Resilient Australia Awards 2018

Guidelines

Entry period: 5 March – 31 May 2018

Contents

About the awards

The Resilient Australia Awards recognises individuals, groups, or organisations that demonstrate excellence and innovation in projects and initiatives that support communities to be better prepared and more disaster resilient. Resilient Australia Awards program commenced in 2000, and has a respected history in Australia's emergency management sector.

The awards have recognised many outstanding projects and contributions by communities, businesses, and individuals towards disaster management, including risk assessment and mitigation, education, training and research, community awareness and engagement, as well as to response and recovery. Projects have been recognised through state based awards, and winners from state awards being considered for the National Award for recognition and promotion on the national stage.

The Resilient Australia Awards is proudly sponsored by the Australian Government in conjunction with the states and territories.

The 2018 Resilient Australia Awards program is being managed by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR), on behalf of the Australian Government.

Entries in the 2018 awards must relate to projects or initiatives commenced after 1 January 2016, or demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2016.

Details of previous awards recipients are available from the AIDR website.

Key dates

Date	Activity
05 March 2018	Entries open for the 2018 Resilient Australia Awards
31 May 2018	Entries close for the 2018 Resilient Australia Awards
6 June – 22 June 2018	Public judging of the Resilient Australia Photography Award
30 June 2018	State and territory judging complete
31 July 2018	National Award Judging complete
August-October 2018	State and territory award ceremonies
October-November 2018	National Award Ceremony

Award categories

State and territory award categories:

Resilient Australia Community Award
Open to communities, non-government organisations, tertiary colleges and universities.

Resilient Australia Business Award
Open to the private sector and business.

Resilient Australia Government Award
Open to local government and state government.

Resilient Australia School Award
Open to all public and private pre-school, primary and secondary schools only. This does not include school related projects managed by a local or state government department.

Resilient Australia Photography Award - People's Choice
Open to individuals and copyright holders.

Projects which cover three or more jurisdictions (multi-jurisdiction projects)
If you have a project which crosses-over three or more states or territories you may enter your project directly into the Resilient Australia National Award category.

If you have a project which crosses-over two states or territories you may select a lead jurisdiction and enter it in the appropriate award category in that jurisdiction.

National award categories:

Resilient Australia National Award
The winners of the state and territory awards for Community, Business and Government will be considered alongside multi-jurisdiction projects for the Resilient Australia National Award.

Resilient Australia National School Award
The winners of the state and territory school awards will be eligible for the Resilient Australia National School Award.

Resilient Australia National Photography Award
The winners of the state and territory Resilient Australia Photography Award (People's Choice) will be eligible for the Resilient Australia National Photography Award.
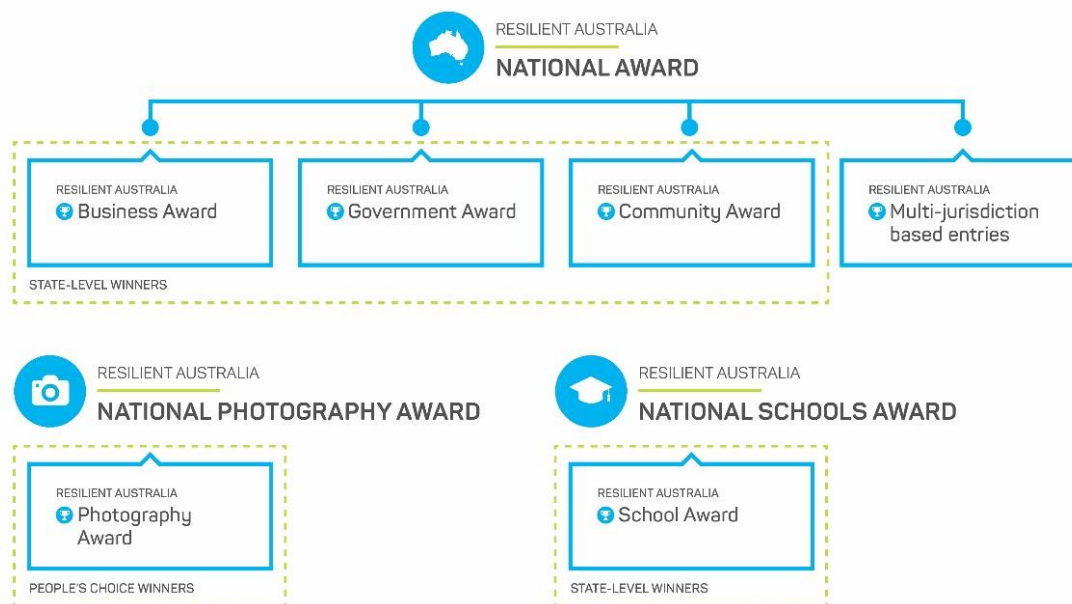
Diagram 1: How the state and territory awards relate to the national awards

Application and assessment process

For all award categories you will be required to apply online via the Resilient Australia Awards Platform.

