



Australian Government  
National Emergency Management Agency

Australian Institute for  
Disaster Resilience



# Resilient Australia Awards 2026 Guidelines

**Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience**

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## Contents

<b>About the Resilient Australia Awards .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.2 Key 2026 dates .....	4
<b>2. Award categories .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 State and territory award categories .....	5
2.2 National award categories .....	6
<b>3. Award category process map.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Project eligibility and assessment.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.1 Submission guidelines.....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1.1 State and territory award categories, and national award categories.....	9
4.1.2 Photography award category.....	10
4.2 Application Description and Assessment criteria .....	11
4.2.1 Executive summary .....	11
4.2.2 Criterion 1: Purpose and design .....	13
4.2.3 Criterion 2: Diversity, inclusion, and community engagement .....	13
4.2.4 Criterion 3: Collaboration and partnership .....	14
4.2.5 Criterion 4: Sustainability, scalability and transferability.....	15
4.2.6 Criterion 5:.....	16
4.2.7 Criterion 6: Results and outcomes .....	17
4.3.1 Jurisdictional and national judging.....	18
4.3.2 Photography judging.....	19
<b>5. Appendices .....</b>	<b>21</b>
5.1 Appendix 1. Resources and Frameworks .....	21
5.1.1 All Categories .....	21
5.1.2 School Category.....	21
5.1.2 Mental Health Category .....	21
5.1.3 Research Category .....	21
5.2 Appendix 2. Submission tips.....	21
5.2.1. Submission requisites.....	21
5.2.2. General.....	22





5.2.3. Alignment to National Frameworks ..... 23

5.2.4. Photography category ..... 24

5.3. Appendix 2. Definitions ..... 24

5.4 Appendix 4. FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions..... 25

5.5 Appendix 5. Contacts ..... 26





## About the Resilient Australia Awards

The Resilient Australia Awards celebrate and promote initiatives that build whole of community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia as well as capture and share examples of resilience in action. The awards recognise collaboration and innovative thinking across a broad range of sectors and initiatives that strengthen disaster resilience with communities, institutions, and the private sector. Innovative models and approaches that create sustainable change are highly regarded.

Since being established in 2000, the awards have recognised outstanding contributions in each state and territory across multiple sectors and disciplines. The awards endorse a wide range of initiatives; with past projects centred around risk assessment and mitigation, planning and preparation, and response and recovery.

Winners from each state and territory are considered for the National Awards. Finalist projects benefit from national exposure via a range of marketing and communications channels and their presence at the National Awards Ceremony.

The Resilient Australia Awards is proudly sponsored by the Australian Government in partnership with states and territories and managed by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR).

**Submissions for the 2026 awards program must relate to projects or initiatives that commenced after 1 January 2024 or demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2024.**

### 1.2 Key 2026 dates

Date	Activity
Tuesday 10 March	Submissions open
Tuesday 2 June	Submissions for jurisdictional award categories close
23 June – 7 July	People's Choice voting: Resilient Australia Photography Award
16 June - 14 July	State and territory judging period
Friday 17 July	Submissions for National Research for Impact Award close
17 July - 30 September	State and territory award ceremonies
21 July - 29 September	National judging period
2 October - 9 October	National ceremony invitations sent
18 November - 2 December	National Resilient Australia Awards Ceremony





## 2. Award categories

### 2.1 State and territory award categories



#### **Resilient Australia Business Award**

Open to businesses and the private sector, including tertiary colleges and universities.



#### **Resilient Australia Community Award**

Open to communities, community based or focussed organisations, and non-government organisations.



#### **Resilient Australia Government Award**

Open to state and federal government departments and agencies.



#### **Resilient Australia Local Government Award**

Open to local governments and local government associations.



#### **Resilient Australia Mental Health and Wellbeing Award**

Open to projects with a primary purpose or focus on the mental health and wellbeing of Australian communities before, during and after a disaster.



#### **Resilient Australia School Award**

Open to all public and private pre-school, primary and secondary schools only.

*School, children or youth related projects managed by other organisations should be submitted in other categories.*





### Resilient Australia Photography Award

Open to individuals and groups.

