



Planning  
Institute  
Australia

**40 years**  
Queensland  
Awards



2026  
QUEENSLAND

AWARDS FOR  
PLANNING  
EXCELLENCE

QUEENSLAND

NOMINATION GUIDELINES 2026

# FROM STATE PRESIDENT & AWARDS CO-CONVENORS

## 2026 marks the 40th year of Queensland's Awards for Planning Excellence.

A lot can change in 40 years.

40 years ago, we didn't have the internet or smartphones, Native Title wasn't yet recognised in Australian law, and there were no regional plans, eSchemes or interactive maps.

Amongst this backdrop of change, Queensland's Awards for Planning Excellence has been the cornerstone of recognising the critical work planners are doing across Queensland to shape communities of the future. Queensland pioneered the planning awards and has the longest running program in the country, with many other states drawing from our success. To this day, we continue to have the largest program both in terms of nominations and judging panels. We've also continued to innovate - introducing a number of new categories that have been adopted as the national standard.

The awards' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary offers a special opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the innovation, leadership and excellence that have helped shape our beautiful state.

The projects, people and initiatives recognised through the program tell the story of a profession that has continually evolved to meet the changing needs and aspirations of Queensland, while always keeping an eye on the future.

The awards invite us to keep looking ahead... perhaps to the next 40 years of regional plans, planning schemes and mapping. The program offers an opportunity for us to reflect on our progress, take inspiration from leading practice, and acknowledge the challenges still ahead of us with a shared commitment to continual improvement in support of the communities, towns, cities and regions we serve.

We are again grateful for the loyal support of all our sponsors and supporters, including the

Queensland Government who are our Principal Sponsor this year.

We would also like to recognise and thank the generous contribution of time and energy by entrants, judges, sponsors and the Awards Committee.

It is because of this enduring support and dedication that we can celebrate 40 years of excellence with confidence that the future of the awards, and of the profession they champion, remains bright.

## 2026 Awards Committee

- Trudi Smith MPIA
- Brett Nancarrow
- Warren Rowe MPIA (Fellow)
- Peter Egerton MPIA (Fellow)
- Kristy Forwood MPIA
- Upendo Kowero MPIA
- Matthew Kelly RPIA
- Amanda Taylor MPIA
- Katherine Berlin MPIA
- Leo Jensen RPIA (Fellow)
- Kerry Doss RPIA (Fellow)
- Paul Burton MPIA
- Jaime-Lee Bullivant RPIA
- Rachel Jones MPIA
- David Corkill MPIA (Fellow)
- Clare Huxley



**MARTIN GARRED MPIA**  
PIA Qld President



**JOSH WALKER MPIA**  
Awards Co-Convenor



**MATT LEMAN MPIA**  
Awards Co-Convenor

# QUEENSLAND 2026 AWARDS PARTNERS

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## AWARD CATEGORIES

There are three types of Award categories:

### GENERAL CATEGORIES

Offered at a State/Territory level, with award winners (excluding commendation winners) being elevated to the National Awards for Planning Excellence.

- Great Place
- Strategic Planning Project
- Improving Planning Processes
- Emerging Planner of the Year
- Climate Change & Resilience
- Community Wellbeing & Diversity
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technology & Digital Innovation
- Planning with Country
- Planning Research
- Tertiary Student Project

### STATE ONLY CATEGORIES

Offered only at State/Territory level, with the winners NOT being elevated to the National Awards for Planning Excellence.

- Planning Champion
- Performance & Innovation in Development
- Secondary Student Project
- Wendy Chadwick Encouragement
- Overall Winner

### OTHER ACCOLADES

Winners will be announced at the Qld Awards for Planning Excellence Dinner in November.

- Wendy Chadwick - Emerging Planner Bursary



## SUMMARY OF CATEGORIES

The below summary is a brief overview of each category. For comprehensive details, please refer to the subsequent category pages.

**Secondary Student Project:** For secondary students who have produced outstanding planning work, such as projects, reports, thesis, articles, or research, making significant contributions to planning and development outcomes.

**Tertiary Student Project:** For individual or group projects, reports, thesis, or research completed by tertiary students as part of a PIA accredited university program, making significant contributions to planning and development outcomes.

**Planning Research:** For researchers or research teams who have produced a substantial piece of planning research that significantly contributes to understanding contemporary issues in planning.

**Community Wellbeing & Diversity:** For initiatives which support community health, wellbeing, and diversity, demonstrating cultural inclusiveness and social sustainability through planning.

**Planning with Country:** For planning projects at all scales that demonstrate meaningful partnership and collaboration with First Nations peoples or communities, integrating their knowledge, culture, and traditions.

**Climate Change & Resilience:** For initiatives that demonstrate outstanding leadership or innovation in addressing climate change through planning, serving as best practice examples for the profession.