Except for the Resilient Australia Photography Award, you will be required to undertake the following as part of your application:

- Address a set of six (6) selection criteria which outline how your project meets the objectives of the Awards. The selection criteria and supporting guidance are Appendix's A and B of these guidelines. Answers to the selection criteria are limited to 300 words.
- Ensure that you own the copyright of all material including text, photographs and video being submitted.
- Ensure that you own, or have the support of the owner of, the IP of any online website or database being submitted for an award.
- Provide any relevant supporting information, photographs and video footage.
- Provide your organisation's logo (300-500kB) to be used for promotional purposes if required.

For the Resilient Australia Photography Award, you will be required to undertake the following as part of your application:

- Submit one high resolution photograph depicting what disaster resilience in Australia means to you. You may submit multiple entries.

- Include the title of the photograph, the location it was taken and an extended caption that tells the story (100 words maximum)
  - The photograph must be supplied in JPEG format, and be between 1-5MB (one-five megabytes).
  - The photograph must not contain any objectionable or inappropriate content, including dangerous or inappropriate work practices. Objectionable or inappropriate photographs will be removed and deemed ineligible.
  - The applicant must be the copyright holder of the photograph being entered.
  - The applicant must be 18 years or older, or have parent/guardian permission.
- The applicant must provide permission for the Australian, state and territory governments, and/or AIDR to make photographs publicly available for promotional purposes in relation to the awards, with appropriate acknowledgement to the photographer.
- The applicant provides confirmation that necessary consent has been obtained by all individuals depicted in the photograph for the proposed use of the photograph.
- Provide the name and contact details of individuals depicted in the photograph to ensure compliance with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Disclosure and use of application information

It is understood that by submitting your application for the Resilient Australia Awards, you consent to the Australian, state and territory governments, and/or AIDR making the project information, including photographs, publicly available for promotional purposes. Entries may be used in education and publicity activities, including case studies, government websites, social media platforms and publications, in relation to the awards.

By submitting your application, you consent to AIDR sharing your information with the Australian, state and/or territory governments. You can view AIDR's privacy policy online.

Judging

All categories except photography

Judging panels will convene in each jurisdiction, and then nationally to assess each application and will score each of the assessment criteria on a scale of 1-5 where:

5 = Criteria is expressed or demonstrated at a superior level of achievement

4 = Criteria is well expressed or demonstrated

3 = Criteria is expressed or demonstrated at a basic level

2 = Criteria is expressed or demonstrated at a basic level only intermittently or inconsistently

1 = Criteria is expressed or demonstrated to little or no extent.

Judging panels will use the written responses to each criterion as the primary source of information for determining the merit of any application. Attachments directly supporting the assessment criteria are to be included with the application and may be used by the judging panel.

Judging panels are entitled to move applications to alternate categories where appropriate.

Judging panels are not required to give awards for each category. It may be that no application is deemed outstanding. The judge's decision is final. Judges will be required to declare a conflict of interest where it may arise.

Photography category

The public will be able to vote for the Resilient Australia Photography Award (People's Choice) online through the official AIDR Facebook page. An album containing all photographs submitted will be made available, and promoted, for the public to vote on. Facebook 'likes' will be considered as a vote for a photo. The entry with the most 'Likes' in each state and territory will win the Resilient Australia Photography Award for that jurisdiction.

The winners from each state and territory will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Photography Award by the Editing Committee of the Australia Journal of Emergency Management (AJEM). The winning photograph may be published as the cover image for the January 2019 issues of AJEM.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

A   No, you may only submit a project under one category. The only exception is with the photography category, where you may enter a photograph relating to a project you have entered in another category.

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

A   Applications that relate to a national project or a project which crosses over three or more states or territories should be submitted under the National category. If your project crosses over two states or territories, then it is not considered a national project and you will need to choose a lead state or territory to enter your project in. This only applies to projects with a current state-based activity, not for projects that may be adapted by other jurisdictions in the future.

Q   I entered in a previous year, can I enter again?

A   Yes, if your project did not receive an award, you are welcome to enter again; noting that entries in the 2018 Awards must relate to projects commenced after 1 January 2016, or demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2016. Applications from previous years cannot be transferred, and you will need to complete the application process again in full.

Q   How will I know if I am successful?

A   A state, territory or national convenor will contact you directly if you are an award recipient.

Q Can I get feedback on my application?

A Yes, please contact the AIDR Awards Coordinator via raa@aidr.org.au

Q What do I receive if I am successful?

