



Rail Freight 2026

by informa •••

29 – 30 JULY 2026 | PARK HYATT MELBOURNE

**Co-located with the
Rail Turnouts Workshop
28 July 2026**

DRIVING EFFICIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION IN FREIGHT

FEATURING KEYNOTE ADDRESSES FROM:



Adam Copp, *CEO,*
Infrastructure Australia



Wayne Johnson, *CEO and
Managing Director,* **ARTC**



Michael Hopkins, *CEO,*
NTC

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Caroline Wilkie, *CEO,* **ARA**



Alan Fedda, *CEO,* **ARISO**



Lauren Hewitt, *CEO & Company Secretary,*
Queensland Transport and Logistics Council (QTLC)



Peter Doggett, *Chief Operating Officer,* **ONRSR**



Heather Bone, *Director of Sustainability, Team Global
Express & Interim Chair,* **National Freight and Supply
Chain Strategy**



Clinton Crump, *Group Executive Operations,* **ARTC**



Anjum Khan, *Director, Freight & Third Party Access,* **V/Line**



Vikram Khosla, *Asset Strategy & Growth Manager,* **Aurizon**



Prof Maksym Spiryagin, *Deputy Director, Centre for Railway
Engineering,* **CQUniversity**



Brendan Connell, *Executive General Manager Sustainability
and Corporate Relations,* **Port of Brisbane**



Sarah Browne, *EGM Corporate Relations,*
Port of Melbourne



Mark Bergamasco, *Head of Trade & Supply Chain,*
Port of Melbourne



Jonathan Lafforgue, *General Manager Operations and
Environment,* **NSW Ports**



Vivek Dhar, *Director - Mining and Energy Economist,*
Commonwealth Bank Australia



Troy Sparkman, *Executive General Manager, Freight &
Motive Systems,* **Downer**



Helen Rowe, *Transport Program Impact Manager,*
Climateworks Centre



Dr Nithurshan Nadarajah, *Deputy Director – Innovation,*
Monash IRT



Dr Esteban Bernal, *Senior Research Fellow, Centre for
Railway Engineering,* **CQUniversity**



Dr Dan Agustin, *Research Officer, Centre for Railway
Engineering,* **CQUniversity**



Abdurrahman Beg, *Senior Data Engineer,* **Monash IRT**

Rail Freight

Wednesday 29 July 2026

DAY 1

8:30 Registration and morning coffee/tea

9:00 **CONFERENCE OPENING**

9:05 **WELCOME** + Opening Remarks

OPENING KEYNOTES

9:10 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Investment Priorities for High Productivity Freight Networks

Adam Copp, *CEO, Infrastructure Australia*

9:40 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

The Future of Freight: Integrating Australia's National Rail Network

Wayne Johnson, *CEO and Managing Director, ARTC*

10:10 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Rail Freight in Action: Supporting a National Approach to Meet Future Demand

Michael Hopkins, *CEO, NTC*

10:40 **TRACKSIDE CHAT**

From Strategy to Action: What's Needed Now

Adam Copp, *CEO, Infrastructure Australia*

Wayne Johnson, *CEO and Managing Director, ARTC*

Michael Hopkins, *CEO, NTC*

11:00 Morning tea and networking break

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK + LEADERSHIP

11:30 **Rail Freight Outlook | Geopolitics, Trade, and Energy Shaping Market Dynamics**

Vivek Dhar, *Director - Mining and Energy Economist, Commonwealth Bank Australia*

12:00 **Regulating Australia's Evolving Rail Freight Operations**

Peter Doggett, *Chief Operating Officer, ONRSR*

12:30 **PANEL**

Keeping Freight on Track to Drive Growth + Productivity | Industry Priorities, Opportunities + and Strategic Transformation

Rail offers substantial community, environmental, and safety benefits, but funding and infrastructure constraints are causing market share loss to road transport. Industry collaboration is essential to reverse this trend. Where are we and what else is needed to super-charge rail freight's benefits and align commercial outcomes with industry priorities?

Caroline Wilkie, *CEO, ARA*

Alan Fedda, *CEO, ARISO*

Clinton Crump, *Group Executive Operations, ARTC*

Brendan Connell, *Executive General Manager Sustainability and Corporate Relations, Port of Brisbane*

Lunch and networking break

INSIGHTS + INTEGRATED RAIL FREIGHT

2:10 **CASE STUDY SESSIONS**

This will be an opportunity to gain practical insights from the strategic outcome-driven initiatives underway in driving the efficiency, sustainability and innovation in rail freight.

