



PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

AWARDS NOMINATIONS HANDBOOK 2026



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Introduction

The AIB Professional Excellence in Building Awards offer a prestigious platform to highlight the pivotal role of building professionals. These awards celebrate the vision, leadership, and expertise that drive the successful delivery of outstanding projects. They provide an opportunity to recognise the teams and individuals who bring innovation, precision, and excellence to the forefront of our industry.

As we celebrate the Australian Institute of Building's (AIB) 75th year of dedicated service to the industry, we are excited to present the entry handbook for the 2026 Australian Institute of Building's Professional Excellence in Building Awards.

Despite the challenging and demanding environment, our industry continues to deliver projects of exceptional quality, embracing cutting-edge construction technologies and navigating the marketplace challenges of material and skills shortages with resilience and innovation.

What makes the Australian Institute of Building awards truly unique is our focus on recognising the professional excellence of individuals involved in the building and construction process. These awards celebrate how projects are brought to life, not just the end results.

Winners of a Chapter Professional Excellence Award automatically advance to the National Judging Panel, where they are considered for the prestigious National Professional Excellence in Building Awards.

We eagerly anticipate your online nomination for the 2026 Australian Institute of Building Professional Excellence in Building Awards!



George Moschoyiannis FAIB
AIB National President



Robert Hunt LFAIB
AIB CEO



Award Categories

There are nine award categories in which individuals can nominate.

Entries can be accepted in multiple categories, however, a separate submission is required. The entrant must demonstrate their individual excellence in:

- The project's construction process including management methods, organisational skills and innovative techniques used to overcome difficulties during the building and construction process; and
- The methods and techniques used in research and development.

Commercial Construction

Individuals nominated in this category will have built primarily for commercial purposes and predominantly fall within the defined Classes 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the current Building Code of Australia. Within this category are the following project value sub categories:

- Under \$2 million (INC GST)
- \$2 million to \$25 million (INC GST)
- \$25 million to \$60 million (INC GST)
- \$60 million plus (INC GST)

Residential Construction

Individuals nominated in this category will have worked on a project that is residential in nature, being Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 type buildings as defined by the current NCC. Within this category are the following project value sub categories:

- Under \$2 million (INC GST)
- \$2 million to \$25 million (INC GST)
- \$25 million to \$60 million (INC GST)
- \$60 million plus (INC GST)

Sustainability

Individuals nominated in this category are those who can demonstrate how the builder and project manager have embraced sustainability to deliver a building. All answers must relate to sustainability, including management of the project and include photos | evidence of the sustainability aspects. Within this category are the following project value sub categories.

- Under \$2 million (INC GST)
- Over \$2 million (INC GST)

Award Categories

Adaptive Use

Individuals nominated in this category are those who can demonstrate the process of reusing an existing building for a purpose other than its original build or design. All answers must relate to adaptive use, including management of the project and include photos | evidence of the adaptive use aspects.

Within this category are the following project value sub categories:

- Under \$2 million (INC GST)
- Over \$2 million (INC GST)

Interior Construction

Individuals nominated in this category will have worked on a project that is a non-residential Interiors Construction or Interior Refurbishment project including, but, not limited to the following sectors: Workplace Interiors; Commercial; Retail; Industrial; Hospitality; Aged Care; Health; Public Buildings and other non-residential Fitout and Refurbishment Projects in general. All answers must relate to the Interior Construction, including the management of the project and include photos | evidence of Interior Construction.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a basic physical and organisational structure needed for the operation of a society or enterprise, or the services and facilities necessary for an economy to function. It can be generally defined as the set of interconnected structural elements that provide framework supporting an entire structure of development. Some examples of projects within the category include: airports, public works, bridges, dams, wharfs, mining and processing facilities, load out, mass transit, tunnels and desalination plants. All answers must relate to Infrastructure, including the management of the project and include photos | evidence of Infrastructure.

Project Management

Individuals nominated in this category will have worked on a project as the Project Manager, Project Director, Project Superintendent, Program Delivery Manager, Development Manager or in another role where the individual represents the client in the delivery of a construction project. This Category is targeted for individuals that are not employed by a Building Contractor, however, may include individuals employed by a Builder/Developer. All answers must relate to Project Management, including the management of the project and include photos | evidence of Project Management.

Research, Development, and Technology

Individuals nominated in this category are those who can demonstrate their professional excellence in research and development of a building and construction concept, process or project. It can also include management or organisational techniques in the construction of a project that required a technological approach to meet a particular element of the project. All answers must relate to Research, Development and Technology, including the management of the project and include photos | evidence of Research, Development and Technology.

Other Construction

This category is for other buildings as defined by the current NCC or an area otherwise not defined by another award category.

Award Levels

Chapter Awards

Professional Excellence Award

Awarded to an individual who has exhibited professional excellence against the majority of the approved criteria.

High Commendation Award

Awarded to an individual who has performed at a high level against the majority of the approved criteria.