*Submissions will not be accepted without the permission of the copyright holder.*

## 2.2 National award categories



### Resilient Australia National Award

Award of excellence across all National Award categories. Projects demonstrate the most systemic change and groundbreaking results. Judges will consider winning projects from all Award categories except Photography.



### Resilient Australia National Collaboration and Partnership Award

Recognition of projects that encompass activity across two or more partners, sectors, states or territories, and consistently demonstrate the power of collaboration and partnership when working toward a goal or mission with partners combining efforts and resources. Judges will consider winning projects from all Award categories except Photography.



### Resilient Australia National Research for Impact Award

Open to all tertiary institutions (colleges and universities). Applicants will showcase research that is having or will have a significant impact on knowledge, capability and practice and will enhance disaster resilience outcomes as a result. Applications for this category will only be received and judged at the national level.



### Resilient Australia National Business Award

State and territory winners in the business category will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Business Award.



### Resilient Australia National Community Award

State and territory winners in the community category will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Community Award.





### **Resilient Australia National Government Award**

State and territory winners in the government category will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Government Award.



### **Resilient Australia National Local Government Award**

State and territory winners in the local government category will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Local Government Award.



### **Resilient Australia National Mental Health and Wellbeing Award**

State and territory winners in the mental health and wellbeing category will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Mental Health and Wellbeing Award.



### **Resilient Australia National School Award**

State and territory winners in the school category will be considered for the Resilient Australia National School Award.



### **Resilient Australia National Photography Award**

The People's Choice photography winner in each state and territory will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Photography Award.





### 3. Award category process map

This process map demonstrates how the jurisdictional award categories link through to the national awards.



### 4. Project eligibility and assessment

Winning projects will reflect clear links to Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Frameworks including, the [National Strategy for Disaster Resilience \(2011\)](#), the [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework \(2018\)](#), the Australian Government’s [Second National Action Plan to reduce Disaster Risk \(2023\)](#), and the National Emergency Management Agency’s [Strategic Intent \(2023\)](#). They will be consistent with and demonstrate action in support of the relevant key priorities and principles in one or more of these frameworks.

#### Applications should highlight where they have contributed to:

- An increased understanding and awareness of disaster risk and resilience in their community.
- A collaborative and coordinated approach to reducing disaster risk and building resilience now and into the future.
- Enabling disaster risk reduction across all of society, and empowering individuals to take locally led, targeted and coordinated action.
- Aligning action and efforts to reduce systemic disaster risk and create stronger and more resilient communities before, during and after emergencies.





- Connecting government, community, not-for-profits, industry, and other sectors to form partnerships and complement each other's efforts to build resilience.
- Generating knowledge, evidence and insights that enhance Australia's capacity to prepare for and recover from emergencies.
- Influencing and empowering leaders at all levels to consider disaster risk reduction in their decision-making.
- An increased buy-in and investment in resilience building, where the benefits of disaster resilience are recognised and valued.
- Sustainable outcomes that recognise social values, diverse voices and consider local vulnerabilities and strengths.

**Applications for all categories, excluding photography must address six (6) assessment criteria. Applications may be submitted in one or more of the following formats:**

- written
- video, with the use of images and audio
- animation.

## 4.1 Submission guidelines

Projects, research and photos must be submitted online via the [Resilient Australia Awards Platform](#).

The following information must be provided, for an application to be considered for any award category.

### 4.1.1 State and territory award categories, and national award categories

#### Submissions must include:

- responses to the **six (6)** assessment criteria, outlining how the project makes a positive contribution to disaster resilience (see [Assessment criteria](#)) – responses can be written, audio or visual
- any supporting information, photographs, and video footage
- your organisation's logo as a high-resolution JPEG (300-500kB) to be used for promotional purposes if required
- any applicants under the age of 18 must have the permission of a parent or guardian to make a submission
- applicants are responsible for obtaining the express consent of all identifiable individuals depicted in their photo or supporting information, prior to submission
- all permissions and consents must be in writing and be provided to AIDR upon request.





