

# Horizons

Inspiring tomorrow's  
rail industry leaders

Now accepting expressions  
of interest for 2025



**Horizons equips safety, technical and operational professionals with the skills and insights required for a successful career in rail.**

With unprecedented investment, growth and change in the rail industry, Horizons' unique program has, for seven years, been preparing rail professionals with the skills and network needed to step up.

Learn, network, collaborate, and grow with high-potential rail industry leaders from across Australia and New Zealand.

[rissb.com.au](https://rissb.com.au)

**RiSSB**  
RAIL INDUSTRY SAFETY AND STANDARDS BOARD



## WHY YOU MUST APPLY

**Horizons introduces you to cutting-edge industry practices, current and future industry leaders that will help you deliver impactful results, inspire others and unlock value.**

### As a Horizons Program participant you will:

- + meet and learn from CEOs and other senior rail leaders from major transport-related companies and other organisations
- + understand current and future trends in rail to ensure your team is prepared for challenges and opportunities
- + identify strengths in yourself and others to more effectively engage and influence team members
- + expand your network to include existing leaders and other high-potential rail industry professionals
- + develop the skills to drive and manage change
- + leverage experience off other rail industry professionals
- + learn to manage your mental health and create a safe space for your team
- + communicate effectively and present with intent.

## WHO CAN APPLY

**Horizons exposes participants to safety, technical and operational leadership best-practices.**

Horizons goes beyond what you would typically find in a leadership program. Not only will you develop a toolkit you can use to level up your own leadership skills, you'll be exposed to inspiring stories and insights from influential leaders from across the rail industry.

### Eligibility

Horizons participants are existing or emerging leaders who are high-potential technical, safety or operational rail industry professionals. Participants are highly regarded in their organisations and available to attend all three forums in-person.

### Program cost

The discounted program rate for RISSB members is \$3,049 (ex GST) and covers all face-to-face forums, online mentoring sessions, completion and debrief of individual DISC Profile, and three networking events.

Travel, accommodation, and meals (excluding lunch) associated with attending Horizons forums are the responsibility of the participant or their organisation.

**“The variety of speakers and topics discussed was outstanding. The food especially was amazing. The networking opportunities and the lifelong connections I’ve made has been great!”**

*Senior Project Engineer, Transport for NSW*





## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

**Horizons 2025 has expanded to include a program for west Australia with both 'East' and 'West' cohorts meeting up for an epic final combined forum in September 2025. The Horizons Program includes:**

- + three, two-day face-to-face forums featuring interactive workshops, private, government, and university leaders
- + webinars and exclusive professional development opportunities
- + networking events with key industry stakeholders
- + a pitching competition where groups present a solution to a rail industry challenge to a panel of experienced industry executives for a chance to present at the RISSB Rail Safety Conference.

## Horizons East

- Forum 1** 3-4 April: Deakin University, Melbourne
- Forum 2** 12-13 June: QUT, Gardens Point, Brisbane
- Forum 3 - combined** Late September: University of Technology Sydney

## Horizons West

- Forum 1** 10-11 April: Venue TBC, Perth
- Forum 2** 26-27 June: Edith Cowan University, Perth
- Forum 3 - combined** Late September: University of Technology Sydney

*Dates are subject to change*

Horizons venue sponsors



**"I really enjoyed the group work. It helped me hone my teamwork skills and facilitated networking with others in the rail industry on a tangible project."**

*Training Officer, Metro Trains Melbourne*



2024 Horizons winners with the judging panel Sudha Niles (Acting CEO RISSB), Dennis Lo (Treasurer RTAA), Matt Longland (CEO Sydney Trains), Brian Brennan (CEO Transdev)

# Learn from senior rail leaders and experts

## Horizons 2024 speakers included:

- + **Sally Stannard** - Director General, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
- + **Carolyn Walsh** - Chair, National Transport Commission
- + **Dr Michelle Zeibots** - Transport Medallist & Senior Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney
- + **Dr Christian Christodoulou** - Director Engineering, Transport for NSW
- + **Jim Modrouvanos** - CEO & Chief Investigator, Office of Transport Safety Investigations
- + **Steve Sammartino** - Futurist, author and technologist

## Horizons exceeds expectations

In 2024, 100% of participants indicated Horizons met or exceeded their expectations!

“Learning to work with my team was definitely the highlight that I will take with me for the rest of my career.”

*Consultant - Operational Technologies, Systra ANZ*

“One of the most impactful aspects of the Horizons conference was hearing the speakers recount their personal journeys. Their openness provided an authentic glimpse into their humanity, despite the impressive positions they hold within the industry, making their stories deeply inspiring.”

*Contract Delivery Manager, Sydney Trains*

“The Horizons Program has been a fantastic opportunity to network with the next generation of railway technical, safety and operational experts and industry leaders. We’ve had a unique opportunity to view some of the latest technology and projects in the Australian rail industry, and learn some valuable lessons from a wide range of industry and management leaders.”

*Team Lead Vehicle Services (North), SNC Lavalin*

“The RISSB Horizons Program is where rail’s past meets its vibrant future, offering a splendid fusion of networking, knowledge sharing, and a visionary journey into the rail industry’s evolving landscape.”

*Lead Engineer, Rail & Mass Transit, Aurecon*

“The Horizons program has provided invaluable access to engaging speakers, new concepts and the latest technology - but the biggest benefit has been the opportunity to network with young rail professionals from all over Australia who share a similar interest in innovation and leadership.”

*HMI Specialist, MTM*

## PAST ATTENDEES HAVE COME FROM

- + Abbott Risk Consulting
- + Acmena Group Pty Ltd
- + Arc Infrastructure
- + ARTC
- + Arup
- + Assets Standards Authority
- + ATSB
- + Aurecon
- + Aurizon
- + BHP
- + Bombardier
- + DoT Victoria
- + Downer
- + DIT (SA)
- + Fortescue
- + Hitachi Rail
- + IRT Monash
- + JHG
- + Keolis Downer
- + KiwiRail
- + Knorr Bremse
- + Laing O’Rourke
- + Lendlease Engineering
- + LTK Engineering
- + McLeod Rail
- + MCRail
- + MTM
- + NTC
- + One Rail Australia
- + ONRSR
- + Pacific National
- + PTAWA
- + Queensland Rail
- + Ricardo Rail Australia
- + Rio Tinto
- + Shoal Group
- + SNC Lavalin Atkins
- + Strukton Rail
- + Suburban Rail Loop Authority
- + Sydney Metro
- + Sydney Trains
- + Systra ANZ
- + TasRail
- + TfNSW
- + Transdev Auckland
- + V/Line

## SCAN TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Web: <https://bit.ly/rissbhorizons>

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