



RAIL INDUSTRY AWARDS

AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

Tuesday 1 September 2026
International Convention Centre
(ICC), Sydney



[Nominate now](#)

Emerging Rail Specialist Award

Judged by the Rail Track Association Australia (RTAA)



The Emerging Rail Specialist Award recognises and encourages the contribution of emerging rail specialists in the early stages of their career within the rail industry. The award is for individuals with less than 10 years' relevant experience, to include not only those young in age, but also those who have had career breaks or changes.

Criteria

The Emerging Rail Specialist Award is open to individuals who:

- Are either employees of current Corporate RTAA members, or are a Personal RTAA member;
- Have between two and ten years' (Full Time Equivalent) rail experience as of 1 January 2026;
- Have a minimum of two years' (Full Time Equivalent - post High School) relevant work experience;
- Can demonstrate their key involvement in the rail industry locally or internationally;
- Are Australian or New Zealand citizens and/or permanent residents;
- Agree with the RTAA's rules and procedures for recipients;
- Must not have won this award, or similar in the previous 5 years.

Submission components

1. A submission paper (or similar).
2. A brief presentation to the RTAA Judging Panel (shortlisted applicants only).

Questions to address

1. Is your employer a current financial Corporate RTAA Member or are you a Personal Member of the RTAA?
2. Do you have 2-10 years full time equivalent rail experience as of 1 January 2026?
3. Do you have a minimum 2 years (full time equivalent) relevant work experience?
4. Are you an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residency?
5. Do you agree with RTAA's rules and procedures for recipients?
6. Do you give permission for key points from your nomination to be shared with the wider rail industry? Refer to supporting document (e) below.

Supporting documents

- a. **Submission paper** – This should summarise excellence and applied innovation in any rail field (*3000-word limit*). Submission should focus on:
 - o Key achievements of the individual, and how these benefits or further the rail industry.
 - o How you see yourself supporting the railway industry within and publicly.
 - o The paper will be assessed in accordance with the evaluation criteria. Candidate should seek to address the criteria available at [Emerging Rail Specialist Award \(RTAA\) Award and Eligibility](#).
- b. **Resume** – a CV evidencing the entrant's key involvement in and contribution to the rail industry, detailing his/her qualifications and experience (*Four-page limit*).
- c. **Identification** - driver's licence, passport or other appropriate document that demonstrates Australia / New Zealand citizenship or residency.
- d. **Reference Letters** – Refer to Referees section below (*Six-page limit*).
- e. **Overview of Nomination** – Upload an overview of your nomination with contact details for inclusion in the Rail Knowledge Bank and awards website (*One-page limit*).
- f. **Evidence of Membership** - Either current corporate or personal membership that covers the applicant at the time of submission.

Referees

The application must be accompanied by a minimum of two, and a maximum of three, supporting referees who can attest to the application and the entrant's eligibility to apply.

- At least one referee must be an RTAA member, either as a corporate member or as a personal member.
- At least one referee must be the entrant's current employer (or employer relevant to the project being submitted as part of the application).

Winners' prize

Winners receive the following;

- Ticket to attend the next AusRail conference. This includes conference / exhibition entry fees.
- Support to attend a conference or development opportunity of the winners choice, including travel, accommodation and expenses up to \$5,000 (This amount includes GST and is further defined in the [Award Entrant Rules and Procedures](#)).
- \$1,000 cash prize.

The winner will be invited to join the RTAA Management Committee for a period of 12 months. The aim of this role is to foster the involvement of emerging specialists in rail and engagement with industry groups such as the RTAA. The winner's employer will also receive a certificate acknowledging the individual's achievement.

Other prizes

Second and third place entrants may receive prizes up to the value of up to \$2000 and \$1000 AUD (GST inclusive) respectively. These prizes are to support the costs for the individuals to attend a railway conference in Australia or overseas.

Awards for runners up will be made at the sole discretion of the judging panel and will be determined by the standard of excellence of the applications received.

All prizes must be redeemed by the prize winners within three years of the Award announcement. All winners (including first, second, or third prize) will receive free personal membership of the RTAA for three years.