



RICS Australia Awards 2026

Categories & Criteria



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Awards Submission

Your submission should clearly explain the project, team or individual and demonstrate a connection to the judging criteria, highlighting a commitment to professionalism and ethics. This is where you want to make it clear to the judges exactly why your submission is deserving of the award. Please note that this will not be a PDF upload, you will need to complete free text sections within the online form, including an introduction and responses to each applicable element of the judging criteria (professionalism, outcome and achievement, teamwork, innovation, and sustainability). Word limits have been applied to each free text box in accordance with the criteria weighting.

Project Awards Categories

Project of the Year

The award recognises completed projects that demonstrate outstanding achievement and successful outcomes. This achievement and outcomes could be because of a range of professional roles, including – feasibility, investment, planning, measurement, design, cost, project delivery, compliance, sustainability and/or refurbishment. The implementation and application of technology or innovation and sustainability in the project should be evident. For this award, a project could be a commercial, residential building (new or existing) or a civil engineering or social infrastructure asset. Nomination must cover one project that satisfies the completion date requirement in the “Application and eligibility” rules. The nominator can be the owner/developer, construction contractor or sub-contractor or any consultancy company engaged in the project.

Project Award Assessment Criteria

Professionalism 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstration of professional expertise in areas such as feasibility, investment, planning, measurement, design, cost, project delivery, compliance, sustainability and/or refurbishment, to achieve outcomes.• Demonstration of how international standards have been adopted will be an advantage.• Demonstration of the ability to avoid and/or resolve disputes.• Demonstration of ethical and professional behaviour in keeping with RICS standards.
Teamwork/Collaboration 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective coordination of skillsets among members of the team, and with stakeholders.• Resources optimisation. How were resources effectively utilised to overcome identified challenges and difficulties?• Demonstration of collaboration with various stakeholders in the construction project to avoid and resolve disputes.• Demonstration of using fair, collaborative procurement methods and or contracts for engaging contractors and suppliers will be an advantage.
Outcome and Achievement 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measurable success of the project against predefined targets.• Client and or occupier/user or public satisfaction – including testimonials.• How is the building/infrastructure asset performing – is it delivering as planned, has it achieved initial targets, is it well used or leased (as applicable)?• Challenges overcome in the process relative to complexity. What were the difficulties or unique challenges? How were these challenges overcome?• Cost effectiveness. How was cost managed effectively against a predefined target?• Timely completion. Demonstration of how the project is managed effectively with respect to time.• Demonstration of implementation and achievement of site safety.
Thought Innovation 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was an innovative approach used to deliver the outcome?• Was there significant innovation in design?• How was technology applied to deliver the outcome?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any innovative technology applied to enhance site safety (if applicable)? • Any smart information technology applied for document control and communication to enhance productivity? • Demonstration of development and use of innovative materials. • Use of innovative construction techniques and methods to increase productivity. • Use of smart information technology for project management and contract administration.
Sustainability 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the quantitative analysis of sustainability metrics and achievements? • Demonstration of creating better places and spaces for future generations. • Demonstrated adoption of sustainable development principles. • Demonstration of how waste was minimised. • How has carbon been minimised? Have carbon reduction targets been met? • Social Impact. Does the project improve sustainability in the community and improve the community more broadly?

Team Award Categories

Building Certification Team of the Year

Recognising companies, teams or consortia responsible for consultancy advice or assessment in certification of building projects in Australia. This award highlights the crucial role of building certification to ensure the health and wellbeing of building occupants' post-construction.

Building Consultancy Team of the Year

Focusing on excellence in the building consultancy sector. This award recognises companies, teams or consortia who have demonstrated excellence in the provision of advice or services in post occupancy building inspection, technical due diligence, make good and building consultancy related services.

Property/Facilities Management Team of the Year

Awarded to a company, team or consortia responsible for outstanding operational, financial, tenant, facilities or asset management of real estate or related assets.

Quantity Surveying Team of the Year

This award recognises companies, teams or consortia engaged in outstanding quantity surveying work in 2025. This includes but is not limited to cost planning and control or contract and commercial management.

Real Estate Advisory Team of the Year

This award recognises excellence in the provision of real estate consultancy advice. It includes valuation, tenant advisory services, strategic portfolio advice, land and property development advice and related feasibility and business case work.

Real Estate Agency Team of the Year

This award acknowledges companies, teams and/or consortia demonstrating excellence in providing agency services related to the acquisition, sale, or leasing of properties in the office, retail, industrial or residential sectors.

Research Team of the Year

Acknowledging teams, property funds, consultancies, academic institutions and agencies responsible for engaging in research projects associated with the built environment.

