



Conference Overview

PRE-EVENT: Tuesday 25 November 2025

09:00 – 14:00 Site Tours Locations throughout Melbourne	12:00 – 17:00 Exhibitor bump in
12:00 – 18:00 Registration open Exhibition Concourse, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre	
14:00 – 17:00 Speaker support open Meeting room 9, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre	
16:30 – 18:30 Welcome Drinks Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre <i>(Included networking event for registered conference delegates: Guest tickets may be purchased)</i>	

DAY ONE: Wednesday 26 November 2025

Time	Session
06:30 – 18:00	Registration open Exhibition Concourse, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
06:30 – 17:30	Speaker support open Meeting room 9, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
07:15 – 08:30	Women in Rail Breakfast Melbourne Room, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre Sponsored by: McConnell Dowell <i>(Ticketed event: tickets are not included in conference registration)</i>
08:00 – 18:00	Exhibition Open Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
08:40 – 17:30	AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Conference Sessions Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
18:30 – 22:30	AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Yellow Dinner Melbourne Room, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre Sponsored by: Alstom <i>(Ticketed event: tickets are not included in conference registration)</i>

DAY TWO: Thursday 27 November 2025

Time	Session
08:00 – 18:00	Registration open Exhibition Concourse, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
07:30 – 17:30	Speaker support open Meeting room 9, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
08:00 – 18:00	Exhibition Open Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
08:30 – 16:00	AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Conference Sessions Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
16:00 – 18:00	Exhibition Networking Drinks AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Exhibition, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre <i>(Included networking event for registered conference delegates: Guest tickets may be purchased)</i>
18:15 – 21:15	Next Stop: Flavours of Melbourne Street Party ShowTime, South Wharf <i>(Ticketed event: tickets are not included in conference registration)</i>

DAY THREE: Friday 28 November 2025

Time	Session
07:00-08:00	AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Run/Walk Starting from Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
08:00 – 16:00	Registration open Exhibition Concourse, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
07:30 – 15:30	Speaker support open Meeting room 9, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
08:00 – 16:00	Exhibition Open Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
09:00 – 15:30	AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Conference Sessions Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
15:30 – 16:30	Last Stop: Farewell to AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre <i>(Included networking event for registered conference delegates: Guest tickets may be purchased)</i>

Conference program

DAY ONE: Wednesday 26 November 2025

Time	Session
06:30-18:00	Registration open Exhibition Concourse, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
07:15-08:30	Women in Rail Breakfast Sponsor: McConnell Dowell Melbourne Room, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (Ticketed event: tickets are not included in conference registration)
08:00-18:00	AusRAIL exhibition open
08:40-10:30	Welcome and opening plenary Plenary 2
08:40-08:50	Welcome to country & MC welcome Glenn Mintern AusRAIL PLUS 2025 MC
08:50-08:55	ARA Welcome Lucio Di Bartolomeo Chair, Australasian Railway Association
08:55-09:10	Ministerial Address Gabrielle Williams Minister for Transport MP, Victorian Government
09:10-09:30	Tracks to Transformation: Australia's Opportunity in the Global Rail Evolution Henri Poupart-Lafarge Chief Executive Officer and Director, Alstom
09:30-10:10	Panel Victorian Operators Facilitator: Lauren Streifer Chief Executive Officer, PTAANZ Panellists: Raymond O'Flaherty Chief Executive Officer, Metro Trains Melbourne Vincent Destot Chief Executive Officer, Yarra Trams Sussanah Osborne Executive Director - Operations, V/Line
10:10-10:30	Driving the Future of Mobility Giuseppe Marino Global Chief Executive Officer, Hitachi Rail and Senior Vice President & Executive Officer, Hitachi Ltd.
10:30-11:15	Morning tea AusRAIL exhibition
10:40-11:00	First time attendees networking meet up AusRAIL exhibition
11:15-12:35	Plenary session Plenary 2
11:15-11:35	Infrastructure investment priorities for the Rail Industry Jim Betts Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
11:35-12:15	Panel Transforming the rail policy landscape Facilitator: Caroline Wilkie Chief Executive Officer, Australasian Railway Association Panellists: Sally Stannard Director General, Department of Transport and Main Roads Josh Murray Secretary, Transport for NSW Carolyn Walsh Chair, National Transport Commission Jim Betts Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
12:15-12:35	<i>Speaker to be announced</i>
12:35-13:50	Lunch break AusRAIL exhibition