Please note that any supporting attachments, video files must be  $\leq 5\text{MB}$  in size. If your file sizes are larger, please contact [juanita.bahl@afac.com.au](mailto:juanita.bahl@afac.com.au) for support.

***If the submission includes any material where the copyright or intellectual property rights are owned by a third party (including text, images, and multimedia), the applicant must obtain permission to include the material from the copyright owner and/or intellectual property rights holder.***

#### 4.1.2 Photography award category

##### **Submissions must include:**

- one high-resolution (300dpi) photograph that demonstrates what disaster resilience means to you, or such resilience in action
- the title of the photograph and the location it was taken
- a response to the question: ‘what about the submitted photograph demonstrates disaster resilience to you?’ (300 words maximum)
- names and contact details for all identifiable individuals depicted in the photograph to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*.
- any applicants under the age of 18 must have the permission of a parent or guardian to make a submission
- applicants are responsible for obtaining the express consent of all identifiable individuals depicted in their photo or supporting information, prior to submission
- all permissions and consents must be in writing and be provided to AIDR upon request.

Photographs must be between 1.5MB-5MB in size and formatted as JPEGs. They must not contain or depict any objectionable or inappropriate content, including dangerous or inappropriate work practices.

Where a photo is submitted by a photographer who is not the copyright owner, prior to submission permission must be obtained from the copyright owner and their name and contact details supplied. Further, copyright owners submitting photos they did not take themselves must supply the name and contact details of the photographer.

##### **Use of images and other multimedia**

For any images or multimedia submitted, the copyright or intellectual property owner retains their rights. However, the applicant grants the Australian state and territory governments and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council Limited (AFAC), trading as





AIDR, the permission to use, reproduce, modify or adapt the images or multimedia for promotional, informational and/or publicity purposes **in relation to the Resilient Australia Awards program and any other AIDR program or publication**, credited where practical to the owner. Images or multimedia will not be used in other contexts without the express permission of the copyright owner.

### Disclosure and use of application information

In submitting an application for the Awards, applicants grant express consent, to the Australian state and territory governments and AFAC/AIDR, to make the project information, including photographs, publicly available for promotional, informational and/or publicity purposes **in relation to the Resilient Australia Awards program and any other AIDR program or publication and showcasing resilience activities via our website/s**. Examples of use include (but are not limited to) education, case studies, inclusion on government websites, social media content and publications.

**All applicants will be subscribed to relevant AIDR information products.**

Your personal information and privacy are important to AIDR, and you can find information about our [privacy policy online](#).

## 4.2 Application Description and Assessment criteria

*The following applies to all Jurisdictional and National categories except the Photography category. Applicants for all categories including Research for Impact should address the criteria as they apply to the project, initiative or research that is being submitted for consideration.*

### 4.2.1 Executive summary

While the executive summary is compulsory, it is not scored. It is beneficial to provide a high-quality summary, giving judges a meaningful introduction and context to the project. Think of it as an elevator pitch with some highlighted details.

**The executive summary is to include the following information about the project, initiative, or research:**

- Title - Provide a clear and brief name. Applicants are encouraged to not include the name of the organisation in the title. **Titles are limited to 10 words.**
- Organisation or individual name - Name all organisations or individuals who are proposing this work for an award. Be careful to include any organisation or individuals with significant involvement.





- Overview of the project, initiative or research, and its results or benefits.

**Consider the following when developing your response:**

- How would you pitch this to media outlets?
- How would you summarise your project or research for social media posts?
- Will your executive summary spark interest from the judging panel?
- What is the project or research about?
- Who is involved?
- Who benefits (or will benefit) from the results or outcomes?
- What are the core components that made this successful?
- Does anything make this innovative? And how did this innovation contribute to a beneficial outcome?

**Word limit:** 300

**Animation/video length:** 30 seconds

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB





### 4.2.2 Criterion 1: Purpose and design

Provide more details about the purpose and design of the project or research, diving deeper into why it was initiated and how it was designed to achieve that purpose.

