



NZ Rail

by informa...

2 – 3 DECEMBER 2026

TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU / AUCKLAND



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF RAIL IN AOTEAROA

TE KITENGA (VISION), MAHI TAHI (COLLABORATION), & AUAHA (INNOVATION)

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES



Stephanie Rowe, *Executive Leader, Delivery,*
Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport



Peter Reidy, *Chief Executive Officer, KiwiRail*



Stacey van der Putten, *Interim Chief Executive,*
Auckland Transport



Patrick Brockie, *Chief Executive, City Rail Link Limited*



Mike Hargreaves, *Group General Manager and Director of*
Land Transport, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi



Pelin Fantham, *Head of Rail Safety Regulation,*
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi



Martin Kearney, *Chief Executive Officer,*
Auckland One Rail

ALSO FEATURING



Bevan Assink, *Chief Metro Officer, KiwiRail*



Nigel Jones, *Chair, New Zealand Cargo Owners Council*



Samantha Gain, *Group Manager, Metlink*



Fiona Abbott, *Senior Manager Assets and Infrastructure,*
Metlink



Thomas Nash, *Consulting Partner, Agite Consulting Ltd*



Thea Hannah, *Group Manager Regulatory, KiwiRail*



Phil King, *Director, Regional Transport Connections,*
Waikato Regional Council



Carla Garvie, *Commercial Director, Alstom*



Lucy Hawcroft, *Sustainability Manager, KiwiRail*



Barry Fryer, *Programme Manager,*
Metlink (Greater Wellington)



Adele Wilson, *Chief Customer and Growth Officer,*
KiwiRail



Sharon Zollner, *Chief Economist, ANZ*



Alan Trestour, *Head of CRL Delivery, CRL Readiness Programme*
Director, Auckland Transport



Michael van Drogenbroek, *Director Consulting and Advisory,*
Heriot-Edievale Ltd



Lisa D'Oliveira, *GM HSQESS, Auckland One Rail*



Behnaz Shaabani, *PhD researcher, University of Auckland*



Megan Tyler, *Director of Policy, Planning and Governance,*
Auckland Council



Megan Drayton, *Foundation Manager,*
TrackSAFE Foundation NZ



Nicky Sweetman, *Chair, RTSA NZ*



Russell McMullan, *Owner Interface Manager, General Manager*
Assurance and Integration, City Rail Link Ltd



David Hampton, *System Planning Manager,*
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

Plus many more...

New Zealand Rail 2026



Kia ora, welcome to the 15th New Zealand Rail Conference 2026, New Zealand’s premier rail event! This year’s theme **Shaping the Future of Rail in Aotearoa with Te Kitenga (vision), Mahi Tahi (collaboration), and Auaha (innovation)** captures the sector’s drive to move forward together, embrace emerging opportunities and adopt cutting-edge innovations.

Join industry leaders as we explore priority topics such as building an integrated transport system, regional rail collaboration, the next era of rail safety regulation, multi-modal supply chain integration, metropolitan rail demand and NZ’s transit-oriented development potential. Special features include the **NZ Young Rail Professionals Forum, Next Generation Conference Scholarships, and the NZ Rail Excellence Awards**, celebrating leadership, innovation, and sustainability.

We look forward to welcoming you as we bring together the voices driving change across Aotearoa’s rail sector to forge a system that balances today’s priorities with long-term sustainability.

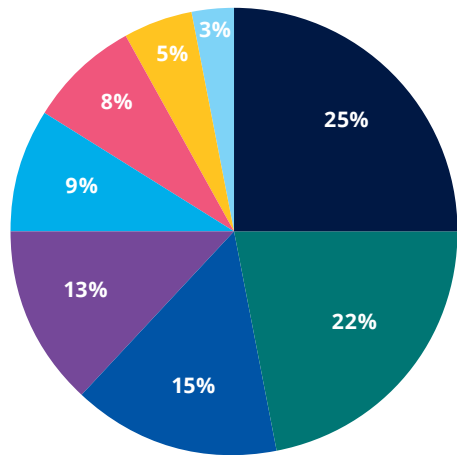
Nga mihi nui,

Kate Twentyman | Conference Director | Informa

JOIN INDUSTRY LEADERS AT NEW ZEALAND’S MOST ESTABLISHED RAIL EVENT!

