



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Resilient Australia Awards 2020

Submission Tips

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*

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.