13:50-15:30	Concurrent sessions					
	Meeting room 210	Plenary 2	Meeting room 211	Meeting room 212	Meeting room 213	Meeting Room 208
	Innovation in Construction & Infrastructure	Digitalisation, AI and Automation (Sponsored by Hitachi Rail)	Securing the Next Gen Workforce	Signalling (IRSE technical stream)	Technical (RTSA technical stream)	NTC Workshop
13:50-14:10	Autonomous Mobile Robots for Rail Construction Jay Nathella , Director Muthu Vangaliappan , Engineering Manager, Alcarail	Next Generation Digital Train Radio System	Flexibility on Track: Implementing Next Rail's Flexible Work Model for Industry Success Amin Mangat , People Manager, Regina Wootton , Project Director, Beerburum to Nambour Rail Upgrade (B2N) Project, John Holland Group	Open Signalling and its role in ensuring the successful delivery of ETCS Level 2 across Australia Yash Mehta Signalling Systems Engineer Manager, Quantum Rail Francisco Parrilla Innovation & Solution Manager, Indra Australia	Can a Diesel be Net Zero? Frank Szanto Technical Director – Rolling Stock, Jacobs	Reforming Australia's rail system through the National Rail Action Plan Description: Join the National Transport Commission as they discuss the latest updates on the landmark reforms being delivered through the National Rail Action Plan. The historic program of national rail reform is changing how rail works in Australia by reducing differences across networks and taking a coordinated, national approach to drive interoperability, safety and productivity. Hear from the team on the work being done to introduce the first mandatory rail standards, ensure the interoperability of digital train control technologies and to deliver more consistent and harmonised operating rules and processes
14:10-14:30	Are we ready yet? Mark Whitty Senior Manager Operational Readiness, Hugh Lawson Head of Customer, Operations and Outcomes, Sydney Metro	Beating the ROI conundrum: How the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority has unlocked 'next level' value from its 3D digital twin Russell Vine General Manager Strategic Communications and Engagement, Cross River Rail Delivery Authority	Ideation to Implementation: Transforming Rail Workforce Development ARA Workforce Development Team Australasian Railway Association	Integrated real time signalling as a service, Alstom	Coping with Railway Change Brenton Atchison Discipline Head - Systems Engineering, Queensland Rail	
14:30-14:50	Model Citizens: What happens when you can give everyone access to the model? Chris McKinnon Immersive Technology Solutions – Industry Lead, KBR	AI, Automation, and the Human-in-the-Loop in Melbourne's Tram Network David Flynn Accessibility & User Centric Design Manager – Next Generation Tram Project, Victorian Department of Transport and Planning	Start 'Em Young – Work Experience and Internships as Pathways to Diversity in Rail Brandon Fisher Product Engineering Manager, Siemens Mobility	Revolutionising signalling networks across Australia and New Zealand Fabiana Sanches-Scaglione Project Director Perth HCS, Alstom	Lesson Learnt from Rail System CBTC Commissioning Ankur Kumar Technical Principal Rail System, Interface Rail Engineering	