**Strategic Planning Project:** For a regional plan, master plan, planning schemes or similar that demonstrate vision, innovation, and relevance for the profession.

**Improving Planning Processes:** For planners and planning teams that have significantly improved planning processes or made major planning reform.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** For best practice public engagement, achieving genuine, collaborative outcomes that improve planning processes, built forms, or social outcomes.

**Technology & Digital Innovation:** For projects that demonstrate leadership and innovation in using technology and digital tools to improve planning processes, practices, and outcomes in both virtual and real-world environments.

**Performance & Innovation in Development:** For development approvals, celebrating small, medium, or large-scale developments, that demonstrate vision, innovation, improvement, communication, collaboration, and community benefit.

**Wendy Chadwick Encouragement Award:** This category is not open to direct nomination and will be selected by the judges.

**Wendy Chadwick Emerging Planner Bursary:** For a student or young planner with <5 yrs experience post graduation.

**Planning Champion:** For non-planners (individuals, groups, or business) who have made significant contributions to the urban and regional environment over the last 1-2 years.

**Emerging Planner of the Year:** For an emerging planner who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession, showing promise in leadership, innovation, and advocacy for emerging professionals.

**Great Place:** For a building, precinct, neighbourhood or street that exemplifies good planning.

**Overall Winner:** This category is not open to direct nomination and will be selected by the judging committee.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

In consideration of the Planning Institute of Australia allowing the Nominator to nominate in and participate in the event, the Nominator agrees to the following:

- All nomination materials must be submitted electronically. No hard copy submissions will be accepted.
- The Judging Panel does not need to confer an Award in all categories.
- **Only one Award Winner** will be granted in each general category and then elevated to the PIA National Awards
- The Judging Panel may select more than one entry across eligible categories to receive Commendation Awards.
- The Judging Panel has the right to consider an award nomination in an alternate or additional category.
- Contact with members of the Judging Panel to discuss an award nomination is strictly prohibited.
- Any material and information provided as part of the nomination (Nomination Materials) may be used by the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) for the following **Purposes**:
  - entry of the Nomination into the Awards;
  - promotional purposes, including for this and future Awards events, both electronically and in material form;
  - judging purposes, including copying and disclosing the information to the judges;
  - reproduction in printed and electronic material – including the Commemorative Publication associated with this and future Awards events;
  - display during this and future Awards events – including electronically to the audience and in printed posters and signs in the venue;
  - publication on the PIA website, and other websites, for the purpose of showcasing Awards winners and nominations;
  - all other reasonable uses associated with the above activities, or that would reasonably be assumed to be connected with the operation of the Awards event.

- The Nominator grants PIA a perpetual, irrevocable, royalty free, worldwide, non-exclusive, license to use, modify, communicate, reproduce, publish and adapt the Nomination Materials for the Purposes both electronically and in material form.
- The Nominator warrants it holds sufficient rights in the Nomination Materials to provide the license granted above and that PIA's use of the Nomination Materials for the Purposes will not infringe any third party's intellectual property rights or moral rights.
- The Nominator warrants that nothing in the Nomination Materials is defamatory or gives rise to civil or criminal liability or otherwise violates any applicable law.
- The Nominator agrees to indemnify PIA against and in respect of all losses, damages and costs (including legal costs and disbursements on a solicitor-nominee or indemnity basis, whichever is higher), expenses, actions or claims (including third party claims) directly or indirectly incurred or suffered by PIA as a result of a breach or repudiation of these Conditions of Entry including a breach of a warranty, Nominator's act, omission or negligence, or the infringement of any third party's intellectual property rights.
- Nominators who have been misleading in their submissions or whose activities are not compliant with current relevant legislation may be withdrawn from the judging process or have Awards revoked.
- All nominations must be received by the published deadline. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.
- By submitting your nomination you agree that you have read, understood and accept these conditions.

PIA reserves the right to retain all entries. No part of the entries will be returned to Nominators unless requested upon nominating.

### **Entries will be excluded:**

- a. If incomplete, such that they do not contain all the required information and images in the form.
- b. If received after the closing date.
- c. If they do not fulfil the binding clauses laid down in these conditions of entry.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Do I have to be a member of PIA to enter a project in the Awards?**

Unless the eligibility criteria for a specific category requires you to be a member, non-PIA members may enter the Awards.

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

Yes, where appropriate projects may be entered in more than one Award category provided:

- each nomination addresses the specific selection criteria for each category for each project, and
- you pay the relevant entry fee for each category for applicable states/territories only.

### **How should I present my submission?**

The written component of your entry must address the selection criteria and be presented in A4 format. Addressing the selection criteria in a clear and comprehensive manner is essential for the entry to be competitive as the judges use the information to help with assessment. We encourage the close involvement of the project team in preparing the submission as the judges are closely looking at the quality and robustness of the written content rather than the presentation materials.

