Resilient Australia
Awards 2026
Submission Tips

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.

Resilient Australia Awards 2026: Key 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

Submission Tips

- 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

Resources and Frameworks

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)

School Category

Disaster Resilience Education for Young People (AIDR 2021)

Mental Health Category

National Disaster Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework (2023)

Research Category

Research Impact Principles and Framework | Australian Research Council