



Australian Government  
National Emergency Management Agency

Australian Institute for  
Disaster Resilience



# Resilient Australia Awards 2023 Guidelines

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**Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience**

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## 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 images capturing resilience in action. The awards recognise collaboration and innovative thinking across all sectors.

Since being established in 2000, the awards have recognised outstanding contributions in each state and territory across multiple categories, which now include: business, community, government, local government, mental health and wellbeing, school, and photography. The awards recognise a wide range of initiatives; with past projects centred on risk assessment and mitigation; mental health and wellbeing; education, training and research; and community engagement, as well as response and recovery.

State and territory award winners are considered for national award categories, along with projects entered directly to the 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).

**Submissions for the 2023 awards program must relate to projects or initiatives that commenced after 1 January 2021 or demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2021.**





## Key 2023 dates

| Date                 | Activity   |
|----------------------|--|
| 8 March 2023         | Submissions open   |
| 5 June 2023          | Submissions close  |
| 16 June-30 June 2023 | People's Choice voting: Resilient Australia Photography Awards |
| 16 June-14 July 2023 | State and territory judging period                             |
| 1-29 September 2023  | National judging period  |
| July-October 2023    | State and territory award ceremonies                           |
| November 2023        | National Resilient Australia Awards Ceremony                   |

### [‘Resilience’ as defined by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction \(UNDRR\)](#)

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.

### [‘Disaster’ as defined by UNDRR](#)

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.

### [‘Emergency’ as defined by UNDRR](#)

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.

*Definitions from the Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary, available online  
[www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary](http://www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary).*





## Award categories

### State and territory award categories



#### **Resilient Australia Business Award**

Open to businesses and the private sector, including tertiary colleges and universities.



#### **Resilient Australia Community Award**

Open to communities, community based or focussed organisations, and non-government organisations.



#### **Resilient Australia Government Award**

Open to state and federal government agencies.



#### **Resilient Australia Local Government Award**

Open to local governments and local government associations.



#### **Resilient Australia Mental Health and Wellbeing Award**

Open to all projects focussing on the mental health and wellbeing of Australian communities before, during and after a disaster.



#### **Resilient Australia School Award**

Open to all public and private pre-school, primary and secondary schools only.  
*School-related projects managed by other organisations should be submitted in other categories.*



#### **Resilient Australia Photography Award**

Open to individuals and groups.  
*Submissions will not be accepted without the permission of the copyright holder.*





### Multi-jurisdictional projects

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



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

Project submitted directly to the Resilient Australia National Award category will not be eligible for state and territory awards.

### National award categories



#### Resilient Australia National Award

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



#### Resilient Australia National Community Award

State and territory winners in the community category will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Community Award.



#### Resilient Australia National Local Government Award

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



#### Resilient Australia National Mental Health and Wellbeing Award

State and territory winners in the mental health and wellbeing category will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Mental Health and Wellbeing 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.





## Award category process map

This process map demonstrates how the jurisdictional award categories link through to the national awards.







## Submission requirements

Projects and photos must be submitted online via the [Resilient Australia Awards Platform](#).

### State and territory award categories, and national award categories

Submissions must include:

- responses to the six (6) assessment criteria, outlining how the project makes a positive contribution to disaster resilience (see [Assessment criteria](#)) – responses can be written, audio or visual.
- 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.**

### Photography award category

Submissions must include:

- one high-resolution (300dpi) photograph that demonstrates what resilience means to you, or resilience in action
- the title of the photograph and the location it was taken
- a response to the question 'what about the submitted photograph demonstrates resilience to you' (300 words maximum)
- names and contact details for all identifiable individuals depicted in the photograph to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Photographs 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.

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.

### All categories

- any applicants under the age of 18 must have the permission of a parent or guardian to make a submission
- applicants are responsible for obtaining the express consent of all identifiable individuals depicted in their photo or supporting information, prior to submission
- 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, 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 Awards, applicants grant express consent, to the Australian, state and territory governments and AFAC/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**, and showcasing resilience activities via our website/s. Examples of use include (but are not limited to) education, case studies, inclusion on government websites, social media content and publications.

All applicants will be subscribed to relevant AIDR information products.

Your personal information and privacy are important to AIDR, and you can find information about our [privacy policy online](#).







## Assessment criteria

Winning projects will reflect key principles of the *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience* and the *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework*.

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### [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 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#)

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework guides national, whole-of-society efforts to proactively reduce disaster risk in order to minimise the loss and suffering caused by disasters.

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Applications for all categories, excluding photography, must address the six (6) assessment criteria. Responses may be in one or more of the following formats:

- written
- video, with the use of images and audio
- animation.

Projects submitted for the awards should have clear and brief names. Applicants are encouraged to not include the name of the organisation as part of the project name. **Project names are limited to 10 words.**

Assistance with applications can be requested from the [AIDR Awards Coordinator](#), however any assistance given does not provide certainty in the outcome.





## Criteria 1: Executive Summary and overview

Provide an overview of the project or initiative and its benefits. Consider the following when developing your response:

- How would you pitch your project to media outlets?
- How would you summarise your project for social media posts?
- Will your executive summary spark interest from the judging panel?
- Aim to inspire interest from across the emergency management/resilience sector and the general public.