**The Judging Panel will consider the following:**

- The degree to which the work is designed to strengthen resilience and reduce risk.
- The degree to which its design enhanced its likelihood of delivering on the purpose and aims.
- The demonstrated methods of inclusion of affected or relevant groups in the design process.

**Consider the following questions in developing your response:**

- What is the intended purpose of the work?
- What factors or considerations influenced its design? Was it based on evidence, experience, or other information?
- Which characteristics or features were included and why – what was their intended outcome?
- Who is the target audience? What change were you seeking to create?
- Who was involved in the design phase? Was this process collaborative?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

### 4.2.3 Criterion 2: Diversity, inclusion, and community engagement

This criterion allows the applicant to provide more details about the process of community engagement and whether community leadership is strengthened by or built into the work.

Provide specific examples of how the community was supported and engaged, to build resilience to disasters and emergencies. Highlight aspects that enhance diversity and inclusion, ensuring that a broad cross-section of community members is included and involved. Consider how this enhanced effectiveness and the outcomes.





**The Judging Panel will consider the following:**

- The extent to which community leadership was supported or strengthened.
- The extent to which the community was effectively considered or engaged.
- The demonstrated methods and outcomes from the inclusion of affected and diverse groups.
- For research projects, the extent to which these issues informed design and delivery of the research and will be enhanced as a result of the research.

**Consider the following questions in developing your response:**

- Was this work community led, community centred, or involving of the community? At what stages did these occur?
- How was the engagement process implemented?
- How was inclusion and diversity built into this process of engagement?
- How successful was the engagement in reaching diverse or relevant groups?
  - Was there representation or inclusion of First Nations people, women, youth, LGBTIQ+, those from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and other underrepresented groups within the community, how was this achieved?
  - Was there inclusion of high and low socio-economic groups in the community, and those from urban, rural or neighbouring locations, how was this achieved?
  - Are the needs, voices, and achievements of the estimated 1 in 5 Australians with a disability reflected, how was this achieved?
- Was there any measurement or feedback about the engagement process?
- Where diverse individuals and groups positive about their inclusion?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

#### 4.2.4 Criterion 3: Collaboration and partnership

This criterion provides the applicant with an opportunity to describe the collaborations and partnerships that informed and contributed to this work.

**The Judging Panel will consider the following:**

- How effectively were local, regional, state or national partners engaged.
- Were partners from a variety of fields or sectors engaged?
- Did collaborative elements enhance the project outcomes?





- For research projects, were other academics or specialists involved and how? What was achieved or enhanced by this partnership?
- How suitable and effective were the partnerships and collaborations given the local context, and other contributing factors?

**Consider the following questions in developing your response:**

- How many and which individuals and organisations collaborated with one another?
- Which partners supported the work and what did they bring to that support?
- What benefits were achieved directly arising from these partnerships and collaborations?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

#### 4.2.5 Criterion 4: Sustainability, scalability and transferability

This criterion provides an opportunity for the applicant to outline how the work is sustainable into the future, and how it can be transferred or adapted to other communities or contexts, or to address other hazards.

**The Judging Panel will consider the following:**

- The measures that are in place to sustain the benefits of this work.
- Whether the work can be scaled and how?
- How applicable this would be in a variety of locations, circumstances and in relation to various hazards.
- The likely ease of application to other locations, given the outcomes and outputs.

**Consider the following questions in developing your response:**





- How will the benefits of this work be sustained?
- How can this occur without exhausting resources or causing negative consequences?
- Could other communities use or adapt the work? How easily could this be done?
- What are the core elements that are essential for success?
- What advice would you give other communities or organisations based on your experience with this work?
- For research projects, how can this research inform further research and practice? What additional work does the research indicate is necessary or desirable?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

#### 4.2.6 Criterion 5:

This criterion provides the applicant with an opportunity to demonstrate how the work goes beyond a business-as-usual approach, demonstrates creativity and innovation, and acts as an inspiration for others.