Team Awards Assessment Criteria

Professionalism 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of surveying knowledge and/or professional expertise in areas such as technical, financial, legal, environmental, building regulation, sustainability and restoration where applicable, to achieve outcomes.• Demonstrated adherence to RICS ethics.• Demonstration of using the most appropriate procurement method for engaging contractors / suppliers (if applicable).• Demonstration of the ability to resolve disputes.• Demonstration of how international standards have been adopted will be an advantage.
Teamwork / Collaboration 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective coordination of skillsets among members of the team and with stakeholders.• A demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion within the firm/team and their work. How does the firm/team embrace diversity and contribute to a more inclusive profession?• Contribution of the team to social outcomes.• Demonstration of RICS Standards adopted.
Outcome and Achievement 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measurable success of team/project outcomes against predefined targets.• Client and or occupier/user or public satisfaction – including testimonials.• Team demonstrates best practices in appropriate profession (building surveying, valuation, facilities management, etc.).• Challenges overcome in the process relative to complexity. What were the difficulties or unique challenges? How were these challenges overcome?• Cost effectiveness. How was cost managed effectively against a predefined target?• Timely completion. Demonstration of how the project is managed effectively with respect to time.
Thought Innovation 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was an innovative approach used to deliver an outcome? What was this approach (technology, planning, procurement, construction) and why was this used over more conventional solutions?• How is the firm/team delivering an innovative approach which embraces new technologies?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation in financing and viability. • Are innovative strategies embedded on projects or tasks that deliver a social impact? • Level of creativity in overcoming challenges. • How has the firm/team demonstrated resilience and adaptability?
Sustainability 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the team demonstrate the adoption of sustainability principles (e.g. climate change mitigation and adaptation, waste reduction, biodiversity conservation, social value creation)? • Have the sustainability achievements of the team been quantified in numerical terms? <p>Environmental impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the team make efforts to measure and reduce the carbon emissions of its projects? • Does the team make efforts to quantify and improve the biodiversity impact of its projects? <p>Social impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the team engage meaningfully with the communities impacted by its projects? • Does the team promote and educate stakeholders about sustainability? • How is the team creating better places and spaces for future generations? <p>Health and well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the team actively contributed to people's health and well-being?

Special Category Awards

Judith Knott Environmental Impact Award

This Award celebrates the life and work of Judith Knott MRICS, a passionate advocate for sustainability in the built environment who did so much to champion the RICS sustainable built environment agenda in Australia, and who passed away in January 2026. This category recognises teams that share Judith's passion and have been involved in projects where innovation, design or construction techniques have been utilised to address environmental challenges and improve sustainability.

Judith Knott Environmental Impact Award Assessment Criteria

Professionalism 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of surveying knowledge and/or professional expertise in areas such as technical, financial, legal, environmental, building regulation, sustainability, and restoration where applicable, to achieve outcomes.• Demonstrated adherence to RICS ethics.• Demonstration of using the most appropriate procurement method for engaging contractors / suppliers (if applicable).• Demonstration of the ability to resolve disputes.• Demonstration of how international standards have been adopted will be an advantage.
Teamwork / Collaboration 10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective coordination of skillsets among members of the team and with stakeholders.• A demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion within the firm/team and their work. How does the firm/team embrace diversity and contribute to a more inclusive profession?• Contribution of the team to social outcomes.• Demonstration of RICS Standards adopted.
Outcome and Achievement 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measurable success of team/project outcomes against predefined targets.• Client and or occupier/user or public satisfaction – including testimonials.• Team demonstrates best practices in appropriate profession (building surveying, valuation, facilities management, etc.).• Challenges overcome in the process relative to complexity. What were the difficulties or unique challenges? How were these challenges overcome?• Cost effectiveness. How was cost managed effectively against a predefined target?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely completion. Demonstration of how the project is managed effectively with respect to time.
Thought Innovation 10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was an innovative approach used to deliver an outcome? What was this approach (technology, planning, procurement, construction) and why was this used over more conventional solutions? • How is the firm/team delivering an innovative approach which embraces new technologies? • Innovation in financing and viability. • Are innovative strategies embedded on projects or tasks that deliver a social impact? • Level of creativity in overcoming challenges. • How has the firm/team demonstrated resilience and adaptability?
Sustainability 40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the project demonstrate the highest commitment to sustainability? • Has the environmental impact of the project been evaluated through an established methodology (e.g. lifecycle assessment)? Was any relevant certification achieved? • How does the project address the following categories of environmental sustainability? <p>Climate change mitigation (i.e. carbon reductions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were the carbon emissions (embodied and/or operational) of the project (or the associated asset) measured and reduced? • How does the carbon footprint of the project compare to conventional practices? <p>Climate change adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the project increase asset resilience to climate change (e.g. extreme weather events)? • How does the project increase resilience to climate change? <p>Resource efficiency and circular economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were efforts made to reduce resource use in comparison to conventional practices (e.g. material recovery/reuse)?