Whilst some entrants spend money on graphic design for the entry this has no impact on the judging process.

### **Is the maximum word count and supporting evidence word/page limit strict?**

Yes. Any words that are over the word count/page limit will not be viewed by the judging panel.

### **Will my submission materials be returned?**

No. Entries receiving Awards become the property of PIA and will not be returned.

### **Is there a fee to nominate a project?**

There is no nomination fee to enter the Queensland Awards.

### **My project is not geographic/location specific and/or involved input from people around Australia. Which State or Territory Awards should I enter?**

You are able to choose any State or Territory to enter a project that is not geographic or location specific and/or involved collaboration with people from a number of different locations but you can only submit one entry in one State or Territory. Multiple entries are invalid.

Types of projects that might fall within this scenario include books or academic papers.

### **Can I submit an International Project?**

International projects can only be accepted on the condition they have been undertaken by an Australian project team/or individual based in Australia.

You are able to choose any State or Territory to enter an international project but you can only submit one entry in one State or Territory. Multiple entries are invalid.

International projects completed by project teams/or individuals who do not reside in Australia are ineligible to nominate.

### **Will my entry be reassigned to a different category?**

Nominators must do their best to select the most suitable category when submitting their nomination, and ordinarily, judges will consider the nomination against the category in which it was lodged. However, in exceptional circumstances, the judges reserve the right to move the entry to another category as they see fit.

### **Will there be an award and/or commendation in every category?**

Not necessarily. Judges analyse all the entries in a category, looking for projects that demonstrate excellence against the category objective and selection criteria. If none of the entries are judged as having reached the threshold of excellence to receive an award or commendation, then the category will pass unawarded.



**Can I re-enter a project in subsequent years?**

The following rules apply to re-entering projects in subsequent years:

You cannot re-enter the project into the same category in which it has previously received an award or commendation unless there has been significant change to the project, and PIA has accepted it. PIA is not obliged to notify the judges if a project has received an award or commendation in any category in previous years. Receiving an award or commendation in a previous year does not predetermine the result of the new entry.

Projects that have never received an award or commendation can be re-entered into any appropriate category, including the original category.

You may only re-enter a project that has already received an award or commendation in a previous year if it is entered into a different category. Where applicable, you must pay the nomination fee for all re-entries.

**OTHER QUESTIONS?**

Contact us on (07) 5465 7331 or email [gld@planning.org.au](mailto:gld@planning.org.au)

# COMPULSORY MATERIALS FOR PROJECT CATEGORIES

## WRITTEN

All entries are to be in electronic format only and must include:

**Nomination Statement** - maximum of 5 x A4 pages (which is approximately 2500 words) in a suitable sized font. There is no minimum number of words, however, the nomination statement must address the selection criteria and outline the key issues and ideas addressed in the project and the key contribution the project makes to best/leading practice and learning for the planning profession.

**Project Summary** – which includes an abstract of no more than 250 words using the Project Summary Sheet for use in award promotions and media. If you haven't done so yet, download the [Project Summary Template](#).

*Additional supplementary material may be submitted electronically where it is the subject of the nomination. Examples include: a book, PhD thesis, strategic plan, framework document. However, the judges will refer primarily to the Nomination Statement.*

## IMAGES

A minimum of five (5) high quality images of the project are required for promotional purposes. Images embedded in the Nomination Statement must also be provided as standalone image files. Image file names should succinctly describe the subject matter. For example 'louise street piazza open day.jpg', not 'IMG00023.jpg'

The basic minimum requirements for electronic images are:

- File format: \*.jpeg or \*.png
- Resolution: 300ppi;
- Dimensions: ideally 1920px x 1080px
- Size: 5MB max.
- No special characters/symbols in file names (e.g. +!@)

## CONSENT AND LICENSES

**Proof of Consent** to enter the Nomination into the Awards is required from the client/initiating body and all other entities involved in the project.

Download a [Proof of Consent Form](#). Nominations in the Planning with Country category must also include an endorsement (signature/s) from the authorised representative of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and/or community, and/or community organisations involved in the project - space is provided for this on the Proof of Consent form.

**Licenses** from copyright/intellectual property/moral rights holders are required so PIA can reproduce, exhibit, publish or communicate the specific words, images, plans, illustrations, and all other material you submit with the Nomination. You may already have the license to grant PIA use of the material (it may have been covered in your contracts with the client/initiator and other entities), in which case no license forms are needed. Otherwise, rights holders should complete a license form to accompany the Nomination. If you do not provide any license forms, you are warranting that you already have license to grant PIA use of all the materials you provide.

Download a [Materials License, Attribution and Schedule Form](#).

## KEY LINKS

Download **Project Summary** template

Download **Proof of Consent** form

Download **Materials License, Attribution & Schedule** form

[Click here to start online nomination](#)

# COMPULSORY MATERIALS FOR EMERGING PLANNER OF THE YEAR

## WRITTEN

All entries are to be in electronic format and must include, from the employer, colleague, or peer (“nominator”):

- **Nomination Statement** which is a single page submission addressing why the nominee should be considered for the award.