Chapter Building Professional of the Year

At the discretion of the Judges, where a recipient of a Chapter Professional Excellence award has demonstrated outstanding professional excellence, the award of Chapter Building Professional of the Year may be bestowed.

National Awards

All recipients of Chapter Professional Excellence Award progress to the National Awards Jury for judging by a separate panel of judges. Recipients of a Chapter High Commendation Award from the respective chapters do not go through for National Judging. At the National Level the entrant may receive either of the following:

- National Professional Excellence Award
- National Certificate of High Commendation
- National Finalist Award

National Building Professional of the Year

Upon the recommendation of the National Judges and at the discretion of the National Professional Excellence Awards Judging Chair, when and where a recipient of a Chapter Building Professional of the Year has demonstrated outstanding professional excellence, the award of National Building Professional of the Year is bestowed as the crowning award of the National Professional Excellence in Building Award Program.



Judging Process

Each Australian Institute of Building Chapter appoints a panel of distinguished professionals associated with the building and construction industry to judge the entries against the approved criteria. A separate panel is appointed to judge the National Awards.

Judging Criteria

Submissions will be judged on the following criteria:

- Degree of project difficulty.
- Management methods and techniques.
- Innovations developed to overcome difficulties.
- Workforce organisation and training.
- Innovative approaches in the construction process.
- Relationship with the client, architect, authorities, community and work force (employees, suppliers, subcontractors, etc).
- Quality of the completed project: completion on time and within budget; standard of work (construction programming, cost management, defect minimisation).
- All answers must specifically relate to the submission category including management of the project, photos and other evidence to support the specific submission category.

Entrants must demonstrate in their submissions how management of their project achieved excellence against the above judging criteria.

Submission Information

Submission Eligibility

Submissions can only be made for an individual, not a company. The entrant will be identified as the team leader / manager of the project.

To qualify for entry, the nominated project must have reached practical completion in the 18 months prior to the closing date (31/03/2026).

Submissions are open to AIB members and non AIB members.

Submission Pricing

AIB Member - \$880 (inc. GST)

- Each member that submits an entry as a team leader will receive 10% off the ticket price to their local PEA function.
- Valid for 1 ticket only. Ticket must be in the team leader's name. Not valid for Table of 10 ticket purchases.
- Members are eligible for the Building Professional of the Year award.

Non-Member - \$1,590 (inc. GST)

Express Membership Package - \$1,290 (inc. GST)

- Express membership valid for team leader only.
- Valid for full membership and associate level memberships only.
- Save \$420 on your first year AIB Membership.
- Save \$270 on your first year AIB Associate Level Membership.
- For more information on AIB Memberships visit aib.org.au/membership.
- Each member that submits an entry as a team leader will receive 10% off the ticket price to their local PEA function.
- Valid for 1 ticket only. Ticket must be in the team leader's name. Not valid for Table of 10 ticket purchases.
- Express Members are eligible for the National Builder of the Year award.

Submission Pricing

- Register an account on Award Force - aib.awardsplatform.com
- Start your entry for the 2026 Australian Institute of Building Professional Excellence Awards, by following the prompts. Save the progress of your submission and complete it at your convenience.
- To be eligible for judging please finalise and pay for your submission by Tuesday 31 March 2026.

Multiple Entries

If a project is entered in more than one category (where allowable) the entrant must complete a separate submission. Payment of the submission fee is required for each entry.

All answers must specifically relate to the criteria in which the project is entered.

Awards

All winning award recipients will receive a framed certificate. An additional framed copy of the award will be presented to the company in recognition of their support.

Additional copies of the award certificates will be available for purchase by the recipient individuals and/or companies. A printing and framing fee will apply.

A PDF version of an award certificate can be supplied on request, however please note that these copies do not contain the AIB seal.

Chapter Award Presentations 2026

- WA Awards Ceremony 15 May 2026
- QLD Awards Ceremony 29 May 2026
- ACT Awards Ceremony 12 June 2026
- VIC Awards Ceremony 26 June 2026
- NSW Awards Ceremony 24 July 2026
- SA/NT Awards Ceremony 7 August 2026

National Awards Presentation

29 August 2026 in Australian Capital Territory at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra - A Park Hyatt Hotel
5:00pm - 11:00pm.

Terms & Conditions

1. Entrant and Project Eligibility

- 1.1. Submissions can be made by AIB members and non members.
- 1.2. Projects must have reached practical completion and be in all other respects complete to the point of enabling a proper assessment by the Judging Panel in the 18 months prior to 31 March 2026. Projects that are not complete will not be considered for an award.
- 1.3. Projects may only be entered and judged in the awards in one year.
- 1.4. Entries will be submitted into the Chapter awards of the State in which the company (or company branch) of the nominee/team leader is located.
- 1.5. If the company (or company branch) is located outside Australia, the entry will be submitted into the Chapter Awards in the State in which the company (or company branch) of the nominee/team leader is located.
- 1.6. NT entries will be judged within the SA Chapter Awards.
- 1.7. TAS entries will be judged within the VIC Chapter Awards.
- 1.8. The Judging Panel reserves the right to reallocate submissions into other categories.
- 1.9. Entries for National Awards will only be accepted from the award recipients of each Chapter.
- 1.10. A project must be entered into the category that best represents its cost on completion.

