Resilient Australia Awards 2019

Guidelines

About the Resilient Australia Awards

The Resilient Australia Awards celebrate initiatives that build whole of community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia, as well as images capturing resilience in action. The awards recognise collaboration and innovative thinking across all sectors.

Since 2000, the awards have recognised outstanding contributions in each state and territory in six categories: community, business, local government, government, school and photography. The program recognises a wide range of initiatives; with past projects centred on risk assessment and mitigation; education, training and research; and community engagement, as well as response and recovery.

Jurisdictional winners are considered for national awards – projects selected as national finalists will benefit from national exposure through a range of communication channels.

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

Entries in the 2019 awards must relate to projects or initiatives commenced after 1 January 2017 or demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2017.

Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary definitions

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.

‘Resilience’ as defined by UNISDR

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. The effect of the disaster can be immediate and localised but is often widespread and could last for a long period of time. The effect may test or exceed the capacity of a community or society to cope using its own resources, and therefore may require assistance from external sources, which could include neighbouring jurisdictions, or those at the national or international levels.

‘Disaster’ as defined by UNISDR

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.

‘Emergency’ as defined by UNISDR

Key 2019 dates

Date	Activity
6 March 2019	Submissions open
17 May 2019	Close of submissions
7-21 June 2019	People's Choice voting period: Resilient Australia Photography Award
30 June 2019	Completion of state and territory judging
31 July 2019	Completion of national judging
August-October 2019	State and territory award ceremonies
31 October 2019	National Award Ceremony

Award categories

State and territory categories

- **Resilient Australia Community Award**
  Open to communities, community based or focussed organisations, and non-government organisations

- **Resilient Australia Business Award**
  Open to businesses and the private sector including, tertiary colleges and universities

- **Resilient Australia Local Government Award**
  Open to local governments and local government associations

- **Resilient Australia Government Award**
  Open to state and federal government agencies

- **Resilient Australia School Award**
  Open to all public and private pre-school, primary and secondary schools only.
  School-related projects managed by government departments should be submitted in the Government Award category

- **Resilient Australia Photography Award (People's Choice)**
  Open to individuals and groups – *submissions will not be accepted without the permission of the copyright holder*

National categories

- **Resilient Australia National Award**
  State and territory winners in the community, business, and government categories will be considered alongside multi-jurisdiction projects for the Resilient Australia National Award

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

Multi-jurisdictional projects

Projects that encompass activity in two states or territories must identify a 'lead jurisdiction' and the project should be submitted to the relevant category in that state or territory.

Projects that encompass activity in three or more states or territories are considered multi-jurisdictional and may be submitted directly to the Resilient Australia National Award category.

Submission requirements

Projects and photos must be submitted online via the Resilient Australia Awards Platform.

Submission requirements

For all submissions, except the Resilient Australia Photography Award, a submission must include:

- responses to the three (3) assessment questions, outlining how the project makes a positive contribution to disaster resilience (see *Assessment questions*)

- any relevant 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.

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 project team must obtain permission to include the material from the copyright owner and/or intellectual property rights holder.

For the Resilient Australia Photography Award, all submissions must include:

- one high-resolution (300dpi) photograph that responds to the question: **What does disaster resilience in Australia mean to you?**
- the title of the photograph, the location it was taken and an extended caption that tells the story (300 words maximum)
- names and contact details for all identifiable individuals depicted in the photograph to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*

Photos 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. Photos containing objectionable or inappropriate content will be removed and deemed ineligible.

Where a photo is submitted by a photographer who is not the copyright owner, 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.

In all categories:

- any applicants under the age of 18 must have the permission of a parent or guardian make a submission; and
- applicants are responsible for obtaining the express consent of all identifiable individuals depicted in their photo or supporting information, prior to submission; and
- all permissions and consents must be in writing and be provided to AIDR upon request.

Use of images and other multimedia

For any images or multimedia submitted either to the photography category, or as supporting information to any other category, 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**, 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 Resilient Australia Awards, applicants grant express consent, to the Australian, state and territory governments and AFAC trading as 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**. Examples of use include (but are not limited to) education, case studies, inclusion on government websites, social media content and publications.

In submitting an application for the Resilient Australia Awards, applicants give express consent to AIDR to share relevant personal information included in the application with the Australian, state and territory governments, for the purpose of the program. Your personal information and privacy are important to AIDR, and you can find information about our privacy policy online.

Assessment questions

Winning projects will reflect key principles of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

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

National Strategy for Disaster Resilience

Applicants must respond to the three assessment questions, for submissions to the following categories:

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

Responses for each criterion should be between 500-800 words. The responses to the assessment questions will be assessed against the criteria outlined in judging process.