PIA will then contact nominees who need to provide:

- Their current **CV**
- **Written response to questions** which will be provided by PIA.

*Additional supplementary material may be submitted electronically where it is the subject of the nomination. Examples include: a book, PhD thesis, strategic plan, framework document. However, the judges will refer primarily to the Nomination Statement.*

## IMAGES

At minimum, a high-quality headshot photo of the nominee is required for promotional purposes. If possible, providing four (4) more high quality images of the nominee is preferable, such as more headshots, photos of the nominee on site, or of the nominee with an example of their work or engaged in consultation, etc.

Image file names should succinctly describe the subject matter. For example ‘louise street piazza open day.jpg’, not ‘IMG00023.jpg’

The basic minimum requirements for electronic images are:

- File format: \*.jpeg or \*.png
- Resolution: 300ppi;
- Dimensions: ideally 1920px x 1080px
- Size: 5MB max.
- No special characters/symbols in file names (e.g. +!@)

[Click here to start online nomination](#)

# COMPULSORY MATERIALS FOR PLANNING CHAMPION

## WRITTEN

All entries are to be in electronic format only and must include:

- **Nomination Statement** - maximum of 5 x A4 pages (which is approximately 2500 words) in a suitable sized font. There is no minimum number of words, however, the nomination statement must address the selection criteria.
- **Abstract** - An abstract of no more than 250 words using the Project Summary Sheet for use in award promotions and media. If you haven't done so yet, download the [Project Summary Template](#).
- **2x Testimonials** - outlining the way that the nominee has championed planning.

*Additional supplementary material may be submitted electronically where it is the subject of the nomination. Examples include: a book, PhD thesis, strategic plan, framework document. However, the judges will refer primarily to the Nomination Statement.*

## IMAGES

At minimum, a high-quality headshot photo of the nominee is required for promotional purposes. If possible, providing four (4) more high quality images of the nominee is preferable, such as more headshots, photos of the nominee on site, or of the nominee with an example of their work or engaged with the work that supports the nomination, etc.

Image file names should succinctly describe the subject matter. For example ‘louise street piazza open day.jpg’, not ‘IMG00023.jpg’

The basic minimum requirements for electronic images are:

- File format: \*.jpeg or \*.png
- Resolution: 300ppi;
- Dimensions: ideally 1920px x 1080px
- Size: 5MB max.
- No special characters/symbols in file names (e.g. +!@)

[Click here to start online nomination](#)



# COMPULSORY MATERIALS FOR WENDY CHADWICK EMERGING PLANNER BURSARY

## WRITTEN

All entries are to be in electronic format only and must include:

- **Nomination Statement** - A statement of reasons (max 3 pages) outlining why you became a planner, or decided to study planning, and how you will benefit from the bursary.
- **Your Resume** - Your current Curriculum Vitae

*Additional supplementary material may be submitted electronically where it is the subject of the nomination.*

## IMAGES

At minimum, a high-quality headshot photo of the nominee is required for promotional purposes. If possible, providing four (4) more high quality images of the nominee is preferable, such as more headshots, photos of the nominee on site, or of the nominee with an example of their work or engaged in consultation, etc.

Image file names should succinctly describe the subject matter. For example 'louise street piazza open day.jpg', not 'IMG00023.jpg'

The basic minimum requirements for electronic images are:

- File format: \*.jpeg or \*.png
- Resolution: 300ppi;
- Dimensions: ideally 1920px x 1080px
- Size: 5MB max.
- No special characters/symbols in file names (e.g. +!@)

[Click here to start online nomination](#)

## KEY DATES

Nominations Open	Monday 22 June
Nominations Close	Sunday 9 August
Awards Dinner	Friday 13 November

# NATIONAL AWARD CATEGORIES

## GREAT PLACE

### OBJECTIVE

This award recognises a great place, street or neighbourhood. Great places have a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement and a vision for tomorrow. A great place is one that attracts, inspires and motivates people. It has a great atmosphere. It's a place that people are proud of. It sparks an individual sense of pride and contributes to the overall community wellbeing. It brings people together whether to eat, drink, sleep, play or work.

A great place might be a single building, a precinct or a neighbourhood.

It is awarded for a place that demonstrates a significant achievement for an area, either a single community or a geographic region, in accomplishing positive changes as a result of planning. It should demonstrate the implementation from plan to place that makes an outstanding contribution to advancing planning practice.

This award recognises achievement on the ground. It sees a plan come to life and result in a quality planning outcome. The place should be a physical place enjoyed by people and communities. Projects in rural, peri-urban and regional areas, in addition to urban areas, are encouraged to nominate.

