



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Resilient Australia Awards 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

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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.

Now in its 21st year, the awards recognise 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 2020 awards must relate to projects or initiatives commenced after 1 January 2018 or demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2018.

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 2020 dates

Date	Activity
24 February 2020	Submissions open
8 June 2020	Submissions close
22 June-7 July 2020	People’s Choice voting period: Resilient Australia Photography Award
15 July 2020	Completion of state and territory judging
31 July 2020	Completion of national judging
August-October 2020	State and territory award ceremonies
November 2020	National Award Ceremony

State and territory award 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*

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 in order 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 2020 time period. Entries in the 2020 program must relate to projects commenced after 1 January 2018 or which demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2018.
- 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 projects 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 8 June 2020. After submissions close, you will not be able to make any further changes.