14:50-15:10	Bridging legacy and modern” Cost-effective ETCS migration minimizing fleet disruption Jordan Oustambasidis National Engineering Manager - TCS, UGL	Rail Cyber Security: Stopping the Next Rail Breach Ben Greaney Senior Cyber Security Specialist, Egis Group	The opportunity for shared competency recognition and skills portability to maximise the benefits of interoperability and standardisation David Ness Executive Director, Network Signalling Services (NSS), VIDA Rail	Case Study of Mixed Mode Signalling: An Exploration of Melbourne's Metro Tunnel Project Thomas Hooymans Urban Engineering Director, Alstom	Using interoperability methods to allow a replacement onboard safety system to work with existing signaling safety systems Mark Wood Chief Technology Officer, 4ai Systems	
15:10-15:30	Benefits and Challenges of Alternative Materials to Reduce Supply Chain Risk in the Rail Industry Georgia Gosse Manager Sustainability, Queensland Rail	Ideation, Incubation and Industrialisation: The Pursuit for 100% Service Availability in the Age of Digital Andrew Mudford Vice President, Digital Transformation & Advisory, Hitachi	National Rail Workforce Plan: Securing the Next Generation Carly Grigg Industry Engagement Manager - Rail, Industry Skills Australia	Achieving interoperability of disparate digital signalling systems Aaron Fraser Engineering Director - Systems & Software, Wabtec	<i>Speaker to be announced</i>	
15:30-16:15	Afternoon tea AusRAIL exhibition					

16:15-17:35	Concurrent sessions					
	Meeting room 210	Plenary 2	Meeting room 211	Meeting room 208	Meeting room 212	Meeting room 213
	Project Lessons	Digitalisation, AI and Automation <i>(Sponsored by Hitachi Rail)</i>	Rolling Stock	Freight & Heavy Haul	Track (RTAA technical stream)	Track/Electrical (PWI technical stream)
16:15-16:35	<i>Speaker to be announced</i>	Eyes on the rails: How augmented reality could transform train driving Aniruddha Chatterjee Senior Engineer, Arup	Victoria’s local content strategy: Insights and lessons from rolling stock projects Christopher Wong Executive Director Industry and Local Content, Department of Transport and Planning	The Future of Freight & Third-Party Access Anjum Khan Director, Freight & Third Party Access, V/Line Corporation	Thermal stress management using optimal mix of standard and ZLR fasteners on bridges Sebastian Ocampo Duque Rail Engineer, Maneesh Gupta Technical Director and WA Team Leader - Rail, AECOM	Rail Depots of the Future Martin Lock Principal Railway Transportation Consultant, GHD

16:35-16:55	MaaS as a Catalyst for Sustainable Mobility: Insights from Deutsche Telekom's GoodRide Project Silas Wong APAC Business Manager, Siemens Mobility	Getting on track with rail cybersecurity: Defending the integrity of operational rail systems through design George Sarandrea Cybersecurity Consultant, GHD	Next-Gen Rail Propulsion: How Three-Level Converters Transform Rail Energy Performance Pradip Savaliya Product Manager, Stuart Gurney Senior Sales Engineer Traction - ANZ, ABB Australia	Planning Freight Services on an Increasingly Busy Shared Rail Network Michael Simpson Senior Rail Timetable Developer Victorian Department Of Transport & Planning	Railway track health monitoring using advancing technologies Dr Mohammad Siahkouhi Researcher, Western Sydney University	Modern Analysis of the Wheel/Rail Interface in Junction work Darcy Carroll Deputy Engineering Manager, Vossloh Australia
16:55-17:15	Innovative Design Management: Insights from Sydney and Canberra Light Rail Projects Rebecca Want Market Leader Transport, Sydney, GHD	Signal change: Leveraging AI to win in the rail tender landscape Steve Gerlach AI Catalyst, Aurora Marketing	Rail First Beata Lipman Chief Executive Officer, Rail First	WABTEC/UGL's future ready locomotive product roadmap Josh Salkeld Senior Director, Sales & Accounts Management, Wabtec Corporation James Davidson Head of Strategy, Growth and Development, UGL	Tamping Automation to Bridge Workforce Gap Fabian Hansmann Head of Marketing, Plasser & Theurer Jochen Nowotny Chief Executive Officer, Track Machines Connected	Innovations in the Operational Shared Environment of Light Rail Systems Dianne Banks Head of Engineering, Civil and Structural Systems, Yarra Trams
17:15-17:35	Modern Methods of Construction in Rail Infrastructure Station Projects: A case study of Union Station, Level Crossing Removal Program, Victoria Andrew Hancock Program Director, Jacobs Engineering	Bridging the gap: aligning IT and operations with Enterprise Asset Management	Greener Tracks Ahead: The Battery Advantage Carla Garvie Commercial Director, Alstom	Hydrogen-powered Regenerative Braking for Heavy Haul Locomotives	The Development of Visual Inspection: Past, Present & Future Ellen Cohen Assistant Product Marketing Manager, Adrian Rasmussen Technical Lead & Solution Engineer, Siemens Mobility	Enhancing Urban and Suburban Railway Mass Transit Systems with advanced 25 kV AC FACTS Electrification systems Alexandre Lagarde Technical Business Development, GE Vernova
18:30 – 22:30	AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Yellow Dinner Melbourne Room, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre Sponsored by: Alstom <i>(Ticketed event: tickets are not included in conference registration)</i>					