**Word limit:** 150

**Animation/Video length:** 30 seconds

## Criteria 2: Purpose, design and aim

Provide information on how the project or initiative was designed, including the target audience. Explain how the project or initiative was developed, its intended purpose, particular characteristics and features, and who was involved. Consider the following questions in developing your response:

- What is the purpose of the project?
- Who is involved in the project? Who benefits?
- What factors or considerations influenced the design of this project?
- Does the project make use of technology? Was this beneficial to the outcome?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/Video length:** 2 minutes

## Criteria 3: Examples of resilience building, sustainability and transferability

Provide specific examples of how the project or initiative has supported resilience building so that the community is better able to prepare for, respond to and/or recovery from disasters and emergencies. Outline how the project or initiative is sustainable into the future, and how it can be transferred to other communities, or to address other hazards. 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?
- How are you ensuring that this project is sustained over time?
- How has the community been directly engaged through the project?
- Could other communities use your project as a model?
- What advice would you give other communities based on your experience through this project?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/Video length:** 2 minutes





### Criteria 4: Findings and achievements

Provide information on the achievements of the project or initiative, and how it promotes and encourages shared responsibility. Include examples of how the project or initiative reflects the key ideas in the [National Strategy for Disaster Resilience](#), and how the community has responded. Consider the following questions in developing your response:

- What are the achievements and outcomes of the project?
- How did the project promote or encourage sharing the responsibility for disaster resilience/community safety among multiple sectors/groups?
- Has the project been evaluated, including informal evaluations? How has the community been directly engaged through the project?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/Video length:** 2 minutes

### Criteria 5: Diversity and inclusion

Provide specific examples of how the project or initiative engages with and provides benefit to diverse groups within the local community or more broadly. How is the project or initiative fostering inclusive approaches to disaster resilience? Consider the following questions when developing your response:

- How does your project represent or include First Nations people, women, youth, LGBTIQ+, those from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and other underrepresented groups within the community?
- How does your project include those from high and low socio-economic groups in the community, and those from urban, rural or neighbouring locations?
- How does your project highlight the needs, voices, and achievements of the estimated 1 in 5 Australians with a disability?
- How does your project take into consideration the mental wellbeing of the community before, during and after a disaster?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/Video length:** 2 minutes

### Criteria 6: Beyond business as usual

Provide specific examples of how your project or initiative delivers above and beyond the core business activity of the organisations involved. How is your project or initiative different than other similar projects currently being delivered across Australia? Consider the following questions when developing your response:

- What gaps in community expectations and needs does the project address?
- Why is the project different from anything delivered previously, or as part of the core business of those involved?
- How does your project inspire the creation of a new 'business as usual'?

**Word limit:** 500

**Animation/Video length:** 2 minutes





## Judging process

### Jurisdictional and national judging

Panels will convene in each jurisdiction and nationally to assess applications received in each category, except photography.

Judging panels will use the responses to each of the criteria as the primary source of information for determining the merit of each application. 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 consider applications in whichever category the panel considers to be most appropriate.

Where no application in a category is 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 exist or be perceived to exist.

### Judging criteria

Submissions will be scored against the following criteria at the jurisdictional level:

- 1. Benefit to the community**  
Strengthening disaster preparedness and resilience, including mental health and wellbeing.
- 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?

Submissions will be scored against the following criteria for national awards:

- 1. Sustainability and transferability**  
Longevity of the project or initiative and whether it can be adapted or replicated in other communities.
- 2. Diversity and inclusion**  
The project or initiative delivers for and represents interests of diverse communities.
- 3. Collaboration and engagement**  
Local agencies, community groups and emergency management agencies working together and sharing knowledge to achieve a common goal. Effectively engaging the community in the project or initiative.
- 4. Innovation**  
How does the project deliver beyond what is expected of the organisations involved, and how is the project delivering something innovative and not seen before?





## Photography judging

### Jurisdictional award

Submissions for the Resilient Australia Photography Award are judged through a People's Choice vote, conducted online through the official [AIDR Facebook page](#).

All approved photography submissions will be published in a Facebook album – each 'like' or positive '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 official AIDR Facebook 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 taken into consideration as votes, as voting will have closed at this point.

### National award

The winning photograph from each jurisdiction 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 an issue of AJEM.

## Contact

Enquiries regarding the Resilient Australia Awards should be emailed to the AIDR Awards Coordinator via [raa@aidr.org.au](mailto:raa@aidr.org.au).





## Submission tips

### General

- Don't leave it until the last minute! Leave yourself enough time to finalise the submission and submit by the closing date.
- 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?
- Consider if your responses to the criteria are better delivered using multimedia rather than written responses.
- 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](mailto:raa@aidr.org.au)

### Photography category

- Ensure the story of the image details the link between resilience and the image content. This will ensure the voting public understands why the images represents resilience.
- Ensure you submit a high-resolution version of the image, as it may be used on websites or other publications.
- Consider images which speak to disaster resilience across the multitude of hazards faced by Australia.
- Images in portrait alignment are desirable due to the design of the voting gallery and the AJEM cover.

### All other categories

- 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.







## Frequently Asked Questions

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

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.

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

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 implementation in other states and territories is hypothetical. One aim of the awards is to promote projects to encourage their future uptake and adaptation by other jurisdictions.

### I entered in a previous year; can I enter again?

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 2023 time period. Entries in the 2023 program must relate to projects commenced after 1 January 2021 or which demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2021.

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

### How will I know if I am successful?

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

### Can I get feedback and/or assistance my application?

Yes, please contact the AIDR Awards Coordinator via [raa@aidr.org.au](mailto:raa@aidr.org.au) to obtain feedback or assistance.

### What do I receive if I am successful?

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. Winners and finalists may enjoy coverage through local, regional, and national media. AIDR will 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.





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

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.

Note, only the lead organisation will receive a copy of any certificates or trophies awarded.

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

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

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

No, late submissions will not be accepted. Supporting information to accompany completed submission will not be accepted after the closing date.

### **How will I know if my application has been submitted?**

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](mailto:raa@aidr.org.au)

### **Can I update my application?**

You can update or alter your submission at any stage up until submission close at **5pm AEST on 5 June 2023**. After submissions close, you will not be able to make any further changes.

