



AUSTRALIAN RAIL INDUSTRY
STANDARDS ORGANISATION

Advancing safety and productivity

RAIL SAFETY AWARDS 2026



- Safety is at the heart of our culture in rail and ARiSO has a clear remit to advance safety and productivity.

- Our Awards in 2026 will recognise and celebrate leadership, innovation and practical initiatives that strengthen safety outcomes across the rail industry.

AWARD CATEGORIES

TrackSAFE Frontline Worker Safety Award

The Award recognises a frontline rail worker (or team) who in the past 12 months, championed a rail safety initiative that improved safety outcomes in their workplace or worksite with exemplary and demonstrable outcomes for their co-workers.

Frontline in this Award is defined as an individual (or team) who performs essential duties or functions that involves direct interaction with the public or support critical operations.

Community Safety Initiative

This award acknowledges initiatives or campaigns that have delivered demonstrable improvements in rail safety outcomes for the community. It recognises programs that effectively engage the public, reduce risk and promote safer behaviour around the rail network.

Advancing Safety and Productivity Award

This award recognises an initiative that demonstrably improved operational safety and productivity such as reduced loss time injury, streamlined processes/efficiency, direct cost savings like procurement, and savings through interoperability, sustainability or innovation. It celebrates programs that strengthen organisational safety capability, rail operations or WHS, and deliver measurable physical and/or psychological safety improvements for the workforce.

Industry Safety Professional of the Year

This award acknowledges the overall achievements of a safety professional in improving the health, safety and wellbeing outcomes within a team or organisation. This nomination must include clear examples of consistent safety outcomes and overall professionalism.

Next Generation Award

For rail sector professionals aged 30 and under, this award will be chosen from the 10 'Next Generation' scholarship recipients for the ARISO Rail Safety Conference 2026. A judging panel will evaluate the recipients to identify the standout leader driving innovation and excellence in rail safety.

The finalists of each category will be invited to attend the ARISO Rail Safety Conference dinner in Melbourne on Tuesday, 19 May 2026 where category winners will be announced.

BENEFITS

Entering the ARISO Rail Safety Awards provides the chance to recognise the contribution of you and your team to the rail industry. Nominating for an award is an opportunity to:

- evaluate safety and productivity
- showcase success to industry and the public
- receive recognition for your hard work and business excellence
- increase media and brand awareness
- grow your business profile
- network with rail industry leaders and peers.

KEY DATES*

NOMINATIONS CLOSE

Friday, 17 April 2026

FINALISTS CONTACTED

Early May 2026

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Tuesday 19 May 2026

**All dates are subject to change.*

AWARD FINALIST BENEFITS

Along with having their contributions recognised, each award finalist will receive:

- one (1) 50 per cent discounted ticket for a selected company representative (if a company award) or individual to the ARISO Rail Safety Conference Dinner
- 10 per cent discount for a company table booking for the dinner.

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED

The ARISO Rail Safety Awards are open to any individual working in the rail industry, or an organisation operating in, or affiliated with, rail in Australia and New Zealand.

Read the award categories to see what program or individual is eligible to be nominated. Nominations can be made by the nominee themselves or by another person/party.

What better way to:

- thank an employee for their commitment and dedication to your company
- show someone you acknowledge their achievements
- promote a company for its leadership in innovation
- have a product or service recognised nationally by industry leaders.

JUDGING

Nominations received under each ARISO Rail Safety Award category are assessed by an independent judging panel. The panel comprises rail industry safety leaders.

The judges are looking for:

- safety innovations and ideas
- benefits of the initiative or program
- practical, applicable solutions
- passion and commitment to safety and productivity in the rail industry
- overall professionalism
- clear and concise answers to all questions.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- No late applications will be accepted.
- Nominations must be submitted using the online form.
- Supporting documents may be provided as part of the nomination process.
- Nominees must be working in the rail industry, or be affiliated with the rail industry i.e. consulting, supplying etc.
- Applicants must meet the entry criteria for the specific award to be eligible.
- The same submission can be submitted for consideration across a maximum of two award categories.
- Self-nominations are allowed, but individuals submitting self-nominations must supply second/third party endorsement and referee contact details.
- Winners will be announced at the ARISO Rail Safety conference dinner event.
- Finalist companies may select one (1) representative to accept the award, announced at the dinner.
- ARISO reserves the right to use non-confidential details, distribute media and own photographs for publicity purposes pertaining to the Awards and ARISO.
- All applications are treated with the strictest confidence.
- The decision by the judging panel in each category is final.

For more information, visit ariso.org.au/awards or please email events@ariso.org.au with 'ARISO Rail Safety Awards 2026' in the subject line.

ariso.org.au/awards
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