DAY TWO: Thursday 27 November 2025

Time	Session
07:30-18:00	Registration open Exhibition Concourse, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
08:00-18:00	AusRAIL exhibition open <i>Exhibition Closes to free attendees at 15:30</i>
08:50-10:30	Plenary session Room: Plenary 2
08:50-08:55	MC welcome to day two Glenn Mintern AusRAIL PLUS 2025 MC
08:55-09:30	Navigating economic instability: What's ahead for rail investment in Australia and the World Paul Bloxham Chief Economist, New Zealand and Global Commodities at HSB
09:30-09:50	Transforming the Victorian Rail Network Ben Phyland Head of Rolling Stock and Ticketing, Victorian Department of Transport and Planning
09:50-10:30	Panel Sustaining the future of rail freight <i>Facilitator:</i> Georgia Nicholls General Manager – Rail Freight and Heavy Haul, Australasian Railway Association <i>Panellists:</i> Brett Grehan Chief Executive Officer, Pacific National Hon Melissa Horne MP Minister for Ports and Freight, Victorian Government Geoff Smith Managing Director, The SCT Group Peter Thomas Regional Senior Vice President – ANZ/SEA, Wabtec
10:30-11:15	Morning tea AusRAIL exhibition
11:15-12:35	Plenary session Room: Plenary 2
11:15-11:35	People, Planet, Performance: The New Global Benchmark for Urban Rail Thierry Mallet Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, Transdev Antoine Colas Chief Executive Officer International (Canada, Latin America, Africa, Middle East, Asia-Pacific), Transdev
11:35-12:15	Panel Rail Safety <i>Facilitator:</i> Carolyn Walsh Chair, National Transport Commission <i>Panellists:</i> Alan Fedda Chief Executive Officer, RISSB Natalie Pelham Chief Executive Officer, ONRSR Gini Welch National Manager Rail Safety Regulation, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Huw Bridges Chief Safety and Assurance Officer, Transdev
12:15-12:35	Global insights on the Rail supply chain Darren Leigh Group Chief Executive Officer, Unipart
12:35-14:00	Lunch break AusRAIL exhibition