Nominations should address the relevance of the project to one or more planning interest such as urban and regional planning, social planning, environmental planning, transport planning, urban design, economic development planning and/or planning law.

### ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

Nominated places should be operational / functioning for at least 12 months prior to nominating for this Award.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advances the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's elements and methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.

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Government

# STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT

## OBJECTIVE

This award recognises an outstanding strategic planning project, which includes regional plans, structure plans, master plans, infrastructure plans, planning schemes and similar.

This award is presented to projects that demonstrate vision and innovation, and should have relevance for the profession at large. Projects can range in size and scale and should advance the practice of strategic planning with broad application.

Strategic planning projects may also be recognised for overcoming significant challenges or hurdles to realise outstanding strategic planning outcomes.

Nominated projects should foster efficient and effective outcomes, be genuinely strategic, provide leadership, be responsive to need, improve spatial outcomes and be deliverable.

## ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advances the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's elements and methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.

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## IMPROVING PLANNING PROCESSES

### OBJECTIVE

This award recognises a significant improvement in planning process or major planning reform which leads to good planning outcomes undertaken by a planner, planning authorities (local or state/territory) and development entities.

This award seeks to recognise an initiative that converts a planning policy and strategy into practice and in doing so achieves a great planning outcome. It is awarded for organisational arrangements or planning initiatives that have achieved improved planning performance or processes and advanced the public interest.

This award seeks to recognise the value adding that occurs from a new planning framework or improvements in practice that lead to enhanced development or community outcomes. The award-winning projects will be ones that contribute to a positive planning culture.

Whilst the genesis of the outcome may be a report, document, scheme or strategy, it is the implementation, action and delivery on the ground which this award seeks to recognise.

### ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advances the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's elements and methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.

## EMERGING PLANNER OF THE YEAR

### OBJECTIVE

This award recognises an Emerging Planner who has made an outstanding contribution or achieved something significant. The award recognises an Emerging Planner who represents balanced qualities in advocating for emerging planning professionals as well as high-quality planning outcomes in the workplace. This award recognises passion, integrity, involvement in the profession, achievements and ability to act as a role model rather than participating in “glossy” projects.

The individual shows strong promise and emerging capabilities in leadership, good emerging understanding of planning practice, innovation, enterprise and/or strategic thinking.

### ELIGIBILITY

Nominees may be nominated by an employer, colleague or peer (“nominator”) by way of a single page submission addressing why the nominee should be considered for the award.

To be eligible for Emerging Planner of the Year, the nominee must be:

- a current Associate or Full Member of the Planning Institute of Australia who is within their fifth year after graduation from the first education qualifications that entitled them to become eligible to be a Member; and
- have been a member for a minimum of 6 months at the time of being nominated.

Nominees will be advised by PIA following the close of nominations and will be invited to provide their CV, a written response to questions (based on the selection criteria and provided by PIA), and images within seven days. Candidates who decline the nomination will be withdrawn from consideration.

Nominees should generally not nominate themselves and previous winners are ineligible for this award.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations for Emerging Planner of the Year will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Demonstrated planning skills and excellence in the professional workplace, i.e. innovation, strategic thinking, high quality of work, excellent emerging communication skills and a high capacity for problem solving.
- An activity or project that furthers the practice of planning or improves planning processes and makes a valuable contribution to teamwork.
- The individual's commitment to continuing professional development and involvement with professional institutes, networks, events, outreach work or relevant voluntary activity.
- The extent to which the individual serves as an advocate and role model for other emerging professionals in the industry or in the workplace; and
- Contribution to the planning industry and demonstrated emerging leadership qualities.

## CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCE

### OBJECTIVE

PIA believes that planning is critical to responding to a changing climate and that planners must take up the challenge of mitigation and adaptation in their work. Innovative approaches to planning can strengthen resilience, reduce greenhouse emissions and empower communities.

The objective of this award is to highlight the important and varied role planning can play in responding to climate change, and also to strengthen professional knowledge and highlight planning system improvements required to manage this challenge.

This award recognises projects and initiatives that provide outstanding leadership and/or innovation that makes a positive impact on addressing climate change and can be held up as case study of best practice for the planning profession.

### ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved, or will achieve, a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advances the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's elements and methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.

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## COMMUNITY WELLBEING & DIVERSITY

### OBJECTIVE

This award recognises initiatives that achieve outstanding social sustainability outcomes. The award will focus on planning for communities - in other words, planning for people. It will recognise initiatives that support the health, wellbeing and diversity of the community and enhance planning projects and social outcomes. This award recognises the role of planning in improving access to social infrastructure for residents in cities, regions and towns. The award will celebrate great social planning that assists and supports community cohesion, safety, and supports the culture of diversity.

It is awarded for work by a planner, planning organisation, government organisation or a member of the community for a policy, scheme, project, process or event that demonstrates how a thorough understanding of the needs, cultural inclusiveness and aspirations of a community is integral to sound planning and desired social outcomes.

### ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved, or will achieve, a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advances the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's elements and methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

## OBJECTIVE

This award recognises initiatives and outcomes in implementing best practice public engagement that achieves genuine collaborative outcomes that leads to improved built form, planning processes or social outcomes. This award is not about the extent of engagement undertaken but the influence, improvement and capacity building that was achieved through the engagement. This award is about genuine and meaningful engagement with stakeholders and the community.

It is awarded for engagement work undertaken by or with a planner, planning organisation, government organisation, consultants or a member of the community for a policy, scheme, project, process or event.

The award illustrates how a neighbourhood, community group, key stakeholder or other local non-governmental entity influenced or utilised the stakeholder engagement process to address a specific need or issue within the community.

## ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved, or will achieve, a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advances the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's elements and methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.

## PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



Leisa Prowse  
CONSULTING

## PLANNING WITH COUNTRY

### INTRODUCTION

This award seeks to recognise and bring light to changing the established ways of working with Country, so that more planning projects embrace and integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, culture, and tradition in all aspects of a project's life.

To shift from a business-as-usual practice and adopt a Country-centred approach, we need to change our way of working, guided by and involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

Reframing our approach to project planning, design and delivery from human centred to Country-centred, guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and/or communities, is central to this award.

### OBJECTIVE

This award recognises outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander planning projects at all scales where there has been a meaningful partnership and collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and/or community.

This award aims to shine a light on, and award, projects that are informed by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' knowledge, culture and tradition and the application of this knowledge, culture, and tradition to improve all planning practice and land management.

Projects need to demonstrate how the project embraces and integrates Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' knowledge, culture, and tradition, including in the project design, delivery and ongoing care and maintenance of the project, and how the project demonstrates improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The award recognises projects which advance or address the needs and aspirations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved in the project.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander planning may take many forms, but at its core, it involves recognition and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connections to and responsibilities for managing and Caring for their Country.

This award recognises planning and design developed in partnership with, and informed by, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including traditional owners, local elders, land councils, artists, and community organisations. The award will also recognise the involvement of the relevant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and/or community in the project or policy to ensure its cultural integrity and authenticity.

### ELIGIBILITY

Nominations must be endorsed by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and/or community, and/or community organisations. Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

*Planning with Country selection criteria continues on following page.*

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advance's the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination's methodology has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.



## TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL INNOVATION

### OBJECTIVE

This award recognises the importance of technology and digital innovation in 21st century planning.

Digital opportunities and adapting technology to assist planning in our changing environment is critical. This award recognises the value that digital innovation and technology processes provide for planners, planning authorities and development entities. It will also highlight the importance of adapting information to improve processes and practices for communities in the virtual world and the real world.

It also acknowledges that planning solutions can be considered and tested in the virtual world before being applied in the real world. This award shows the power that digital information provides to city and town formation, city and town evolution and city and town shaping infrastructure.

This award recognises leadership and innovation in aspects of planning related to smart cities, digital transformation and managing disruption, providing open data to benefit all planners and the community to inform better decisions, and improved technology that provides more efficient planning systems.

The award is presented to the recipient(s) who demonstrate a more detailed understanding of the world which we inhabit and provide for better planning solutions and decisions which are data rich and which embrace other professions to ensure better more timely decisions are reached.

### ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved, or will achieve, a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advances the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's elements and methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.

# PLANNING RESEARCH

## OBJECTIVE

This award recognises an outstanding achievement in planning research.

It is awarded for a substantial piece of planning research which makes an outstanding contribution to the understanding of contemporary issues relating to planning in Australia. The award seeks to recognise work that extends planning debate and knowledge with emphasis on sound evidence as opposed to opinion. The research should have broad applicability to the planning profession. Commissioned research which presents an impartial view of the research topic can be considered in this category.

The award will be given to research that is impartial and evidence-based. This may be part of commissioned research, academic research, or as part of a doctoral study (PhD).

## ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved, or will achieve, a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advances the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's elements and methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.

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Government

## TERTIARY STUDENT PROJECT

### OBJECTIVE

This award recognises outstanding planning work by an individual or group of tertiary students. It is awarded for a substantial project, report, book, thesis, article or piece of research which makes a significant contribution to planning and development outcomes.

Nominations can address any, or a combination, of the planning interests such as urban and regional planning, social planning, environmental planning, transport planning, urban design, economic development planning and planning law.

The award will be given to a project completed by the student during studies and assessed as part of a PIA accredited university program.

### ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by an individual or group of tertiary students engaged in a planning related project. They may be self-nominated or nominated by a university, employer or PIA member.