2. Publicity and Warranty

The entrant:

- 2.1. Warrants that the details of the entry are correct in every respect.
- 2.2. Warrants that the entry has the client's or client representative's consent.
- 2.3. "To the extent enforceable by law, I, as the rightful copyright owner of the materials, grant the Australian Institute of Building (hereafter, 'AIB') an unconditional, irrevocable, and perpetual license to use my materials fully and without restriction for the AIB Professional Excellence Awards and other promotional purposes."
- 2.4. Indemnifies The Australian Institute of Building against such infringements.
- 2.5. Grants to The Australian Institute of Building irrevocable license to use the subject matter of the entry and material include with or as part of the entry for any purpose in connection with the promotion of The Australian Institute of Building and The Australian Institute of Building Professional Excellence Awards.
- 2.6. Agrees to state the category, type of recognition received and the year awarded, whenever disclosing information or promoting itself or the entry in any communications media, as a (STATE) Chapter Award Recipient of a (HIGH COMMENDATION or PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS) in the Australian Institute of Building Professional Excellence Awards.
- 2.7. Agrees to state the category, type or recognition received and the year awarded, whenever disclosing information or promoting itself or the entry in any communications media, as an Award Recipient of a (HIGH COMMENDATION or PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD) in the Australian Institute of Building National Professional Excellence Awards.

Terms & Conditions Cont.

- 2.8. Agrees that post nominals will be printed on certificates and most marketing material.
- 2.9. Acknowledges that the Australian Institute of Building takes no responsibility for the quality of photos and or plans produced nor any editorial discrepancies attached to any photo or plans.
- 2.10. Landscape & portrait photos, noting only landscape photos will be used in the Awards presentation.
- 2.11. Agrees payment finalised before final submission or no judging.
- 2.12. Agrees to the terms and conditions in Award Force to validate your submission.

The Australian Institute of Building and its associated media will publish the Team Leader's name, team members, company, the category and project name. No street addresses or owners names will be used (except where they form part of the project name).

It is highly desirable for individual winners to make themselves available, through their Chapter, to present their award-winning projects to education institutions and CPD events when possible.

3. Client/ Entrant Notification

All entrants must gain the consent of the owner or representative for the project to be entered into the competition.

To the extent enforceable by law I, as the rightful Copyright owner of the materials, grant the Australian Institute of Building (hereafter, 'AIB') an unconditional, irrevocable and perpetual licence to the full and unhindered use of my materials for the AIB Professional Excellence Awards and for other promotional purposes. I understand that by providing consent, I am allowing the AIB to include these materials in any future AIB promotions including, but not limited to, AIB magazines, website, social media, communications, and event publications and the like.

4. Refunds

No refunds will be available after submitting a project online.

5. Name Changes

No name change to either the team leader or team member names is permitted after the submission closing date unless otherwise approved. All names must be correct in the final submission.

Terms & Conditions Cont.

6. Disqualification

The Australian Institute of Building reserves the right to disqualify an entry, without a refund of the submission fee, at any time during the process if the Australian Institute of Building determines that:

- 6.1. The entry or entrant breaches or otherwise fails to meet/observe any of the above stated eligibility or contest requirements.
- 6.2. False or misleading information has been intentionally provided.
- 6.3. Problems or discrepancies arise between or among entrants, employers and clients which The Australian Institute of Building considers cannot be amicably resolved by the parties involved, within a reasonable time period.
- 6.4. The project has not reached practical completion within the required time frame.
- 6.5. The category quoted failed to comply with entry guidelines.
- 6.6. In the case of disqualification after the award ceremony, the entrant will be required to return the award.
- 6.7. The AIB reserves the right to make a public announcement of any disqualification.

7. Disclosure

- 7.1. The entrant agrees that any media comment in any communications media and photographic display of any of the entries will be at the discretion of The Australian Institute of Building and the associated media.
- 7.2. The Australian Institute of Building and its associated media accept no responsibility for any incorrect details, spelling or other incorrect information stated in the entry form and submission.
- 7.3. The Australian Institute of Building does not return photographs, plans or any other material supplied.
- 7.4. The entrant acknowledges that should any copyright action against the project be upheld by any Australian Court, any AIB Professional Excellence award or High Commendation award will be relinquished by the winner and company, and returned to the Australian Institute of Building, at the point at which a judgment is delivered by a Court.
- 7.5. The Australian Institute of Building does not guarantee that all entrants will be featured in publications or promotional events related to the Australian Institute of Building Professional Excellence Awards.

8. AIB Contact Details

For any questions regarding the 2026 AIB Professional Excellence in Building Awards, please contact Diya Lakra at engagement@aib.org.au or (02) 6253 1100