14:00-16:00	Concurrent sessions					
	Meeting room 210	Meeting room 211	Meeting room 212	Plenary 2	Meeting room 208	Meeting room 213
	Strategic Partnership & Innovation <i>(Sponsored by Hitachi Rail)</i>	Asset & Lifecycle Management	Passenger Experience	Rail Safety (ONRSR technical stream)	End-to-end Sustainable Transport	Future Ready Rail
14:00-14:20	Driving change at the heart of South East Queensland's once in a generation rail upgrade Jeremy Kruger Program Director, Cross River Rail Delivery Authority	Digital Transformation of Rail Infrastructure: The Shift to Predictive and Prescriptive Maintenance John Smith Chief Executive Officer, Voestalpine Signaling UK Ltd.	East Japan Railway Company's Passenger-Centric Approach to Delivering Safer, High-Performing, and Smarter Railway Operations on Legacy Infrastructure Shunzo Miyake Senior Executive Officer, Director General of International Affairs Headquarters, East Japan Railway Company	National rail safety regulators update Dr Natalie Pelham Chief Executive Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator	Decarbonisation of regional passenger rail in Victoria Andreas Rey Manager Sustainability Program, V/Line Corporation	Innovate or die – strengthening innovation in the Australian rail industry Jacqui Walters Rail Industry Innovation Council
14:20-14:40	Enhancing Collaboration between Defence and Rail Industries for Australian Industry Development Cecilia Crosby Supply Chain Director Alstom Australia and New Zealand	Rethinking Rail Maintenance: How Downer is Cutting Waste, Carbon and Complexity Melodi Gokalp Program Manager - NSW Projects & Contract Delivery, Downer EDI Joel Forbes Senior Project Manager, Downer	Best Practices from SNCF: the case study of Line L (Paris region) Philippe Mouly Managing Director of Line L Keolis SNCF	Safety insights from ONRSR Regulatory activity Ty Graham General Manager, Melbourne, Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator	Leveraging alternative funding models to decarbonize rail Tristan Anderson Executive Advisor – Transport & Energy, GHD	Implementing a Corridor Intrusion Detection System and Object Detection System for Sydney Metro Unattended Train Operations Stuart Hosie Operations Manager – East, UGL Limited Alia Karaman Project Director – City and Southwest, Sydney Metro
14:40-15:00	Advancing Level Crossing Safety Assessments Through Desktop Methodologies Finbar Holland Director, Agonics	From data to action: Transforming existing rail systems into predictive maintenance powerhouses David Khoo Program Manager, Kieran Sager DT Infrastructure	Enhancing inclusive public transport design through experiential disability awareness training Ben Harrington Training Officer, Jodie Bateman Project Officer – Training Programs, Travellers Aid	Safety Lessons Learned from Regulatory Investigations Dean Harris Senior Investigator, Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator	Meeting the needs of the Future: Delivering a decarbonization rail solution Chris Myatt Senior Communications Manager, Downer EDI	Speaker to be announced