With strong representation from leadership and technical roles, NZ Rail’s audience reflects the rail industry’s focus on infrastructure development, operational excellence, and strategic growth in the transportation sector.

AUDIENCE BREAKDOWN OF RECORD NZ RAIL 2025 ATTENDEES BY JOB CATEGORIES



“Great location, was an amazing opportunity to network with other young professionals and industry leaders. It was awesome to win the scholarship and get the opportunity to attend. I’m super grateful for the amazing event Informa, you all did great.”

Executive Leadership (25%)

- Chief Executive Officers
- Chief Operating Officers
- Chief Infrastructure Officers
- Chief Customer and Growth Officers
- Managing Directors
- Executive Directors
- General Managers
- Directors

Engineering & Technical (22%)

- Rail Engineers (Senior, Principal, Graduate)
- Civil Engineers
- Electrical Engineers
- Signalling & Infrastructure Engineers
- Geotechnical Engineers
- Track Designers
- Technical Principals

Project Management (15%)

- Project Managers
- Program Managers
- Project Directors

- Principal Project Managers
- Program Performance Directors
- Project Delivery Managers

Operations & Service Delivery (13%)

- Operations Managers
- Rail Operations Specialists
- Service Leaders
- Rail Fleet & Infrastructure Managers
- Network Delivery Managers
- Rail Franchise Coordinators/Managers

Government & Regulatory (9%)

- Ministers
- Mayors
- Deputy Mayors
- Rail Safety Regulators
- Policy Directors
- Group Managers for Public Transport

Business Development & Sales (8%)

- Business Development Managers/Leaders

- Sales Directors/Managers
- Account Managers
- Growth Leads
- Client Leaders
- Business Managers

Strategy & Planning (5%)

- Strategy Directors
- Supply Chain Strategy Directors
- Network Strategy Heads
- Business Strategy Directors
- Planning Managers

Sustainability & ESG (3%)

- Sustainability Managers
- Sustainability Associates
- Chief Scientists for Sustainability
- ESG Specialists

New Zealand Rail 2026

NZ RAIL'S PROVEN SUCCESS & IMPACT

REACH
80%

of new attendees
welcomed in 2025

Expanding influence across New Zealand's rail sector, connecting fresh perspectives with industry leaders and creating new opportunities for collaboration.

INVESTMENT

40+

scholarships awarded across
16 companies

Our Next Generation Conference Scholarship program actively invests in tomorrow's rail leaders - removing barriers and ensuring access to critical professional development.

EXCELLENCE

21 finalists
recognised across
6 categories

The inaugural 2025 NZ Rail Excellence Awards celebrated outstanding innovation and leadership - spotlighting exceptional talent driving transformation across the industry.

COMMUNITY

150

emerging leaders connected

The RTSA Young Rail Professionals Forum fostered meaningful connections, facilitating knowledge exchange and building a stronger, more collaborative industry network.

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

The NZ Rail conference, exhibition and networking functions offer unparalleled opportunities to reach key industry stakeholders, senior decision-makers and customers from the ANZ region.

Don't miss the opportunity to share your expertise and showcase your products, services and solutions at this established industry event.

Contact Sarah Ingram for a copy of the sponsorship & exhibition prospectus today!

Sarah Ingram, Sponsorship & Exhibition Sales Manager

Email: Sarah.Ingram@informa.com

Phone: +61 406 530 043



The New Zealand Excellence Awards aim to identify and recognise the contributions of individuals and organisations shaping the future of New Zealand's rail industry, with a focus on leadership, commitment to innovation, operational excellence and sustainability for the advancement of both freight and passenger rail services.

Nominations are open!