Case studies will cover:

- Integrated Freight Operations: Expanding Fleets, Capacity & Regional Growth
- Rail a Predictive Supply Chain Partner
- Building the Strategic Case for Switching to Rail: Infrastructure, Integration, and Collaboration
- Bringing Supply Chains into the Future: Technology and Automation for a Sustainable Future
- Delivering Progress and Productivity with Intermodal Precincts

3:40 Afternoon tea and networking break

LINKING THE FREIGHT SUPPLY CHAIN

4:10 **PORT PERSPECTIVE**

Future Roadmap: Port of Melbourne's 2055 Vision

Sarah Browne, *EGM Corporate Relations, Port of Melbourne*

4:40 **PANEL**

Supply Chain Optimisation

Rail freight is primed for transformation through supply chain optimisation, new technology and innovative integration to unlock enhanced reliability and expanded capacity. What's on the wish list for those looking to accelerate the strategic case for switching to rail? What innovations and strategic investments will accelerate rail's competitive advantage, improve financial performance, and secure its position as the freight solution of choice?

Anjum Khan, *Director, Freight & Third Party Access, V/Line*

Mark Bergamasco, *Head of Trade & Supply Chain, Port of Melbourne*

Jonathan Lafforgue, *General Manager Operations and Environment, NSW Ports*

5:20 Close of Day One + Networking Drinks

NEXT GENERATION CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Do you have an idea that could disrupt, improve or positively impact the future of rail freight in Australia?

We invite all rail sector personnel aged 30yrs and under to innovative idea for the chance to win one of 10 scholarships to attend Rail Freight 2026.

KEY DATES:

Nominations open: 17 June, 2026

Applications close: 9 July, 2026

Winners announced: 15 July, 2026

Visit website for more details.



Rail Freight

Thursday 30 July 2026

DAY 2

8:30 Registration and morning coffee/tea

9:00 Safety Briefing

9:05 **WELCOME** + Opening Remarks

DECARBONISATION

9:10 **Driver to Depot: Accelerating ESG Through Skills, Technology & Collaboration**

Heather Bone, *Director of Sustainability, Team Global Express & Interim Chair, National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy*

9:40 **Aurizon's Future Fleet Strategy and Decarbonisation Projects**

Vikram Khosla, *Asset Strategy & Growth Manager, Aurizon*

10:10 **PANEL**

The End-to-end Journey for Driving Decarbonisation

Rail stands as one of the most energy-efficient transport modes, positioning it at the forefront of Australia's net zero journey. Reaching this destination is not going to be a magic silver bullet train solution, but rather a suite of solutions to address this universal issue. This session will examine the practical and immediate pathways to decarbonise and explore the innovations and lessons from other transport champions to accelerate rail's environmental advantage and secure its position as the sustainable freight solution of choice.

Lauren Hewitt, *CEO & Company Secretary, Queensland Transport and Logistics Council (QTLC)*

Helen Rowe, *Transport Program Impact Manager, Climateworks Centre*

Troy Sparkman, *Executive General Manager, Freight & Motive Systems, Downer*

10:50 Morning tea and networking

TECHNOLOGY + INNOVATION

11:30 **Enhancing Rail Freight Safety and Efficiency: Development and Pilot Deployment Results of an Optical Fiber-Based Train Position and Integrity System**

Dr Esteban Bernal, *Senior Research Fellow and Dr Dan Agustin, Research Officer, CQUniversity*

12:00 **Quantum Sensing and Computing Perspectives for Freight Rail**

12:30 **Seeing What We've Been Missing: Technology-Driven Insights into Passive Level Crossing Risk**

Dr Nithurshan Nadarajah, *Deputy Director - Innovation, Monash IRT*

1:00 **PANEL**

Asset Management 4.0: Data Driven Transformation of the Tracks

Prof Maksym Spiryagin, *Deputy Director, Centre for Railway Engineering, CQUniversity*

Abdurrahman Beg, *Senior Data Engineer, Monash IRT*

1:40 Closing remarks

1:45 End of the Event + Networking Lunch

RAIL FREIGHT IN THE NEWS

"Aurizon adds one more weekly Sydney-Perth intermodal service to its network" (Source: RAILMARKET.com June 12, 2026)

