by: [IRSE](#)

- Anthony MacDonald | HITACHI Rail
- Bin Zhu | Hitachi Rail Australia
- Amanda Lepore | V/Line Corporation
- Josh Doyle | Metro Trains Melbourne
- Darryn De Reuck | Downer EDI (QTMP Project)

Emerging Rail Specialist Award

Supported by: [RTAA](#)

- Nichelle Naluz | North Western Program Alliance
- David Lam | MTR Corporation

Young Rail Professional Award

Supported by: [RTSA](#)

- Shania Rajanayagam | Vitruvius
- Ryan Fletcher | Jacobs
- Devy Rimba | North Western Program Alliance
- Ahmet Syed | Siemens Mobility Pty Ltd
- Andrew Smetherham | Arup
- Scott Bourke | Metro Trains Melbourne
- Yeonsoo Kim | Hitachi Rail
- Chantal Ivory | Wabtec Corporation

PWI NSW Young Achiever Award
Supported by: [PWI NSW](#)

- Bryan Law | Queensland Rail
- Ethan Wheeler | ARTC
- Lauren Fraser | GHD
- Noah Green | Martinus

Project or organisation awards

Rail Freight Excellence Award
Supported by: [ARA](#)

- Freight Collaboration Forum | Sydney Trains
- Freight Rail Excellence | V/Line
- Kenwick IMT | Arc Infrastructure and Intermodal Group
- Pimba Intermodal Hub | Australian Rail Track Corporation Limited (ARTC)
- Redefining Rail Through Safety, Innovation, Growth and Excellence | Rail First
- The evolution of Arc's Digital Twin: AI and project scoping | Arc Infrastructure

Passenger Operations Excellence Award
Supported by: [ARA](#)

- Boarding Assistance for Guards Project | Sydney Trains
- Chester Hill Station Upgrade | Gartner Rose and Dura Composites Australia
- Flex Ops | Transdev Australia & New Zealand
- Major Events Operations | Metro Trains Sydney
- Mordialloc Level Crossing Removal Project AWP8 | Southern Program Alliance (VIDA Rail, ACCIONA, WSP and Metro Trains Melbourne)
- Noarlunga Interchange Murals | Keolis Adelaide Pty Ltd
- NSW TrainLink Central Reservation System Transformation | NSW TrainLink
- Operationalising the Metro Tunnel | Metro Trains Melbourne

Infrastructure Project Excellence Award

Supported by: [RTSA](#)

Sponsor: [Andrew Engineering](#)

- Southern Program Alliance (ACCIONA) | Kananook Train Maintenance Facility & Train Wash Facility AWP7 (VIDA Rail, ACCIONA, WSP and Metro Trains Melbourne)
- Link Alliance | City Rail Link project (Link Alliance)
- Transport for NSW | Transport for Tomorrow – Sydney Terminal Area Reconfiguration Phase 2
- VIDA Metro | Metro Tunnel Project
- Laing O'Rourke | METRONET Byford Rail Extension Project (Public Transport Authority, Laing O'Rourke, Colliers, KBR)
- Queensland Rail | Hope Island Station construction (Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and ACCIONA Georgiou Joint Venture)
- John Holland | Light Rail Procurement, Retrofit and Depot Expansion (LPRDE) program – Canberra Metro Operations (CMET)

Supplier Excellence Award

Supported by: [ARA](#)

Sponsor: [Rail First](#)

- ABB Traction Centre of Excellence | ABB Australia Pty Ltd
- Innovative Minimum Viable Product (MVP) | Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)
- Integrated, mechanised track maintenance delivery model | Swietelsky Rail Australia
- Port Chalmers Rail Sidings Project | BarChip Australia
- Supply Chain Harmonisation | Hitachi Rail Australia Pty Ltd
- The Railway Systems Academy | Voestalpine Railway Systems Australia Pty Ltd
- The Rosella Project | Gilligan Group (on behalf of Pilbara Rail Maintenance - PRM)
- VLocity Train | Alstom

Safety Excellence Award

Supported by: [ARISO](#)

- Vossloh Switch Systems - Vossloh Turnouts Business
- Training Worx Australia- Safety Leadership Program
- Laing O'Rourke Rail Operations - The OnTrack App
- DEGNAN - ONE Safe Workplace principles
- Spatial Media - Arahina platform
- Sydney Trains - Possessions Access Coordination Tool (PACT)
- Australian Rail Track Corporation - National Safeworking Framework (NSF)
- Metro Trains Melbourne - Comeng Door Locking Project