15:00-15:20	The Case for a National Approach to Rail Condition Monitoring Ibrahim Fazah Director, Mobility Futures John Garrad Executive General Manager Assets, Safety & Environment, Transport for NSW	The Acquisition of Land for Major Infrastructure Projects Andrew Dangerfield Property Acquisition Manager, Inland Rail	The Elizabeth Line Experience: Where Customer Service Meets City Transformation Patrick Verwer Chief Executive Officer, Go-Ahead Group Rail	Interoperability Management Plans - Requirements for Rail Transport Operators Jessica Linsell Director Policy, Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator	Advancing Sustainability: Metro Trains Melbourne's Circular Economy Strategy and Pioneering Initiatives Felice Wong Sustainability Manager, Metro Trains Melbourne	Safety on Heavy Rail and Management of Climate Risks – The Dubai Experience David Franks Chief Executive Officer Keolis Downer
15:20-15:40	Implementing creative strategies in Victorian rail projects: insights from engaging First Nations and local artists Charmain Kasselmann Project Manager – Legacy Artwork Program (Metro Tunnel) Kath Kok Landscape Architect – Discipline Lead Arup	The Use of a Unified Digital Asset Model for Maintenance of Rail Communications Systems Samuel Gibson Senior Communications Engineer, Public Transport Authority of Western Australia Jeffrey Hamilton Public Transport Authority of Western Australia	Embedding qualified community outreach professionals into the transport environment Heather Pennell Community Investment Manager Jenny Odgers General Manager External Affairs and Communications, Metro Trains Melbourne	Productivity Benefits for the Rail Sector - How Do We Achieve Them? Andrew Mogg Senior Manager Programs, Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator	Climate Risk Management – From Information to Action Troy Harrison Manager Environment Strategy, Queensland Rail	Believe the Hype? Using Artificial Intelligence for Rail Safety Assurance John Slowey Principal - Safety Assurance, Think Systems
15:40-16:00	Rail Hubs – Evolution or Revolution? Anne Shiu Principle, Operations & Maintenance Planning, Jacobs	Data Driven Approach for Track Maintenance Jinliang Lester Lim Head of Digital Services Asia Pacific, Siemens Mobility	From Myki to contactless payments: Delivering Victoria's New Public Transport Ticketing System Susan Palmer-Canon Executive Director Train & Tram Projects, Daniela McMurray Director Technical, Department of Transport and Planning	National Rail Standards in a co-regulatory environment Sudha Niles General Manager Product & Innovation, Rail Industry Safety & Standards Board	Embodied emissions study plus sustainability and durability optimised materials specification and design on an Australian transport infrastructure project Jonathon Dyson Associate Technical Director - Durability Alyssa Spencer Senior Sustainability Consultant, Arcadis	Speaker to be announced
16:00 – 18:00	Exhibition Networking Drinks AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Exhibition <i>Exhibition Closes to free attendees at 15:30</i> <i>(Included networking event for registered conference delegates: Guest tickets may be purchased)</i>					
18:15 – 21:15	AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Flavours of Melbourne Street Party Showtime, South Wharf Melbourne <i>(Ticketed event: tickets are not included in conference registration)</i>					

DAY THREE: Friday 28 November 2025

Time	Session
07:00-08:00	AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Run/Walk Starting from Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
08:00-15:30	Registration open Exhibition Concourse, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
08:00-16:00	AusRAIL exhibition open
08:45-10:30	Plenary session Room: Plenary 2
08:45-08:50	MC welcome to day three Glenn Mintern AusRAIL PLUS 2025 MC
08:50-09:00	ARA Update Caroline Wilkie Chief Executive Officer, Australasian Railway Association
09:00-09:20	Tim Parker Chief Executive Officer, High Speed Rail Authority
09:20-09:40	From global practices to local purpose: Partnering to deliver effective, sustainable, and inclusive public transport Hiba Farès Chairwoman, RATP Dev
09:40-10:00	Wayne Johnson Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, ARTC
10:00-10:30	Building Diversity in Rail: The 'Build Like a Girl' Model Jo Farrell Director, Build Like a Girl
10:30-11:15	Morning tea AusRAIL exhibition
11:15-12:30	Plenary session (Sponsored by Arup) Room: Plenary 2
11:15-11:35	Sara Elkady Global Head of Strategy, Digitalisation and Innovation, Siemens Mobility
11:35-11:55	Urban Rail Transformation: Integrated Solutions for Modern Mobility Alain Ribat Managing Director Transilien, SNCF Voyageurs
11:55-12:35	Panel First Nations community engagement in major rail projects Facilitator: Joeley Pettit General Manager – Corporate Communication and Sustainability, Australasian Railway Association Panellists: Sharon Gray Group Manager, Diversity, Indigenous and Social Inclusion, CPB Contractors Ashley Garlett Aboriginal Engagement Lead, Alstom Melanie Grills ANZ First Nations Lead, Arup
12:35-14:00	Lunch break AusRAIL exhibition
14:00-15:30	Closing Plenary session Room: Plenary 2
14:00-14:40	Panel Ten Trends Shaping the future of Public Transport Facilitator: Yvette Mihelic Director, Customer Experience, John Holland Group Panellists: Matt Longland Chief Executive, Sydney Trains David Franks Chief Executive Officer, Keolis Downer
14:40-15:10	<i>Speaker to be announced</i>
15:10-15:15	Conference Close Caroline Wilkie , Chief Executive Officer, Australasian Railway Association
15:15-16:00	Closing Drinks to Farewell AusRAIL PLUS 2025 Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (Included networking event for registered conference delegates: Guest tickets may be purchased)