##### **The Judging Panel will consider the following:**

- The degree to which this work demonstrates an approach that goes beyond business-as-usual and will be attractive to others.
- Whether there are one or more elements in design or delivery that are particularly creative, innovative, engaging or influential.
- Whether it is likely to inspire others to adopt knowledge or skill, change behaviour, or to undertake action (including further research) that reduces disaster risk and enhances resilience.
- Provide specific examples of how this work delivers above and beyond the core business activity of the organisations involved. How is this work different than other similar approaches currently being delivered across Australia?

##### **Consider the following questions in developing your response:**

- Why is this different from anything delivered previously, or as part of the core business of those involved?
- What are the specific innovative or creative elements and how did they contribute to success?
- How does this work inspire the creation of a new business-as-usual?





- How does it inspire others to adopt or create new approaches or go beyond business-as-usual?
- Is the work likely to inspire others to adapt, develop or undertake new approaches to research or practice?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

#### 4.2.7 Criterion 6: Results and outcomes

This criterion provides the applicant with an opportunity to share the achievements of the project, research or initiative, and to highlight key findings which may leverage the value of the work. Applicants are encouraged to include examples of how the work has implemented or contributed to the successful activation of the strategic frameworks and policies that guide this work nationally as outlined in Resources and Frameworks (appendix 5.1).

##### **The Judging Panel will consider the following:**

- The impact and benefit of the work for the community, region, state or territory and/or nationally.
- Whether results and outcomes are clearly measured and described?
- Whether these are demonstrated through feedback from those involved and/or an evaluation?
- Is a case study, example or story included to illustrate the success of this project?
- Whether and how critical thinking was applied to any review of the project systems and processes.
- How the project, research or initiative 'lifts' the system, highlights particular findings, or is likely to contribute to a positive shift or uplift in research or practice.

##### **Consider the following questions in developing your response:**

- How are the achievements and outcomes/results demonstrated?
- What specific benefits flow to those involved i.e. the community, partners, others?
- Has the work been evaluated, including informal evaluations?
- What lessons were learned?
- Are there any examples, case studies or stories that can be used to demonstrate the results and outcomes?





**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 3 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

## 4.3 Judging process

### 4.3.1 Jurisdictional and national judging

- Panels will convene in each jurisdiction and then nationally to assess applications received in each category, except photography.
- Judging panels will use the responses to each of the criteria as the primary source of information for determining the merit of each application. Attachments directly supporting the assessment criteria are to be included with the application and may be considered in the judges' evaluation.
- Judging panels are entitled to consider applications in whichever category the panel considers to be most appropriate.
- Where no application in a category is deemed of a sufficient quality or standard, judging panels are not required to identify a winner or any runners-up. The decision of the judging panel is final.

#### **The national Panel will include representatives from:**

- AIDR
- AFAC
- NEMA
- Australian Red Cross
- An appropriate guest judge in each Award Category

Judges at all levels are required to declare conflicts of interest where they exist or might be perceived to exist.

#### 4.3.1.1 Judging criteria

#### **Submissions will be scored against the following criteria:**

- **Project purpose and design**  
Details about the project's purpose and design, diving deeper into why the project was initiated and why it was designed as it was.





- **Diversity, inclusion, and community engagement**  
Details about the process of community engagement and whether diversity, inclusion and community leadership are strengthened by the project.
- **Collaboration and partnership**  
The collaborations and partnerships that informed and enhanced this project.
- **Sustainability, scalability and transferability**  
How the project or initiative is sustainable into the future, and how it can be transferred or adapted to other communities or contexts, or to address other hazards.
- **Creativity, innovation, and inspiration**  
How the project goes beyond a business-as-usual approach, demonstrates creativity or innovation, and acts as an inspiration for others.
- **Results and outcomes**  
Achievements of the project or initiative and any other key findings which may leverage the initiative's value.

#### 4.3.2 Photography judging

Submissions for the Resilient Australia Photography Award are judged through a People's Choice vote, conducted online through the official AIDR Facebook page and promoted via AIDR and partner websites and social media channels.

All approved photography submissions will be published in a Facebook album – each 'like' or positive 'reaction' a photo receives during the voting period will be counted as one vote. The jurisdiction within which a photo was submitted will not be publicised during the voting period.