Projects done as part of doctoral (PhD) studies are ineligible for this category and should be submitted in the Planning Research category instead.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Originality & Innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address a specific need or issue.
- **Quality** - Demonstrate how the nomination achieved, or will achieve, a very high quality outcome.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with a planning matter of local, regional, state/territory or national significance. Outline how the nomination advances the importance of planning.
- **Implementation & Transferability** - Demonstrate how the nomination will be/or has been successfully implemented including a summary of the benefits. Outline how the nomination has potential application for others and how the use of the nomination's elements and methodology can further the cause of good planning.
- **Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the engagement techniques and methods for the nominated project were appropriate, meaningful and applicable. Outline how the techniques contributed to a positive outcome.

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# STATE AWARD CATEGORIES

## PLANNING CHAMPION

For Division Awards only

### OBJECTIVE

This award recognises non-planners (a person, group or business organisation) for their advocacy or for making a significant contribution and lasting presence to the urban and regional environment over the last 1-2 years.

It is awarded to a non-planner/s who promote and advocate for good planning and planning outcomes, and the value of planning and/or the planning profession to the public (i.e. through the promotion or reporting of planning issues that raise the positive profile of planning).

### ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations for the Planning Champion will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Demonstrate how they have advocated or enabled a good planning outcome to be achieved.
- Demonstrate how they have increased awareness in the community about the value of planners and planning.
- Demonstrate how their influence has had a positive impact on the community or planning project.
- Demonstrate how the outcome has been realistic and can be replicated.
- Demonstrate the contribution they have made to planning practice and/or learning for the planning profession.

The nomination should describe how the nominee has built support for planning and increased understanding of planning issues and values.

Nominations should be supported by two or more written testimonials outlining the way that the nominee has championed planning.

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# PERFORMANCE & INNOVATION IN DEVELOPMENT

For Division Awards only

## OBJECTIVE

This award recognises an outstanding development approval outcome.

This award is presented to small, medium or large scale projects that demonstrate vision, innovation, improvement, communication, collaboration and community benefit. Projects should advance the practice of development assessment to achieve positive land use planning outcomes. The size of a project is not necessarily a determining factor.

Developments may also be recognised for overcoming significant challenges or hurdles to realise outstanding planning outcomes in an urban, regional or rural setting.

Nominated projects and processes have obtained a development approval or been constructed.

## ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made by a member of the public, developer or an individual or organisation engaged in planning practice. Approvals that have been obtained through the Planning and Environment Court are ineligible (unless evidence shows otherwise).

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Vision and innovation** - Demonstrate how the nomination presents an original, innovative or performance-based approach to achieve a positive outcome. Nominations are to clearly identify why this approach achieved a superior outcome.
- **Improvement** - Demonstrate how the nomination aligns with planning scheme or organisational objectives and advances a beneficial outcome for the assessment process, site, place, community. The improvements should be measurable and transferable to other projects or processes.
- **Communication and Collaboration** - Demonstrate how the proposal went over and beyond a usual development or assessment process to deliver highly collaborative and authentic development outcome. The project must recognise the important role of relevant stakeholders to achieve an innovative, balanced and beneficial outcome. *Note: Nominations are to provide evidence that the local authority has been notified of the nomination. Demonstration of highly collaborative and authentic community engagement is desirable and will be considered favourably, but is not essential.*
- **Community benefit** - Demonstrate how the nomination has or will successfully implement a significant community benefit, including the existing or potential benefits.

# SECONDARY STUDENT PROJECT

For Division Awards only

## OBJECTIVE

This Award recognises outstanding planning work by a secondary student.

It is awarded for a substantial project, report, article, or research that significantly contributes to planning and development outcomes.

Nominations can address any of the planning interests, such as urban and regional planning, social planning, environmental planning, transport planning, urban design, economic development planning and planning law.

## ELIGIBILITY

- An individual or group of secondary or high school students engaged in a planning-related project.
- May be self-nominated or nominated by a secondary school or employer or PIA member.
- Must be a piece of work completed during studies.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations should address how the objective of the award responds to the following selection criteria:

- **Innovation** - Discuss the originality of the concept or significant refinement of existing techniques or procedures. Nominations should illustrate the depth and scope of research.
- **Transferability** - Discuss how the project or work has potential application to other locations, projects, or areas of planning interest.
- **Discuss the project methodology** – convey how the work is based on sound and plausible research, analysis and evidence basis.
- **Referencing** – Demonstrate the breadth of research.
- **Quality** - Excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, and character of presentation.

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# WENDY CHADWICK ENCOURAGEMENT

For Division Awards only

## OBJECTIVE

In addition to promoting leading practice, leadership and achievement in planning and the planning profession through the Awards for Excellence in Planning, each year the Queensland Division confers the Wendy Chadwick Encouragement Award.

This award seeks to promote examples of innovative, practical planning which illustrates great promise in achieving the vision of planning excellence in Queensland.