This year, we're accepting nominations in five categories:

- 1. Emerging Leader of the Year**
- 2. Rail Impact Excellence Award: Sustainability & Social Responsibility**
- 3. Inspirational Woman in Rail**
- 4. Unsung Hero**
- 5. Rail Freight Champion**

Additionally, we'll present a special **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Nominations will be accepted up to **COB Friday, 25 September 2026**

Visit the website to nominate:

www.informa.com.au/new-zealand-rail/excellence-awards/

I found the New Zealand Rail Conference to be a very engaging and insightful event. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to connect with industry peers and hear about the latest developments in rail infrastructure, sustainability initiatives, and technology innovations.

The calibre and insights from the keynote speakers were excellent with great value. As always, the chance and opportunities to network and create new connections was very good, it was a good space to mingle and the trade exhibitors provided a good opportunity to develop connections as well.



8:00 Registration and welcome coffee

8:40 **Mihi whakataua**

Welcome led by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

8:50 **EVENT OPENING**

Kate Twentyman, *Conference Director, Informa*

8:55 **OPENING | Morning Briefing**

Stacey van der Putten, *Interim Chief Executive, Auckland Transport*

DELIVERING RAIL'S FUTURE: TE KITENGA, MAHI TAHI & AUAHA IN ACTION

9:00 **OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Delivering for New Zealand: KiwiRail's Role in Building an Integrated Transport System**

Peter Reidy, *Chief Executive Officer, KiwiRail*

9:20 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS | City Rail Link and Beyond: Unlocking Auckland's Transit Future**

Stacey van der Putten, *Interim Chief Executive, Auckland Transport*

9:40 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Auckland's Rail Revolution: The Operator's Perspective**

Martin Kearney, *Chief Executive Officer, Auckland One Rail*

10:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Patrick Brockie, *Chief Executive, City Rail Link Limited*

10:20 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Connecting People and Place Through Integrated Decision-Making: The Challenge and Opportunities Ahead**

Stephanie Rowe, *Executive Leader, Delivery, Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport*

10:40 **Keynote Address Q & A**

11:00 Networking and refreshment break

11:30 **MINISTERIAL ADDRESS**

11:45 **PARTNER ADDRESS**

FUNDING RAIL'S FUTURE

12:05 **Getting Rail Right: Strategic Investment and System-Wide Performance**

MAXIMISING PASSENGER CONNECTIONS

12:25 **Meeting Metro Demand**

This presentation will focus on how KiwiRail has proactively responded to metro operation demand now and into the future, working with rail partners, government and the regulator to ensure they can meet the needs of these busy, mixed mode networks and maintain them effectively while keeping trains running more often and working within a complex stakeholder environment.

Bevan Assink, *Chief Metro Officer, KiwiRail*

12:45 Lunch and networking break

DECARBONISING NEW ZEALAND: RAIL'S CRITICAL ROLE

13:40 **CASE STUDY | Building New Zealand's First Battery-Electric Train Through Partnership**

Carla Garvie, *Commercial Director, Alstom*

Barry Fryer, *Programme Manager, Metlink*

14:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION | Decarbonising New Zealand – Rail's Innovation in Action**

Moderated by: Lucy Hawcroft, *Sustainability Manager, KiwiRail*

Further panellists to be advised

14:40 **CASE STUDY | Implementing ETCS on Locomotives in a Mixed-Use Rail Network: Lessons from Auckland's ETCS Journey**

Gabriella Solti, *General Manager - Metro Systems Assurance, KiwiRail*

15:00 Networking and refreshment break

EFFICIENT SUPPLY CHAIN: RAIL'S ROLE IN NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

15:25 **CASE STUDY | When Does Rail Stop Being an Option? Understanding Rail Freight Allocation Decisions: A Case Study of the Auckland - Christchurch Corridor**

Behnaz Shaabani, *PhD researcher, University of Auckland*

Michael van Drogenbroek, *Director Consulting and Advisory, Heriot-Edievale Ltd*

15:45 **Rail as a Supply Chain Imperative: The Cargo Owners' Perspective on Resilience and Competitiveness**