At the conclusion of the voting period, the official AIDR Facebook page will be temporarily disabled and AIDR will tally and record the 'votes.' The photo with the most likes/reactions in each state and territory will win its jurisdictional Resilient Australia Photography Award.

Once the votes have been counted, the content will be made available again on Facebook – however, subsequent likes and reactions will not be taken into consideration as votes, as voting will have closed at this point.





#### 4.3.2.1 National Photography Award

The winning photograph from each jurisdiction will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Photography Award by the Editorial Committee of the [Australian Journal of Emergency Management](#) (AJEM).

The winning photograph will also be considered for the cover of an issue of AJEM.





## 5. Appendices

### 5.1 Appendix 1. Resources and Frameworks

#### 5.1.1 All Categories

[National Strategy for Disaster Resilience \(2011\)](#)

[National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework \(2018\)](#)

[Second National Action Plan to reduce Disaster Risk \(2023\)](#)

[National Emergency Management Agency's Strategic Intent \(2023\)](#)

#### 5.1.2 School Category

[Disaster Resilience Education for Young People \(AIDR 2021\)](#)

#### 5.1.2 Mental Health Category

[National Disaster Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework \(2023\)](#)

#### 5.1.3 Research Category

[Research Impact Principles and Framework | Australian Research Council](#)

### 5.2 Appendix 2. Submission tips

#### 5.2.1. Submission requisites

##### **Executive Summary**

**Word limit:** 300

**Animation/video length:** 30 seconds

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

##### **Criterion 1 Purpose and design**

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB





### **Criterion 2 Diversity, inclusion, and community engagement**

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

### **Criterion 3 Collaboration and partnership**

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

### **Criterion 4 Sustainability, scalability and transferability**

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

### **Criterion 5 Creativity, innovation, and inspiration**

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

### **Criterion 6 Results and outcomes**

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/video length:** 2 minutes

**File Size:** ≤ 5MB

Please note that any supporting attachments, video files must be ≤ 5MB in size. If your file sizes are larger, please contact [juanita.bahl@afac.com.au](mailto:juanita.bahl@afac.com.au) for support.

## 5.2.2. General

- Don't leave it until the last minute! Leave yourself enough time to finalise the submission and submit by the closing date.
- Consider if your responses to the criteria are better delivered using multimedia rather than written responses. Please see notes below regarding file sizes.
- You will need to respond to each assessment question, as they are scored individually.





- Be specific when talking about the achievements of the project – broad statements such as ‘excellent results were achieved’ will not be considered sufficient evidence. Provide the evidence as to why you claim this result.
- Ensure your project goes above and beyond business as usual, as the judges will be looking for projects that deliver above community expectations.
- Attach supporting material to support your submission. Ensure all supporting material is clearly relevant – unrelated material may detract from a submission.
- Keep to the word/time limit – avoid spaces after your last word as this will increase your total word count. The system will not accept submissions that exceed the word limit.
- Draft your responses in a Word document to review prior to submission. You can copy and paste the text into each application field within the online application system. Please note that formatting such as bullets will not be transferred over.
- Short, sharp and clear project names attract the audience’s attention. Avoid long project names that include the organisation’s name.
- Where you are submitting a project on behalf of an organisation, an authorised person will need to approve the submission.
- Check your application before submitting. Is it complete, and correct?
- A confirmation email will be sent when the submission is complete – if you have submitted and not received a confirmation email, please contact the AIDR Awards Coordinator via [raa@aidr.org.au](mailto:raa@aidr.org.au)

### 5.2.3. Alignment to National Frameworks

Submissions to the Resilient Australia Awards should demonstrate alignment with one or more of the following frameworks:

- National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (2011)
- the *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework* (2018)
- the Australian Government’s Second National Action Plan to reduce Disaster Risk (2023)
- the National Emergency Management Agency’s Strategic Intent (2023)





- Resilience Education for Young People (AIDR 2021)
- National Disaster Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework (2023) or the National Mental Health Plan for Emergency Service Workers (2025).
- National Disaster Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework (2023)

Links to all frameworks can be found via: [5.1 Appendix 1. Resources and Frameworks](#)

#### 5.2.4. Photography category

- Ensure the story of the image details the link between resilience and the image content. This will ensure the voting public understands why the images represents disaster resilience.
- Ensure you submit a high-resolution version of the image, as it may be used on websites or other publications.
- Consider images which speak to disaster resilience across the multitude of hazards faced by Australia.
- Images in portrait alignment are desirable due to the design of the voting gallery and the AJEM cover.

