

Auckland, NZ
29 May 2025
Pullman Hotel, Auckland



Conference Program

RaiNZ 25



**Australasian
Railway
Association**

Conference Program

Thursday 29 May 2025

Time	Session
07:00 – 08:15	Young Rail Professionals Breakfast Networking Event
08:15 – 08:45	Registration and Coffee
08:45 – 08:55	Mihi Whakatau
08:55 – 09:05	Welcome and Opening Remarks Caroline Wilkie, Chief Executive Officer, Australasian Railway Association
09:05 – 09:15	Opening Ministerial Address via video – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Rail, Rt Hon Winston Peters
	Morning Sessions Theme: A changing landscape for rail
09:15 – 09:40	Presentation: A new era for KiwiRail Peter Reidy, Chief Executive Officer, KiwiRail
09:40 – 10:05	Presentation: Auckland One Rail – transforming for the future Gavin Panter, Chief Operating Officer, Auckland One Rail
10:05 – 10:30	Presentation: The future outlook from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Mike Hargreaves, Deputy Director Land Transport, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
10:30 – 10:35	Silver Sponsor Address: James Sutherland, Executive Director, Infrastructure Advisory Group
10:35 – 11:05	Morning Tea Break in the Exhibition
	Mid-morning Session Theme: Transforming Metro Rail
11:05 – 11:30	Presentation: Future of Rail in Wellington Tonia Haskell, Managing Director, Transdev Wellington Paul Tawharu, Regional Manager, Greater Wellington Regional Council
11:30 – 12:10	Panel: CRL Integration – preparing for day one Chair: Russell McMullan, General Manager – Assurance and Integration, City Rail Link Panel: Bevan Assink, Programme Director – CRL, KiwiRail Louise Pengelly, CRL Operations Director, Auckland One Rail Mark Lambert, Executive Programme Director – Strategic Programmes, Auckland Transport
12:10 – 12:30	Presentation: Managing graffiti through art – a new pilot strategy Jo Reeves, Communications Manager – Projects and Partnerships, KiwiRail
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch Break in the Exhibition
	Afternoon Theme: People and Safety
13:15 – 13:30	Presentation: ARA’s Future Rail Workforce Report Griere Cox, Partner, PWC
13:30 – 14:10	Panel: Building the rail workforce of the future Chair: Griere Cox, Partner, PWC Panel: Samantha McNaughton, Deputy Chief Executive, Hanga-a-ro-rau Jo Bigham, Employment Relations Manager, Auckland One Rail Drew Thoresen, General Manager – Learning and Development, KiwiRail
14:10 – 14:30	Presentation: Empowering Young Rail Professionals in New Zealand Zara Collings, Sustainability Associate, KiwiRail Jamie Ravela, Civil Engineer, KiwiRail

14:30 – 15:10	<p>Panel: Rail Safety Reform – working together to improve</p> <p>Chair: Gini Welch, National Manager Rail Safety Regulation, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi</p> <p>Panel: James House, Chief Safety Health and Wellbeing Officer, KiwiRail</p> <p>Lisa D'Oliveira, General Manager, HSQESS, Auckland One Rail</p> <p>Megan Drayton, Foundation Manager, TrackSAFE Foundation NZ</p> <p>Huw Bridges, Chief Safety & Assurance Officer, Transdev</p>
15:10 – 15:35	Afternoon Tea in the Exhibition
	Afternoon Theme: Freight and Passenger Rail Insights
15:35 – 16:05	<p>Panel Discussion: Customer perspectives on the rail freight landscape</p> <p>Chair: Adele Wilson, Chief Customer & Growth Officer, KiwiRail</p> <p>Panel: Scott Hurdley, General Manager Logistics, Silver Fern Farms</p> <p>Dave Christie, Supply Chain Strategy Director, Tainui Group Holdings</p> <p>Santiago Aon, Director Global Supply Chain, Fonterra</p>
16:05 – 16:25	<p>Presentation: Passenger Mobility and Insights – International Perspectives</p> <p>Peter Lensink, Chief Operating Officer, Transdev</p>
16:25 – 17:00	<p>Panel: Challenges and Opportunities for Metro Rail Networks</p> <p>Chair: Simon Bourke, General Manager Advocacy and New Zealand, Australasian Railway Association</p> <p>Panel: David Wood, Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry for Transport</p> <p>Samantha Gain, General Manager – Metlink, Greater Wellington Regional Council</p> <p>Stacey van der Putten, Director Public Transport & Active Modes, Auckland Transport</p> <p>David Gordon, Chief Planning and Asset Development Officer, KiwiRail</p>
17:00 – 17:05	Closing Remarks – Australasian Railway Association
17:05	Conference Concludes



Thank you to our Program Partner:



Contact Details

P. 1800 826 011 | E. ara@ara.net.au | ara.net.au
 Unit 6a, 2 Brindabella Circuit, Brindabella Business Park ACT 2609
 PO Box 4608, Kingston ACT 2604 Australia