Session Descriptions

Tracks to transformation: Australia's opportunity in the global rail evolution

Henri Poupart-Lafarge | Chief Executive Officer and Director, Alstom

Henri Poupart-Lafarge, Chief Executive Officer of Alstom, will deliver an overview of the global rail sector, exploring the powerful trends shaping the industry and underscoring the urgent need for resilient, future-ready solutions. As worldwide demand for public transport continues to rise—with growing passenger numbers and lengthening journeys driven by urban expansion—the focus intensifies on creating seamless, passenger-centric experiences.

In his talk, Henri delves into the challenges currently facing Australia's rail infrastructure and draws inspiration locally and from around the world, showcasing breakthroughs in rail standardisation and resilience, modernisation, and workforce development. He highlights how an interoperable national rail network, strategic investment in modernisation and high-speed rail, the deployment of decarbonisation solutions across freight and passenger rail and bold new approaches to support for the development in the rail industry in Australia, could turn the country into a regional or even a global rail leader. With real-world examples and a vision for resilient, passenger-focused transport, this presentation promises to be both a candid assessment and an optimistic roadmap for Australia's railways.

Infrastructure investment priorities for the Rail Industry

Jim Betts | Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Secretary Jim Betts will discuss the Department's strategic vision for Australia's rail network. Explore funding priorities, project evaluation frameworks, and how rail investments align with national transport efficiency and regional connectivity goals within the broader infrastructure portfolio.

Navigating economic instability: What's ahead for rail investment in Australia and the world

Paul Bloxham | Chief Economist, New Zealand and Global Commodities, HSBC

Join Paul Bloxham, Chief Economist of HSBC Bank Australia and New Zealand, as he delivers critical insights into the macroeconomic forces shaping rail investment globally. Drawing on his expertise in Asia-Pacific economic trends and commodity markets, Paul will examine how current interest rate cycles, inflation pressures, and capital market volatility are impacting infrastructure financing decisions. He'll analyse the intersection of geopolitical uncertainty and investment strategy, offering practical guidance on timing rail investments, managing economic risks, and optimising asset allocation. This session provides industry leaders with essential economic intelligence to navigate the financial complexities of building resilient rail infrastructure in an uncertain global landscape.

Global insights on the rail supply chain

Darren Leigh | Group Chief Executive Officer, Unipart

Darren Leigh, Group CEO of Unipart will explore how global trends in supply chain transformation and digitalisation are creating new opportunities for efficiency, resilience, and long-term growth within the rail industry.

As the CEO of a world-leading manufacturing, logistics, and consultancy business. Darren brings a unique perspective on the future of the rail industry. His session will focus on how supply chain innovation, operational excellence, and sustainability are shaping the sector.

From global practices to local purpose: Partnering to deliver effective, sustainable and inclusive public transport

Hiba Farès | Chief Executive Officer, RATP Dev

Drawing from hospitality industry insights and global automated rail expertise, Hiba Farès, Chief Executive Officer of RATP Dev, will explore how customer-centric design transforms urban transport. Learn how digital innovation, sustainability goals, and seamless passenger experiences drive successful automated metro operations from Paris to Sydney's groundbreaking Western Sydney Airport line.

Hiba brings extensive experience in customer experience, marketing and operations from leadership roles at Air France-KLM, Accor and RATP, where she has driven major transformations in passenger experience and network modernization.

Building Diversity in Rail: The 'Build Like a Girl' Model

Jo Farrell | Director, Build Like A Girl

Jo Farrell shares how her groundbreaking approach revolutionised construction gender ratios and can do the same for rail. Learn practical strategies for recruitment, mentorship, and cultural transformation that drive innovation and profitability. Discover how cross-sector partnerships create sustainable talent pipelines and overcome traditional industry barriers.