### 5.3. Appendix 2. Definitions

#### **‘Resilience’ as defined by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**

The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

#### **‘Disaster’ as defined by AIDR**

A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts. Note, there are jurisdictional legislative variations.

#### **‘Emergency’ as defined by UNDRR**

Emergency is sometimes used interchangeably with the term disaster, as, for example, in the context of biological and technological hazards or health emergencies, which, however, can also relate to hazardous events that do not result in the serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society.





Further definitions from the Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary, are available online via:  
[www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary](http://www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary)

## 5.4 Appendix 4. FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I enter the same project in more than one category?**

No – each project may only be submitted in one award category, with the exception that an image submitted in the photography category may also support a submission in another category.

### **My project achieves outcomes in more than one state or territory or is a national project. Which jurisdiction do I submit it to?**

Submissions that relate to a national project or where a project encompasses activity in two or more states or territories, a ‘lead’ state or territory must be identified, and the project submitted in that jurisdiction.

This only applies to projects where the activities that make up the project already encompass two jurisdictions – a project is not considered multi-jurisdictional where implementation in other states and territories is hypothetical. One aim of the awards is to promote projects to encourage their future uptake and adaptation by other jurisdictions.

### **I entered in a previous year; can I enter again?**

If your project or photo did not receive an award (including highly commended), you may submit the same project or photo again – provided it fits the 2026 time period. Entries in the 2026 program must relate to projects commenced after 1 January 2023 or which demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2023. Applications from previous years cannot be transferred – you will need to complete the application process again in full.

### **How will I know if I am successful?**

A jurisdictional convenor will contact you directly if you are an award finalist.

### **Can I get feedback on my application?**

Yes, please contact the AIDR Awards Coordinator via [raa@aidr.org.au](mailto:raa@aidr.org.au) to obtain feedback once the judging period is complete.

### **What do I receive if I am successful?**

Each jurisdiction has unique arrangements for their awards – in general, finalists are celebrated at an award ceremony and receive certificates. AIDR hosts the National Award Ceremony – national finalists receive a framed certificate; national winners also receive a trophy, all finalists at the national level will be invited to the National Awards Ceremony.





Winners and finalists may enjoy coverage through local, regional, and national media. Further information will be provided to project team on an individual basis.

Where multiple project partners are involved, applicants must identify a 'lead' individual or organisation to submit the application in the appropriate category. Where multiple project partners are identified in the submission, they will be appropriately acknowledged in communications materials related to the project.

Note, only the lead organisation will receive a copy of any certificates or trophies awarded.

### **Why are universities not able to apply in the school category?**

Universities are encouraged to submit applications to the business category as universities generally operate as a business. The Research for Impact award is also open to universities. The school category is intended for projects that directly benefit or engage a school or student group.

### **Can I submit a project or photo after the submission closing date?**

No, late submissions will not be accepted. Supporting information to accompany completed submission will not be accepted after the closing date.

### **How will I know if my application has been submitted?**

You will receive a confirmation email upon submitting your project or photo through the online platform. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact the AIDR Awards Coordinator.

### **Can I update my application?**

You can update or alter your submission at any stage up until submission close. After submissions close, you will not be able to make any further changes. Please refer to Key 2026 dates above.

## **5.5 Appendix 5. Contacts**

General Enquiries regarding the Resilient Australia Awards should be emailed to the AIDR Awards Coordinator via [raa@aidr.org.au](mailto:raa@aidr.org.au)

For enquiries or support regarding RAA submissions, please contact:  
[juanita.bahl@afac.com.au](mailto:juanita.bahl@afac.com.au)