A Each state and territory have their own arrangements for the state and territory level awards. At the national level, an award ceremony hosted by AIDR will be held, with all finalists provided with a framed certificate, and winners from each category provided a trophy. Winners and their project may be promoted through local and national media.

Q If multiple individuals and organisations undertook the project, who submits the application?

A Applications should be made based on the organisation or sector undertaking the initiative. Where multiple partners are involved, a lead individual or organisation will need to be nominated and apply.

Q Why are universities not able to apply in the school's category?

A Universities are included in the Community category as their projects are usually for the community and not for the school or school students.

Q Can I submit a late application?

A No. Late applications will not be accepted.

Q How will I know if my application has been submitted?

A Once you save and submit your application an email will be sent to your nominated email address to confirm your application was submitted successfully. If you do not receive this email, please contact the AIDR Awards Coordinator via raa@aidr.org.au

Q Can I update my application?

A You can update or alter your submission at any stage up until 5pm AEST on 31 May 2018. After the entries close, you will not be able to make any changes to your submission.

Tips for submitting your application

The following is provided to assist you in submitting your application.

- Ensure you leave yourself enough time to finalise the application and submit by the closing date. Reminder emails will not be sent for incomplete entries.
- Provide a response to each criterion as they are scored individually, with each response limited to 300 words.
- 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 dot points or bullets will be lost.
- Please ensure you keep to the word limit and there is no space after your last word as this will go over your word limit and you will not be able to submit your application.
- Avoid repetition or 'padding'. Ensure your work is original and do not copy text.
- Specify achievements rather than making broad statements such as 'excellent results were achieved'.
- Attach relevant material to support your entry. Unrelated material may detract from an entry.
- Ensure an authorised person approves the application.
- Check your application before submitting. Is it complete and correct?
- A confirmation email will be sent when the application is complete – if you have submitted an application and not received a confirmation email, please contact the AIDR Awards Coordinator.
- Remember that reminder emails will not be sent for incomplete applications.
- Remember late applications will not be accepted.

Contact details

Enquiries regarding the Resilient Australia Awards should be emailed to the AIDR Awards Coordinator via raa@aidr.org.au.

Appendix A: Assessment Criteria

Applicants must answer each of the following criteria for entries in the:

- Resilient Australia Community Award
- Resilient Australia Business Award
- Resilient Australia Government Award
- Resilient Australia School Award
- Resilient Australia National Award

A maximum of 300 words per criteria is allowed.

Criteria 1: Provide a brief description of your project.

Consider:

- What is the purpose of your project?
- Where is the project based?
- Who is involved in your project?
- What are the findings, achievements and outcomes of the project?

Criteria 2: Describe how your project has strengthened the resilience of your community or group.

Consider:

- What are the specific benefits to the community or group?
- What evidence can you provide?
- What are the demonstrated outcomes?
- Has the project been evaluated?

Criteria 3: How does your project address the shared responsibility ethos?

Disaster resilience is the collective responsibility of all sectors of society, including all levels government, business, the non-government sector and individuals.

Consider:

- How did you contribute to more effective sharing of responsibility for safety/resilience?
- To what extent has the community been engaged in your project?

Criteria 4: How is your project original, special or innovative?

Consider:

- What makes the project original or unique?
- What innovations were used or developed?
- Was technology a key component?
- How does the project address a gap or need in emergency management for your community?

Criteria 5: Describe the long term sustainable outcomes of the project.

Consider:

- How will the outcomes of the project be maintained?
- The transferability to others, including up-scaling or application to other situations.
- Increased planning and preparedness measures.

Criteria 6: Describe how your project contributes to any of the priority outcomes of the *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience*?

Consider:

- Does your project contribute to a priority outcome in *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience*?
- If so, how?

For further information on the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience, please refer to Appendix B.

Appendix B: National Strategy for Disaster Resilience – Strategic Priorities

The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (the Strategy) recognises that a disaster resilient community is one that works together to understand and manage the risks that it confronts. Importantly, it stresses that disaster resilience is a shared responsibility across all sectors of society - for individuals, communities, businesses, the not-for-profit sector as well as governments. The strategy focuses on seven priority areas to build disaster resilient communities across Australia:

- leading change and coordinating effort
- understanding risks
- communicating with and educating people about risks
- partnering with those who effect change
- empowering individuals and communities to exercise choice and take responsibility
- reducing risks in the built environment
- supporting capabilities for disaster resilience.

Further information on the strategy can be found here.

Leading change and coordinating effort

Leadership can be displayed by anyone within their sphere of influence and is needed to drive improvements in disaster resilience. Leaders take a broader view of their responsibilities and think beyond the immediate threats to their own interests: they consider how they can contribute to a more disaster resilient nation.

Award entries relating to this strategic priority will show how their project has taken responsibility for mitigating risks and demonstrate how the concept of disaster resilience has been applied to the strategic planning processes.

