

YOUNG RAIL LEADERS COMMITTEE

previously known as Young Leaders Advisory Board (Y-LAB)

2026 APPLICATION FORM

Thank you for your interest in joining the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) Young Rail Leaders Committee (YRLC, previously known as the Young Leaders Advisory Board (Y-LAB)).

Y-LAB was established by the ARA in 2019 to harness the ideas of young talent across the Australasian Rail Industry and provide advice and input to the ARA Board.

The newly renamed YRLC's purpose has been revised to better reflect its responsibilities:

1. **Build Networks:** Develop and strengthen a network of engaged young rail professionals in Australia and New Zealand.
2. **Give a Voice:** Represent young professionals on key industry issues, champion their interests, provide insights to the ARA, and contribute to ARA Committees.
3. **Raise Awareness:** Support the ARA in enhancing industry perceptions and attracting young talent.

The YRLC is a 10-person committee. It is gender balanced and comprised of members who represent diversity of jurisdictions and sectors in the rail industry.

Appointments are for a period of three years. Five appointments will be made for the committee term of 1 July 2026 to 30 Jun 2029.

Your application must include:

- A written statement of 200 – 250 words addressing the question: “Why have you applied for YRLC?”
- A video (maximum of two-minutes) addressing the question: “What skills or passion would you bring to the role and what ideas or activities would you like to champion?”
 - The video can be filmed using a mobile phone. Videos will be reviewed on the content and presentation skills of the applicant, not whether it is professionally edited.
- Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- Completion of this form by the nominee and the nominee's employer.

Nominee Criteria

To be eligible to join the YRLC you must:

- Be 35 years or under at 31 December 2026*
- Be currently employed by an ARA member company (not currently represented on the YRLC)**
- Commit to an appointment of three years (1 July 2026 – 30 June 2029)

* Flexibility on age may be provided on a case-by-case basis.

** To ensure diversity, YRLC member organisations currently represented will not be able to secure a second representative on YRLC.

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Selection Criteria

Nominations will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrated experience, involvement in and commitment to the rail industry
- Quality and clarity of written submission
- Presentation capability, clarity and content of verbal submission via video
- Proposed ideas for the committee to pursue in achieving its purpose
- Diversity of geographic location, skill sets and disciplines
- Volunteering experience or demonstrated initiative to promote or support the rail industry beyond job role requirements.

Submission

Submit your completed application and accompanying materials via email to ARA Workforce Development at workforcedevelopment@ara.net.au by **5pm AEST on Friday 8 May 2026**.

A confirmation email will be sent to confirm material has been received and can be accessed; **please share your video via an accessible platform**. Applicants will be notified in June if their application has been successful.

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Applicant's details

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

State:

Phone:

Email:

Company:

Gender:

- I confirm that I meet the nominee criteria and enclose the items required as part of the application.
- I confirm that I will commit to attend and participate in person meetings annually as well as other young rail professional events as required.
- I recognise that there will be out-of-session teleconferences and meetings as required to ensure progress of YRLC priorities and projects between YRLC meetings and am committed to contributing to these as required.
- I will actively participate and commit my time (approximately an hour a week) to YRLC if I am selected as a member.

Signed: Date:

Employer Consent – key contact

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

- I support 's application.
- I acknowledge that a position on the YRLC will involve travel and attendance at three face to face meetings per year. These meetings will be located throughout Australia and New Zealand, and I confirm my support to 's attendance, travel and accommodation to participate in these and other YRLC initiatives as required.

Signed: Date: