
Permanent Way Institution

2026 Steve Maxwell Project Awards



Project Awards

JUDGES

Mark Harris, Acciona

Stephen Fleck, John Holland Group

Richard Morgan, Rhomberg Sersa Aust.

Jason Walmsley, Strategic Solutions Group

Cory Gray, John Holland Group

Martin O'Brien, Brefni

Gaganjot Assi, Laing O'Rourke

Steve Maxwell was a Member of the Permanent Way Institution Committee for many years, and his hard work and dedication enabled the PWI to continue during some difficult times. Steve was an informed Judge of the Award, and an entertaining speaker and presenter.

Steve's rail career began in NSW after graduating in Civil Engineering in 1970 and he progressed from District Engineer to become General Manager Engineering for CityRail, covering the suburban and interurban areas of Sydney. He made a huge contribution to the rail industry through his early advocacy of asset management as a key part of the rail engineering discipline, and with the introduction of numerous new infrastructure maintenance and asset management techniques and capabilities.

Steve's untimely death in 1997 was a great loss to the PWI and took from the industry a great engineer, friend and personable and supportive leader.

The Committee deemed it appropriate to name the prestigious Platelaying Award after Steve Maxwell.

In 2022 the Annual Award was changed slightly with the awards split into three categories, two categories enabling recognition for minor and major projects, along with a third category focusing on the traditional Platelaying aspects of a project.

The Major and Minor Project Awards are made to the staff responsible, who in the opinion of the Judges, best demonstrate this excellence. In other words, the Award will indicate a permanent way Project well done.

Eligible projects are any track renewal, or construction work, completed in the last financial year, or under the control of, a Member of the NSW Section, whether on a government or private railway system.

Minor Works Projects (<\$5,000,000) / Major Works Projects (>\$5,000,000)

Scoring Category	Available Score
Accuracy to Design and Survey	50
Site Presentation	50
Neatness of Fit of Components	50
Diversity and Inclusion	50
Difficulties Overcome	25
Safety	25
Consideration of the Environment	25
Closeness to Planning and Timetable	25
Closeness to Budget	25
Level of Client Satisfaction	25
Total Score/Marks:	350

The Platelaying Award is to an individual or team for excellence in the traditional Perway or Platelaying discipline. We are not looking for the biggest and best projects but fit for purpose Platelaying solutions that overcome rail network and/or project difficulties.

Examples of eligible nominations can be a difficult Perway component of a major project, an innovative Perway maintenance or renewal project, or emergency response repairs/rectification works, performed under duress

Judging Criteria: -

Platelaying Award:

Scoring Category	Available Score
Accuracy to Design and Survey	50
Site Presentation	50
Neatness of Fit and Attention to detail	50
Ingenuity and innovation	25
Use of available/limited resources	25
Safety	25
Effectiveness of final solution	25
Client Feedback	25
Team or Individual contribution	25
Total Score/Marks:	300

Steve Maxwell Project Award