Projects contributing to this key project outcome may include activities that:

- build and or strengthen partnerships among governments, businesses, the non-government sector and communities
- drive improvements in disaster resilience
- support community efforts in resilience-based planning, (including resilience-building activities, disaster risk management, stakeholder and community engagement, disaster response and recovery and capability development) by preparing and providing guidelines, information and other resources.

Understanding risks

Australia's vast and diverse regions, landscapes and climatic variations mean we will continue to be at risk from the damaging impacts of disasters. Underpinning a disaster resilient community is knowledge: understanding the nature and extent of risks helps us to control the impacts and informs the way we prepare for and recover from disaster risks.

Award entries relating to this strategic priority will demonstrate significant efforts to collect, analyse and/or share meaningful information about risks to the community, covering the full scope of the social, built, economic and natural environments.

Projects relating to this strategic priority may include activities that:

- build knowledge and understanding of disaster risks
- improve information and data sharing relating to risk reduction and risk mitigation
- use evidence based targeting and prioritisation of risk management and disaster interventions.

Communicating with and educating people about risks

A clearer understanding of our risks and what to do about them is needed for Australia to become more resilient to disasters, particularly at the community level. Knowledge, innovation and education can enhance a culture of resilience at all levels of the community. Information on disaster risk that considers the different needs, interests and technologies used within communities and is fundamental to enabling everyone in the community to determine their hazards and risks.

Award entries relating to the strategic priority will demonstrate significant efforts to communicate meaningful information about risks to the community. The project may cover any stage of preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies.

Projects relating to this strategic priority may include activities that:

- enable the community to determine their risks and hazards to inform preparation and mitigation measures
- assist the community with informed decision making by providing education and relevant local knowledge tailored where appropriate to different target audiences
- ensure equitable access to appropriate information, training and opportunities, especially targeting vulnerable individuals
- encourage volunteering and enhance local capacity to mitigate and cope with disasters.

Partnering with those who effect change

Partnerships across and within governments, businesses, the not-for-profit sector and the community create a well-informed, integrated and coordinated approach to increasing disaster resilience.

Award entries relating to this strategic priority will show how their project networks and arrangements assist or enable communities to effect real change.

Projects relating to this strategic priority may include activities that:

- support vital information reaching communities in an appropriate form, especially through partnerships and effective relationships with media
- use a well-informed, integrated and coordinated approach to increasing disaster resilience
- demonstrate innovative risk management approaches that link policy, research and operational expertise
- help the community maintain continuity of services following a disaster.

Empowering individuals and communities to exercise choice and take responsibility

For a resilient nation, members of the community need to understand their role in minimising the impacts of disasters, and have the relevant knowledge, skills and abilities to take appropriate action.

Award entries relating to this strategic priority will demonstrate how their project empowers individuals and communities to be more disaster resilient.

Projects relating to this strategic priority may include activities that:

- make transparent, accurate and trusted sources of information available in various forms, and provide tools to help communities to understand and act on the material provided
- encourage individuals and communities to be self-reliant, take responsibility for the risks they live with and consider the needs of vulnerable members of the community
- support communities, individuals and businesses to develop a strong understanding of the financial implications of disasters including insurance considerations
- encourage volunteering programs and activities in schools and the broader community.

Reducing risks in the built environment

The land use strategic planning system and building control is particularly important in contributing to the creation of safer and sustainable communities – anticipation of likely risk factors and the understanding vulnerabilities within communities can reduce future possible impact of disasters.

Award entries relating to this strategic priority will demonstrate planning and/or building approaches that prevent or reduce the likelihood of hazards impacting communities.

Projects relating to this strategic priority may include activities that:

- integrate the predicted impact of climate change on sea level and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events into strategic planning
- provide guidance and an agreed methodology for competing policy objectives, such as biodiversity conservation and fuel reduction.
- encourage responsible land use planning and/or build public and private infrastructure to a more resilient standard.

Supporting capabilities for disaster resilience

Disasters can stretch the capacity of our emergency services agencies and overwhelm communities. A disaster resilient nation harnesses knowledge and coordinates research efforts of institutions, industry and government.

To build a resilient nation, communities must not only focus on how the response to an event may have been better managed; a resilient community must also evaluate recovery efforts and capabilities.

Award entries relating to this strategic priority will show how their project has built greater disaster resilience through learning, innovating, and developing skills and resources at the individual, community and operational level.

Projects relating to this strategic priority may include activities that:

- include prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities
- develop recovery strategies in partnership with communities which account for long-term local needs
- support communities to manage their exposure to future disaster
- provide flexibility and adaptability within emergency services agencies and communities to increase capacity to deal with disasters
- incorporate findings from post-disaster assessments into improved disaster resilience planning.