

RAIL INDUSTRY AWARDS

AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

Tuesday 1 September 2026
International Convention Centre
(ICC), Sydney



Nominate now

PWI Young Achiever Award

Judged by the Permanent Way Institution (PWI)



This award is for excellence and innovation and is granted to an eligible young rail specialist in the rail infrastructure industry (who is not necessarily an engineer) to recognise and encourage their contribution to their field, or generally in areas that are relevant to the objectives of the Permanent Way Institution (PWI).

The intention of the prize is to encourage the professional development of the recipient. The prize usually covers attendance at a major overseas rail industry event that is of relevance to both the PWI and the recipient such as a conference or exhibition, as approved by the PWI Executive Committee.

The prize includes conference fees plus all reasonable costs for travel, accommodation and expenses totaling an amount up to \$12,000. The prize must be taken within two years of being presented, noting that the usual location is Innotrans which runs every two years.

If the recipient wishes for an extension of this two-year period then special approval is required from the PWI Executive Committee.

Please ensure you read through the [PWI Rules and Procedures document](#) before submitting a nomination.

Criteria

This Award is open to individuals who are:

- a financial member of the Permanent Way Institution (PWI) at the time of entry;
- under the age of 35 as at 1 January 2026;
- Agree with the PWI rules and procedures for recipients.

Nominees will be judged by an independent panel appointed by the PWI on either a technical paper that has been written (and preferably presented) or a project or program of works that has been completed within the last 18 months.

There will then be a shortlisting where nominees will present their technical paper or project / program of works to the judges followed by a question and answer session. Nominees will be assessed on the criteria detailed in the description of project/paper section of Supporting Documents. As part of the first round of judging noting that the judges will be assessing the papers on the criteria and that if these have not been fully covered, then certain elements cannot be scored. The paper as a whole needs to ensure it covers these areas.

Note: Previous winners of this Award (or similar such Awards, e.g. the RTAA) will be excluded from re-submitting an application for this Award for a period of no less than five years from the time of submitting their application for their winning Award.

The subject of the Award must relate to the applicant's current employer, who will be required to provide a reference. The successful candidate will be required to submit a proposed itinerary for attendance at the proposed conference to the Judging Committee chair for endorsement before funding is approved.

The successful candidate will present at the next relevant Technical Meeting or the Annual Convention, a summary of the attended conference and any associated industry visits.

Incomplete applications may incur a scoring penalty and will only be accepted at the discretion of the judging panel.

If you need assistance, please contact Julian Sharp via julian.sharp@cpbcon.com.au or 0437 638 398.

Details to be provided

- Contact Details:
 - Permanent Way Young Achiever Award Nominee.
 - Person to liaise with regarding this nomination.
 - Nominee's referees – minimum of two references, with one to

- be from current employer.
- If applicable, details of other Rail Industry Awards, that are still under consideration with their relevant judges, which may be taken into account by the Judging Committee.

Questions to address

1. Is the Nominee a Financial Member of the Permanent Way Institution?
2. If successful, are you willing to present a report on your conference attendance to a PWI Technical Meeting?
3. Do you declare that you are not a previous winner of this Award or similar such Awards e.g. RTAA Emerging Rail Specialist Award during the last five years?
4. Do you agree with the PWI rules and procedures for recipients for this award?

Supporting documents

- a. **Resume (Curriculum Vitae):** including date of birth, nationality, residency status, contact details including address, phone number and email. *Four-page limit.*
- b. **Statement of ambitions**
- c. **Description of project/paper:** This needs to include the detailed project report / paper that the judges will predominantly rely on as part of their judging. This needs to cover all aspects of the judging criteria which are:
 - Relevance to PWay
 - Difficulties overcome
 - Amount of innovation
 - Technical excellence
 - Personal contribution
 - Ongoing benefits to the rail industry
- d. **Current photo:** Remember this will appear in the PWI Journal and on a very large screen.
- e. **Summary of project/paper:** which will be placed in the PWI Journal. [Please use this template when uploading your summary for the journal](#) *400-word limit.*
- f. **References from other work-related contacts:** e.g. Supervisors, Employees, Clients or Supplier (minimum of two references, with one to be from current employer). *Four-page limit.*
- g. **Overview of Nomination (A4):** please upload an overview of your nomination (*up to one A4 page*) with contact details, for inclusion in the Rail Knowledge Bank and awards website. *One-page limit.*