Nigel Jones, *Chair, New Zealand Cargo Owners Council*

16:05 **PANEL DISCUSSION | Rail's Role in an Efficient Supply Chain Future: Full System Approach to Freight Efficiency**

Nigel Jones, *Chair, New Zealand Cargo Owners Council*

Adele Wilson, *Chief Customer and Growth Officer, KiwiRail*

Further panellists to be advised

BUILDING RAIL'S FUTURE WORKFORCE & TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

16:50 **RTSA NZ Update: Advancing Rail Technical Standards and Professional Development**

Nicky Sweetman, *Chair, RTSA NZ*

17:00 **NZ YOUNG RAIL PROFESSIONALS FORUM**

Informa and the RTSA are hosting a NZ Young Rail Professionals Forum to find out how today's industry leaders have achieved success as they share their tips on how to be a driving force in shaping the future of rail.

Attendees are invited to join us for the NZ Rail Exhibition Networking Drinks function after the forum. **The forum is open and free for all young rail professionals aged 35 years and under.**

17:40 Closing remarks from the Chair

17:45 End of Day One & Exhibition Networking Function

8:45 Admin and safety briefing

8:50 OPENING | Morning Briefing

Russell McMullan, *Owner Interface Manager, General Manager Assurance and Integration, City Rail Link Ltd*

CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD

8:55 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Mike Hargreaves, *Group General Manager and Director of Land Transport, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi*

9:15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Where is Rail Regulation Going in NZ?

Pelin Fantham, *Head of Rail Safety Regulation, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi*

9:35 PANEL DISCUSSION | Shaping the Next Era of NZ Rail Regulation

Moderated by: Russell McMullan, *Owner Interface Manager, General Manager Assurance and Integration, City Rail Link Ltd*

Pelin Fantham, *Head of Rail Safety Regulation, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi*

Thea Hannah, *Group Manager Regulatory, KiwiRail*

Stephanie Rowe, *Executive Leader, Delivery, Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport*

Samantha Gain, *Group Manager, Metlink*

Lisa D'Oliveira, *GM HSQESS, Auckland One Rail*

10:15 New Zealand's Economic Outlook

Sharon Zollner, *Chief Economist, ANZ*

10:35 Networking and refreshment break

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL & CROSS-BOUNDARY COLLABORATION

11:05 Regional Rail Update: Working Together for Better Outcomes

- Regional links and the future of cross-boundary collaboration
- Te Huia champion perspective
- Public transport in the Waikato region
- Cross-boundary coordination challenges and opportunities

Phil King, *Director, Regional Transport Connections, Waikato Regional Council*

11:25 PANEL DISCUSSION | Reviving Regional Rail Across Aotearoa

Moderated by: Phil King, *Director, Regional Transport Connections, Waikato Regional Council*

Fiona Abbott, *Senior Manager Assets and Infrastructure, Metlink*

Paul Callister, *Treasurer and Co-ordinator, The Future is Rail*

Further panellists to be advised

12:05 CASE STUDY | Not All E-Bikes Are Equal: Managing Lithium-Ion Battery Risks Through a Systems Safety Lens

Paul Cockerton, *Health, Safety and Wellbeing Continuous Improvement Lead, KiwiRail and Former Lead Advisor Rail Safety Regulator, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi*

12:25 CASE STUDY | Delivering CLR Programme Readiness in the Context of Major Public Transport Reform and Organisational Change

Alan Trestour, *Head of CRL Delivery, CRL Readiness Programme Director, Auckland Transport*

12:45 Infrastructure Innovation Spotlight

13:00 Lunch and networking break

Session Chair: Megan Drayton, *Foundation Manager, TrackSAFE Foundation NZ*

KEEPING PROJECTS MOVING

13:50 CASE STUDY | The Risks We Keep Finding: What Rail Design Reviews Reveal About Project Delivery

Divya Rajasekaran, *Engineering Team Leader - Civil, Infrastructure, KiwiRail*

14:10 CASE STUDY | Before the Public Arrives - Using Emergency Operations Testing to Discover What Readiness Really Requires