- Were efforts made to ensure future activities (e.g. building demolition) can contribute to a circular economy (e.g. design for deconstruction)?

Air, water and soil pollution

- Did the project minimise (or reverse) the emission of pollutants to air, water and soil?

Biodiversity

- Did the project create the right conditions to increase the biodiversity of the local area?

Water use

- Were efforts made to quantify and reduce (fresh)water use?

Land use

- Did the project deliver a change in land use that resulted in a positive environmental impact?

Individual Awards

Emerging Achiever of the Year

The future of our profession rests on the shoulders of emerging professionals. The Emerging Achiever of the Year award acknowledges one outstanding individual who has achieved excellence in their field. The individual selected will embody the highest standards of professionalism, be a role-model for their peers and be capable of making an outstanding contribution to the profession in the course of their future career.

The Emerging Achiever of the Year must have less than 10 years' experience to be eligible

Woman of the Built Environment Award

The Woman of the Built Environment award recognises the outstanding contributions and achievements of women to our industry. The award celebrates inspirational role models to inspire the next generation of diverse professionals. Women from all disciplines of the industry are encouraged to enter.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Recognising commitment to RICS and the wider profession, the Lifetime Achievement Award is the most prestigious award for built environment professionals. The presentation of this award is subject to the determination of the judging panel that the recipient is worthy of this significant honour.

Individual Awards Assessment Criteria

Nominations in the individual awards categories are assessed alongside two overarching criteria:

- Recognised outstanding performance and achievement in the workplace; and
- Recognised contribution to the profession and the wider community with a weighting against five categories, which are:

Professionalism 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognised third party endorsements as professionally outstanding. How does the individual demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism and service?• Use of surveying knowledge and/or professional expertise in areas such as, finance, legal, environment, and sustainability to achieve outcomes.• Demonstrated adherence to RICS ethics.• Adoption of international standards will be an advantage but is not essential.• How does the individual's professional advice help deliver a positive impact on the environment?
Teamwork / Collaboration 10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective coordination of skillsets among members of the team and with stakeholders.• A demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion in their work. How does the individual embrace diversity and contribute to a more inclusive profession?• Contribution of the individual to social outcomes.• Demonstration of RICS Standards adopted.
Outcome and Achievement 30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measurable success of achieved outcomes against predefined targets.• Client and/or occupier/user or public satisfaction – including testimonials.• Demonstrates best practices in appropriate profession (building surveying, valuation, facilities management, etc.).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges overcome in the process relative to complexity. What were the difficulties or unique challenges? How were these challenges overcome? • Cost effectiveness. How was cost managed effectively against a predefined target? • Timely completion. Demonstration of how the project is managed effectively with respect to time.
Thought Innovation 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was an innovative approach used to deliver an outcome? What was this approach (technology, planning, procurement, construction) and why was this used over more conventional solutions? • How is the Individual delivering an innovative approach which embraces new technologies? • Innovation in financing and viability. • Are innovative strategies embedded on projects or tasks that deliver a social impact? • Level of creativity in overcoming challenges. • How has the Individual demonstrated resilience and adaptability?
Sustainability 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Individual demonstrate the adoption of sustainability principles (e.g. climate change mitigation and adaptation, waste reduction, biodiversity conservation, social value creation)? • Have the sustainability achievements of the Individual been quantified in numerical terms? <p>Environmental impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Individual make efforts to measure and reduce the carbon emissions of projects? • Does the Individual make efforts to quantify and improve the biodiversity impact of projects? <p>Social impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Individual engage meaningfully with the communities impacted by projects? • Does the Individual promote and educate stakeholders about sustainability? • How is the Individual creating better places and spaces for future generations? <p>Health and well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the Individual actively contributed to people's health and well-being?

Lifetime Achievement Award Assessment Criteria

Assessed on individual merit	<p>RICS will provide recommendation(s) on the worthy recipient for the judging panel's consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have they contributed significantly to the profession? How?• Have they contributed significantly to RICS? How?• What have they done for the future of the profession?• How have they displayed exemplary professionalism throughout their career?
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