"New \$400m intermodal terminal unlocking rail freight for all" (Source: Rail Express, May 11, 2026)

"Battery-electric freight trains would lift Australia's energy independence" (Source: The Strategist | ASPI, 7 May 2026)

"Record investment in the freight rail network and consolidating Inland Rail" (Source: The Hon Catherine MP, 6 May 2026)

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

Rail Freight 2026 arrives at a critical time for advancing the vital role of rail freight in driving Australia's economic growth, sustainability, and regional development. With 71% of the national freight task growth over the past decade, the industry is set to lead in **efficiency, innovation, and sustainability**.

Be part of the conversation driving the future of rail freight forward. To showcase your services, expertise and product to government representatives, railway operators, supply chain managers and industry stakeholders, contact **Sarah Ingram, Sponsorship & Exhibition Sales Manager, Sarah.Ingram@informa.com or +61 406 530 043**.

AVAILABLE PACKAGES INCLUDE:

- Lanyard
- Networking Drinks
- Exhibitor
- Event App
- Coffee Cart
- Supporting Partner



Rail Freight 2026

29 – 30 July 2026 | Park Hyatt Melbourne

Easy Ways to Register

1 Web
www.informa.com.au/railfreight

2 Telephone
+61 (0)2 9080 4307 – Quoting P26M03

3 Email
info@informa.com.au – Quoting P26M03

Scan to Book



Stay Connected



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Pricing Details

Register Early & Save	Early Bird Rate				Standard Rate		
	Book & pay by 19 June 2026				Book & pay from 20 June 2026		
Conference Package	PRICE	GST	TOTAL	SAVE	PRICE	GST	TOTAL
Two day conference	\$2,595.00	\$259.50	\$2,854.50	\$200	\$2,795.00	\$279.50	\$3,074.50
Package (Rail Freight + Rail Turnouts)	\$3,476.50	\$347.65	\$3,824.15	\$255	\$3,731.50	\$373.15	\$4,104.65
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS REGISTRATION (UNDER 35) – 50% DISCOUNT	PRICE	GST	TOTAL	SAVE	PRICE	GST	TOTAL
Two day conference	\$1,295.00	\$129.50	\$1,424.50	\$100	\$1,395.00	\$139.50	\$1,534.50
Package (Rail Freight + Rail Turnouts)	\$1,737.88	\$173.79	\$1,911.67	\$127	\$1,865.00	\$186.50	\$2,051.50

*Young Professional rate eligibility – aged 35 years and under on 28 July 2026

For full terms and conditions, please visit: www.informa.com.au/railfreight

RAIL TURNOUTS 2026 | SPECIAL OFFER

Enjoy a **15% DISCOUNT** when registering for both **RAIL FREIGHT 2026** and the specialist **RAIL TURNOUTS WORKSHOP** being held on the 28 July 2026.

An intensive, focused introduction to the fundamental technical knowledge, the Rail Turnouts Workshop will exchange and transfer knowledge from a range of experts working across the field.

VENUE DETAILS

Park Hyatt Melbourne | 1 Parliament Square, off, Parliament Pl, Melbourne VIC 3002

Phone: (03) 9224 1234



SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION RATE

The venue has provided a special event accommodation rate of **20% off** the best available rate of the day* for conference attendees at the Park Hyatt Melbourne for the nights of 27-29 July 2026 inclusive.

Visit the conference website for booking details.

RAIL TRAVEL

Melbourne Metro Train

Parliament Station is the closest train station, located just a short walk (approx 200-300 meters) from the Park Hyatt Melbourne. Use all City Loop lines including Burnley, Clifton Hill, Northern, and Sandringham groups serv

From Melbourne Airport

If you're arriving from Melbourne Airport (Tullamarine):

– **SkyBus:** Take the SkyBus to Southern Cross Station, then transfer to any City Loop train to Parliament Station

Tram Options

The Park Hyatt Melbourne is within the Free Tram Zone, which allows you to travel on trams within the Melbourne CBD and Docklands areas without needing to touch on with a myki card.

– **Tram Route 86** and **Route 96** run along Bourke Street, within easy walking distance

– **Tram Route 11** runs along Spring Street, very close to the hotel

General Myki card information: Transport Victoria - Myki <https://transport.vic.gov.au/tickets-and-myki/myki>