



4th Annual

Rail Decarbonisation & Resilience Conference

22-23 July 2025 | Swissotel Sydney



CONFERENCE DAY ONE | Tuesday 22nd July 2025

All timings are in Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)

08:00 REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

09:00 EVENT OPENING

Kate Twentyman, *Conference Director*, **Informa Connect**

09:05 OPENING | Morning briefing

Anitra Hobby, *Risk and Resilience Principal*, **Pacific National**

09:10 Speed networking

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

09:25 CASE STUDY | Delivering on net zero-Sydney Trains' sustainability journey

Rod Barber, *Director Environment & Sustainability (Sydney Assets & Operations), Safety, Policy, Environment and Regulation*, **Transport for NSW**

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

09:55 From tracks to transformation

Mary Barry, *CEO & Founding Director*, **CircularEco Pty Ltd**

SUPPLY CHAIN & SOCIAL RESILIENCE

10:25 FIRESIDE CHAT | Building sustainable infrastructure and social resilience

Shamila Gopalan, *Chief Commercial Officer*, **SisterWorks**

Ben Campbell, *Head of Supply Chain*, **Yarra Trams**

11:00 Networking and refreshment break

POWERING THE TRANSITION

11:30 Meeting the needs of the Future: Delivering a decarbonisation rail solution

Troy Sparkman, *EGM Freight & Motive Systems*, **Downer**

12:00 Computational assessments of the energy-efficiency of freight wagon designs

Dr Qing Wu, *Principal Research Fellow, Centre for Railway Engineering*, **CQUniversity**



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CLIMATE ADAPTATION

12:30 Systemic risk management and adaptation strategies

Magnus Moglia, *Associate Professor Climate Change Adaptation Lab*, **La Trobe University**

NEXT GENERATION

13:00 Certificates of acknowledgement presented to the winners of the Next Generation Conference Scholarships

13:10 Lunch and networking break

PARTNERSHIPS & INNOVATION

14:05 **CASE STUDY** | Next generation modular tram stop platform using recycled plastics

Nick Daly, *Head of Innovation*, **Yarra Trams**

Moderated by: Professor Ravi Ravitharan, *Director*, **Monash Institute of Railway Technology**

14:35 Partnerships in sustainable solutions | From business case to innovation

Dr Cong Qiu, *Deputy Team Leader (Rail Materials)*, **Monash Institute of Railway Technology**

Dr Le Quan Ngoc Tran, *Senior Scientist, Polymer Composite Materials*, **Monash Institute of Railway Technology**

Moderated by: Professor Ravi Ravitharan, *Director*, **Monash Institute of Railway Technology**

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

15:05 Low carbon liquid fuels: Innovations and real-world applications

Matthew Jones, *Business Development Manager Strategic*, **Ampol**

15:35 Networking and refreshment break

GLOBAL UPDATE

16:05 **INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS** | Pioneering rail decarbonisation: Chiltern Railways' path to net-zero

Richard Allan, *Managing Director*, **Chiltern Railways**

16:35 **INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS** | E-Fuels: A game-changer for rail decarbonisation

- Is it ever going to be cost competitive?
- What are the risks?
- What are the risks of not going down this path?

Gunnar Holen, *CEO*, **Nordic Electrofuel**

17:05 Closing briefing from the Chair

17:10 End of Day One & Networking Reception



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CONFERENCE DAY TWO | Wednesday 23rd July 2025

09:00 **Admin and safety briefing**

09:05 **OPENING | Morning briefing**

Mark Harris, *Manager Environment, Aurizon*

09:10 **OPENING ADDRESS | Transport for NSW crisis and emergency management approach**

Karen McCarthy APM, *Executive Director, Enterprise Security, Crisis and Emergency Management, Transport for NSW*

SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

09:40 **PANEL DISCUSSION | Australian sustainability reporting standards**

- Climate scenario analysis-embedding these into rail
- Where are we going next-linking climate resilience and planning
- Need for practical approaches to embedding climate scenarios into business-as-usual processes
- Importance of considering both physical and transition risks
- How sustainability, finance, and asset management can work together
- How do we match the evolutionary cycle with what our targets are?

Moderated by: Mark Harris, *Manager Environment, Aurizon*

Troy Harrison, *Manager Environment Strategy, Queensland Rail*

Rod Barber, *Director Environment & Sustainability (Sydney Assets & Operations), Safety, Policy, Environment and Regulation, Transport for NSW*

Romana Thefs, *ESG Decarbonisation Lead, Xenith Consulting*

10:25 **Rail Decarbonisation: From strategy to reality**

Jorge Martin Gistau, *Director Energy Infrastructure Transition ANZ, Ricardo*

10:55 **Networking and refreshment break**

11:25 **INTERACTIVE INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE | Building for future demand: Where is all the energy coming from?**

- Where do all the raw materials come from?
- Scale and capacity
- Seeing climate change adaptation process impacts. What does it do to power supply and supporting pieces of infrastructure and what does it mean for them?
- Where's the recharge?
- New technology needs new infrastructure and power supply

RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK



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12:05 On the Right Track? Risk, resilience, and decarbonisation for a sustainable Journey - A Pacific National perspective

Becoming a resilient organisation is a journey that will never end. Resilience is the ability to 'bounce back better' after a disruption - and disruptions are coming both quickly, and in groups. Our all-hazards approach ranges from AI and cyber-security, to Zero-harm safety, and includes climate risk disruptions. Climate risk disruptions range from responding to a single, acute, event such as a flood, to long-term changes such as decarbonising transport. But an organisation cannot be resilient by itself - we need a resilient system. What do we need to align on, and what support is needed to build resilience? And which of those things are progressing and which may need adjustment?

Anitra Hobby, *Risk and Resilience Principal*, **Pacific National**

Nick Mitrevski, *Head of ESG*, **Pacific National**

12:40 Lunch and networking break

13:40 Resilient operations: Queensland rail's regional network transformation story

Gavin Anderson, *General Manager Regional Assets South, Queensland Rail*, **Queensland Rail**

14:10 CLOSING DISCUSSION | Operations in Crisis: Resilience & contingency planning

- Keeping the network moving
- Rail resilience: Protecting passenger and freight services against climate, flood, fire, and heat impacts
- Supply chain continuity and crisis response: Managing critical resources and alternative routing strategies
- Digital transformation in crisis management: Real-time monitoring systems and predictive analytics for early warning

Moderated by: Anitra Hobby, *Risk and Resilience Principal*, **Pacific National**

Karen McCarthy APM, *Executive Director, Enterprise Security, Crisis and Emergency Management*, **Transport for NSW**

Troy Harrison, *Manager Environment Strategy*, **Queensland Rail**

14:55 Closing briefing from the Chair

15:00 END OF CONFERENCE