Customer Service Excellence Award

Supported by: [ARA](#)

Sponsor: [John Holland](#)

- 290 MTPA Program Rail Signalling and Communications | John Holland
- Dash 9 Locomotive Life Extension Project | Wabtec
- Everybody's journey is different accessibility campaign | Queensland Rail
- Integrated Disruption Management | Martinus
- Maintaining 98% Customer Satisfaction | Metro Trains Sydney
- Metro Tunnel - Summer Series activations | VIDA Metro
- Queensland Rail 160th Birthday Celebrations | Queensland Rail
- Trambassadors | Yarra Trams

Employee Engagement Excellence Award

Supported by: [ARA](#)

Sponsor: [Rio Tinto](#)

- Connecting Southwest Employee Engagement program | Metro Trains Sydney
- Cultural Leadership in Frontline Safety – Engaging Leaders Through Shared Ownership and Trust | KiwiRail
- Engagement Excellence Award, V/Line Mentoring Program | V/Line
- Keolis Business Plan | Moving Together | Keolis Adelaide Pty Ltd
- Our Safety Focus 2026 | Downer and Sentis
- Overhead Wiring Training Facility | Laing O'Rourke Rail Operations
- PECS Mentoring Guide | Martinus
- Track to Thrive - Employee Engagement Uplift | Rail First

Rail Innovation of the Year Award

Supported by: [ARA](#)

Sponsor: [Project i-TRACE, powered by GS1 Australia](#)

- Arahina | KiwiRail
- CBTC implementation on the Metro Tunnel | VIDIA Metro, Cross Yarra Partnership, Rail Network Alliance and Metro Trains Melbourne
- Design and Deployment of Next Generation Instrumented Ore Car | Monash Institute of Railway Technology, Rio Tinto Iron Ore
- HORUS + EN4CER | 4AI Systems
- QRY initiative | Queensland Rail
- RAXS Trial | Transport for NSW, ARTC and Rail Safety Systems
- Robotics - On Track to Revolutionise Rail Operations | Downer Rail & Transit Systems (RTS)
- Solar powered, wireless level crossing detection system | V/Line Corporation

Sustainability Excellence Award

Supported by: [ARA](#)

Sponsor: [ACCIONA](#)

- ARTC Ballast Cleaning Programs | Swietelsky Rail Australia
- Cross River Rail - RIS project | UNITY Alliance
- Metro Tunnel Project | Metro Tunnel Project
- Mortdale Maintenance Centre Solar Panel Project | Sydney Trains Suburban Services
- Moss Vale Station and Stabling Yard Upgrade | Transport for NSW and Degnan Constructions Pty Ltd
- Parkdale Level Crossing Removal Project (AWP6) | Southern Program Alliance (VIDA Rail, ACCIONA, WSP and Metro Trains Melbourne)
- Pimba Intermodal Hub | Australian Rail Track Corporation Limited (ARTC)
- Tram Maintenance and Stabling Facility | Northwestern Program Alliance

Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Award

Supported by: [ARA](#)

Sponsor: [BHP](#)

- Alstom Australia & New Zealand | Alstom
- Everybody's journey is different accessibility campaign | Queensland Rail
- Future Talent Strategy | Metro Trains Sydney
- Swietelsky Rail Australia | Swietelsky Rail Australia
- Sydney Trains Apprenticeship Program | Sydney Trains
- Women@Metro | Metro Trains Melbourne
- Women@SPA: Southern Program Alliance | VIDA Rail, ACCIONA, WSP and Metro Trains Melbourne
- Women@UGL | UGL Transport



Keeping communities safe on & around rail
Supported by: [TrackSAFE Foundation](#)

- Metro Trains Melbourne | Trespasser Insights Report and Network Wide Trespasser Safety Strategy
- NSW TrainLink | Boambee Rail Bridge Safety Initiative
- Queensland Rail | Bridge Strike Prevention Committee
- Arc Infrastructure | Stop in Your Tracks
- Transdev Australia and NZ | Keeping Young People on the Right Side of the Tracks
- Martinus | Follow the Footprints
- Queensland Police Service | Rail Day of Action
- V/Line Corporation | V/Line Travel Training Package



ara.net.au/events/rail-industry-awards/