This award is a stand-alone Queensland award and as such does not go on for further consideration in the National Awards.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Nominations for the award are drawn from the recommendations made by the judging panels of the other categories; and
- This award is open to nominations that have not received an Award or Commendation in any other category; and
- To clarify eligibility, this category is not open to direct nomination.

## ABOUT WENDY

Wendy E Chadwick BRTP (Hons) FPIA 1958 - 2007

In 2008, the Queensland Division supported Brisbane City Council's request to change the name of the Encouragement Award to honour the memory of Wendy Chadwick who died from melanoma the previous year.

During her 27 year career with Brisbane City Council culminating in various leading, senior management roles, Wendy earned a reputation as a respected and passionate, professional planner who made major contributions to the transformation of the City from its historical role as the State's capital to that of a new world city, well placed to engage as part of the global economy of the 21st century.

Wendy contributed a great deal of her time to PIA as a Divisional committee member, speaker, organiser and advocate. The PIA acknowledged her professional dedication and enormous personal contribution by elevating her to Fellow of the Institute.

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## OVERALL WINNER

For Division Awards only

### OBJECTIVE

This Award recognises innovative and outstanding work in addressing a contemporary planning issue. It is awarded for the most outstanding achievement from any of the State Award nominations for a project, process, system or person. It must demonstrate leading practice that reflects the values and ethics of planning. The Award can relate to any of the disciplines represented within the Planning Institute of Australia and promote the role, value and importance of planning to the wider community.

Nominations for this category are put forward from the State Award winners from other categories. You cannot directly nominate into this category.

### PREVIOUS OVERALL WINNERS

- 1987 Redland Shire Strategic Plan and Development Plans
- 1988 Mackay/Capricornia Section - Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- 1989 Ipswich Town Planning Scheme
- 1990 Norman Creek Action Plan
- 1991 2040 a message from the future
- 1992 Cairns Marine Parks Zoning Plan
- 1993 The Ipswich Heritage Program
- 1994 Pine Rivers Green Plan
- 1995 Draft Mulgrave Shire Town Planning Scheme
- 1996 Outback Queensland Regional Tourism Strategy
- 1997 Northern Wastewater Strategy
- 1998 Gold Coast City Bushfire Management Strategy
- 1999 Environmental Issues Associated with Integrated Catchment Management into Local Government Planning Schemes
- 2000 Far North Queensland Regional Plan

- 2001 State Coastal Management Plan - Queensland's Coastal Policy
- 2002 Towards Sustainability - An Integrated Local Area Plan for Nudgee, Banyo and Nudgee Beach
- 2003 Our Future Your Say: Greenspace Series
- 2004 Planning for the future of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: The Representative Areas Program
- 2005 SEQ Regional Plan and Infrastructure Plan
- 2006 Douglas Shire Planning Trilogy
- 2007 Affordable Housing in the Kelvin Grove Urban Village
- 2008 Northern Growth Corridor Social Infrastructure Plan Draft – 2021
- 2009 Identifying and incorporating indigenous landscape values into regional planning process
- 2010 Cairns Transit Network
- 2011 Engaging in the Cauldron - Blackwater and Moranbah
- 2012 Planning for Stronger, More Resilient Floodplains
- 2013 State Assessment and Referral Agency SARA
- 2014 Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Choiseul Bay Township, Solomon Islands
- 2015 Gasworks@Newstead Riverpark
- 2016 Tropical Urbanism - Cairns City Image Study
- 2017 Urban Squeeze Radio Show
- 2018 Gamification of Planning Education: A co-operative multi-player game for urban planning education
- 2019 The Spit Master Plan
- 2020 Isaac Region Planning Scheme & Coastal Planning Provisions
- 2021 Logan Village Place to Play Stakeholder engagement
- 2022 The Standard
- 2023 New Ipswich Planning Scheme (Ipswich Plan 2024)
- 2024 The Next Australian City: The Suburban Evolution
- 2025 UN-Habitat Quality of Life Pioneer City Initiative - City of Logan

## OTHER ACCOLADES

### WENDY CHADWICK EMERGING PLANNER BURSARY

For Division Awards only

#### OBJECTIVE

Each year, the Wendy Chadwick Bursary is awarded to an outstanding Emerging Planner in Queensland.

The Bursary was first established to recognise the significant contribution to planning of Wendy Chadwick (1958-2007), a respected and dedicated planner at Brisbane City Council and a generous and thoughtful mentor of young planning professionals.

The Wendy Chadwick Bursary supports a Young Planner to further their career through professional development through a \$2500 bursary, which is intended to further the career aspirations of its recipient through attendance at a PIA's National Congress or State Conference or other PIA professional development activities.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- A PIA Member
- An Emerging Planner (Student or <5 yrs experience post graduation)
- Not a previous recipient of the Bursary.

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2026  
QUEENSLAND

AWARDS FOR  
PLANNING  
EXCELLENCE

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