1: Describe the project or initiative purpose, design and aims.

Consider the following questions in developing your response:

- What is the purpose of the project?
- Where is the project based?
- Who is involved in the project? Who benefits?
- What are the achievements and outcomes of the project?
- Does the project make use of technology? Was this beneficial to the outcome?

2: Provide specific examples of how the project has supported the community to build resilience to disasters and emergencies. Highlight aspects that make the project sustainable and/or transferable to other communities.

Consider the following questions in developing your response:

- What have the changes in the community been as a result of your project?
- What evidence can you provide? Has the project been evaluated?
- Could other communities use your project as a model? How can it be adapted to other communities?

3: What were the findings and achievements of the project or initiative?

Consider the following questions in developing your response:

- How did the project promote or encourage sharing the responsibility for disaster resilience/community safety among multiple sectors/groups?
- How does your project reflect key ideas in the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience?
- How has the community been directly engaged through the project? How has the community responded to the project?

Judging process

With the exception of the Resilient Australia Photography Award, judging panels will convene in each jurisdiction to assess submissions in each category.

Judging criteria

Submissions will be scored against the following criteria:

1. **Benefit to the community**
   Strengthening disaster preparedness and resilience
2. **Effectiveness**
   Addressing community need in an effective way
3. **Collaboration**
   Local agencies, community groups and emergency management agencies working together and sharing knowledge to achieve a common goal
4. **Community engagement**
   Effectively engaging the community in the project or initiative
5. **Sustainability**
   Can the project or initiative be adapted or replicated in other communities

Scoring scale

Submissions will be scored against the criteria on a scale of 1-5 where:

5 = project fulfils the criterion at a superior level

4 = project fulfils the criterion at a strong level

3 = project fulfils the criterion at a basic level

2 = project fulfils the criterion at a basic level, intermittently or inconsistently

1 = project fulfils the criterion to little or no extent.

This process will be repeated at the national level for the Resilient Australia National Award and the Resilient Australia National School Award.

Judging panels will use the written responses to each criterion as the primary source of information for determining the merit of each submission. 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 transfer submissions to different categories where appropriate.

Where no submissions in a category are 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.

Judges will be required to declare conflicts of interest where they may arise.

Photography category

At the jurisdictional level, submissions for the Resilient Australia Photography Award are judged through a popular vote (People's Choice), conducted online through the official AIDR Facebook page.

All approved photography submissions will be published in a Facebook album – each 'like' or '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 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 considered votes.

Winning photos from each state and territory 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 the January 2020 issue of AJEM.

Submission tips

- Don't leave it until the last minute! Leave yourself enough time to finalise the submission and submit by the closing date. Reminder emails will be sent to applicants with incomplete entries one week prior to the close of submissions.

- You will need to respond to each assessment question, as they are scored individually.

- 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.*

- Keep to the word limit – don't have spaces after your last word as this will increase your total word count. The system will not accept submissions that exceed the word limit.

- Write responses in your own words – do not plagiarise or copy text from elsewhere. Avoid repetition or padding.

- 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 can say this.

- Attach supporting material to support your submission. Ensure all supporting material is clearly relevant – unrelated material may detract from a submission.

- 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

- 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

A 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.

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 Submissions that relate to a national project, or a project where activity encompasses three or more states or territories, should be submitted directly to the National Award category. Where a project encompasses activity in only two 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 will not be considered multi-jurisdictional where take up by other states and territories is hypothetical. One aim of the awards is to promote projects so as to encourage their future uptake and adaptation by other jurisdictions.

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

A 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 2019 time period. Entries in the 2019 program must relate to projects commenced after 1 January 2017 or which demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2017.

Applications from previous years cannot be transferred – you will need to complete the application process again in full.

Q How will I know if I am successful?

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

Q Can I get feedback on my application?

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

Q What do I receive if I am successful?

A 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. National winners and finalists may enjoy coverage through local, regional and national media. AIDR will also cover travel costs for one project member to attend the National Award Ceremony if selected as a finalist at the national level. In the school category, AIDR will also cover travel costs for one student to attend the National Award Ceremony.

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

A   Where multiple project partners are involved, teams 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.

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

A   Universities are encouraged to submit applications in the business category as universities generally operate as business – the school category is intended for project that directly benefit or engage a school or student group.

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

A   No, late submissions will not be accepted; nor will any supporting information to completed submissions be accepted after the closing date.

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

A   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 via raa@aidr.org.au

Q   Can I update my application?

A   You can update or alter your submission at any stage up until submission close at 5pm AEST on 17 May 2019. After submissions close, you will not be able to make any further changes.