Charlie Matthews, *Head of Emergency Testing and Emergency Services Engagement, City Rail Link Ltd*

14:30 CASE STUDY | Digital Engineering and Infrastructure Update

14:50 CASE STUDY | Maintenance Transformation - How Metro Networks Maintain High Availability while Preserving Asset Integrity

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT & URBAN GROWTH

15:10 PC 120 and Rapid Transit Integration

- Auckland's Housing Urban Development Plan
- CRL as a key catalyst for housing development
- Significant investment returns through TOD

Megan Tyler, *Director of Policy, Planning and Governance, Auckland Council*

15:30 CLOSING DISCUSSION | Unlocking New Zealand's ToD Potential

Moderated by: Thomas Nash, *Consulting Partner, Agite Consulting Ltd*

Megan Tyler, *Director of Policy, Planning and Governance, Auckland Council*

David Hampton, *System Planning Manager, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi*

Further panellists to be advised

16:15 Closing remarks from the Chair

16:20 End of Conference

NZ RAIL CONFERENCE DINNER



3 December 2026

Grand Millennium Auckland/ Tāmaki Makaurau

6:30pm – 10:30pm



Commencing with pre-dinner drinks at 6.30pm. Join us to relax and network with industry peers, the perfect opportunity to be informed and inspired.

This unique networking function hosted by **Ben Hurley** includes presentation of the **NZ Rail Excellence Awards, TrackSAFE Foundation NZ Award for Safety Leadership and Next Generation Conference Scholarships.**

New Zealand Rail Conference

2 – 3 DECEMBER 2026 | TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU / AUCKLAND

Easy Ways to Register

- 1 Web**
www.informa.com.au/nzrail
- 2 Telephone**
+61 (0)2 9080 4307 – Quoting P26M07
- 3 Email**
info@informa.com.au – Quoting P26M07

Scan to Book



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SEND A TEAM & SAVE 20%

Book 5 delegates, pay for only 4 – use promo code **NZRTEAM**

Pricing Details

Register Early & Save	Early Bird Rate Book & pay by 25 September 2026				Standard Rate Book & pay from 26 September 2026		
Conference Package	PRICE	GST	TOTAL	SAVE	PRICE	GST	TOTAL
Two day conference	\$2,295.00	\$229.50	\$2,524.50	\$400	\$2,695.00	\$269.50	\$2,964.50
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS REGISTRATION* (UNDER 35)							
Two Day Conference	\$995.00	\$99.50	\$1094.50	\$400	\$1,395.00	\$139.50	\$1,534.50
Conference Dinner – Single ticket					\$275	\$27.50	\$302.50
Conference Dinner – Table of 10					\$2,750	\$275	\$3,025

NEXT GENERATION CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE OPEN!

We are delighted to announce the return of the Next Generation Conference Scholarships for NZ Rail Conference 2026.

Do you have an idea that could bring greater awareness to the benefits of the rail industry across NZ?

We are inviting all rail sector personnel aged 30 years and under to submit their innovative ideas on how to promote the NZ rail industry in an impactful way.

In 200-300 words, describe how you would market and promote the benefits of rail for the opportunity to win a scholarship to attend the 2026 New Zealand Rail conference and dinner.

Visit: www.informa.com.au/new-zealand-rail/next-generation-conference-scholarships/ TO APPLY TODAY

A maximum of 3 winners will be selected from the same organisation.

Entries close Friday 23 October 2025



NZ YOUNG RAIL PROFESSIONALS FORUM

Informa and the RTSA are hosting a NZ Young Rail Professionals Forum to find out how today's industry leaders have achieved success as they share their tips on how to be a driving force in shaping the future of rail.

The forum will be held as the closing session NZ Rail Conference on Day One. Attendees are invited to join us for the NZ Rail Exhibition Networking Drinks function after the forum.

Registrations close Friday 20 November 2026

Register here: www.informa.com.au/new-zealand-rail/nz-young-rail-professionals-forum/

