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1. Key Dates & Entry Fees

1.1 Key Dates

Activity	Date
Jury expressions of interest open	Monday 14 th July
Online entries open	Friday 1 st August
Jury expressions of interest close	Tuesday 12 th August
Online entries close & Additional material deadline (no further changes accepted)	Tuesday 30 th September
Presentations to Juries (South Division)	Monday 20 th October
Presentations to Juries (North Division)	Wednesday 22 nd October
Presentations to Juries (Central Division)	Friday 24 th October
Jury Site visits	Monday 1 st December – Friday 5 th December
Award Presentation & Events	Friday 13 th February – Saturday 14 th February
NSW Architecture Awards entries close (for progressing entries)	Friday 27 th February

1.2 Awards Timeline

Please check your [Chapter Specific Requirements](#) (page 15) as steps 2 to 4 differ between Chapters.

Step 1	Online Entry
Step 2	Submission of additional material
Step 3	Presentation of entry to jury (not applicable in QLD)
Step 4	Site visits by jury (not applicable in the International Chapter)
Step 5	Chapter Awards Presentations
Step 6	National Jury Site visits (only shortlisted projects)
Step 7	National Awards Presentation

1.3 Entry Fees

Region/Chapter	Standard Entry Fee ex GST	A+ Membership Entry Fee (10% discount) ex GST
NSW – Regional	\$350	\$315

**Winners of NSW Regional Architecture Awards will be required to pay an additional State entry fee to be considered for the NSW State Awards.*

There is no additional charge for progression to the National Architecture Awards. Entry fees are exclusive of GST. Payments are to be made via the online entry system.

An entrant may submit multiple entries into the Australian Institute of Architects National Architecture Awards, provided that each is fully compliant with the entry requirements and the relevant fee is paid for each entry. A single project may be entered in multiple categories with a separate entry fee required for each category.

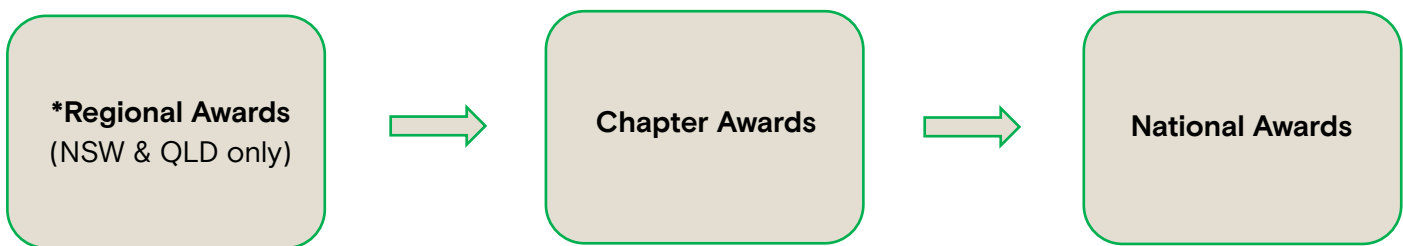
1.4 Refunds & Additional Charges

Entrants are not eligible for a refund if entries do not meet the requirements as outlined 5.0 Conditions of Entry or if they are withdrawn after the closing date (please refer to the key dates on the awards webpage). Administration fees may apply on top of entry fees for changes to entries made after the closing date.

2. Overview of Awards

The National Architecture Awards is an integrated, hierarchical program resulting in annual awards at National, Chapter (state, territory or international) and, in some states, *Regional levels.

To enter the National Architecture Awards, Institute members are required to submit projects at the relevant Chapter or Regional level depending on the project's location.



NSW Regional Named Award Winners are invited to progress to Chapter Awards for automatic shortlisting. Award winners are invited to progress to Chapter Awards

Award and Named Award winners (excluding Chapter Specific Prizes & Awards) progress to National Awards to form an entry pool from which the National Awards jury will select a shortlist

Chapter Award and Named Award winners are considered equally by the National Jury, who select a shortlist, then Named Awards, Awards and Commendations

2.1 Types of Awards

Awards in each category are based on a three-tier system, in decreasing order of merit.

Named Award

Only 1 Named Award is awarded per eligible category

Award

Commendation

2.1.1 Named Award

The first and highest award in each category is the 'Named Award'. The award is given to the work judged to be the most significant for the advancement of architecture in each category. The award carries the name of a respected person and represents the pinnacle of projects in each category. There is only one winner of the Named Award in each category in any year.

Named Awards have been introduced in the Regional Awards for the 2026 program, with the eponyms for these awards to be rolled out gradually.

Commendations and Architecture Awards can be solely conferred in a given category without requiring a Named Award to be conferred. If the Jury do not find any projects worthy of awards in a category, they are not required to confer any Awards or Commendations, regardless of the number of entries received.

2.1.2 Award

This is a work of excellence demonstrating consummate architectural skill that contributes to the advancement of architecture. More than one Architecture Award may be given in a category, and an Architecture Award may be given regardless of the number of eligible entries received in a category.

Projects awarded an Architecture Award at National level are not eligible for any future Awards Program, except where nominated for Category 12: Enduring Architecture Award.

2.1.3 Commendation

This is for projects of special merit, demonstrating significant architectural skill that have not won a Named or Architecture Award. More than one Commendation may be given in a category. A Commendation may be given regardless of the number of eligible entries. Projects given a Commendation or no award by a Chapter or Region may resubmit in one more future Awards Program.

Please note that all projects awarded Named Awards and Architecture Awards by Chapters progress to be considered by the National Jury and are considered equally at a National level. The National Jury is unable to visit all eligible projects even if they received a Named Award at Chapter level.

2.1.4 Other Award Categories

Regions and Chapters wishing to acknowledge excellence outside of this structure may create additional categories, but winners in such categories will not be eligible for consideration at any higher level. Regional or Chapter categories not aligned with one or more of the National Awards categories are identified as a Prize, Medal or Medallion.

The National Jury determines its shortlist of projects to be visited based solely on the entry material supplied via the online entry system. Entrants do not have an opportunity to present to the National Jury prior to the shortlist being determined so it is important that the online submission covers all the relevant material for judging purposes. It is essential that your entry recognises that judging will be based on the Core Evaluation Criteria and that these are addressed within the Project Description text provided as part of your entry.

2.2 Core Evaluation Criteria

1. **Conceptual framework**
Underlying principles, values, core ideas, and philosophy of the project.
2. **Public and Cultural Benefits**
The amenity of the project and its conceptual contribution to the public domain
3. **Relationship of Built Form to Context**
Concepts engaged with new and pre-existing conditions.
4. **Program Resolution**
Functional performance assessed against the brief.
5. **Integration of Allied Disciplines**
Contribution of others, including engineers, landscape architects, artists and other specialists to the outcome.
6. **Cost/Value Outcome**
The effectiveness of decisions related to financial issues.
7. **Sustainability**
The benefit to the environment through design.
8. **Response to Client and User needs**
Additional benefits interpreted from the brief, serving the client or users and the community.

All entries which have any Heritage components must comply with and include the required accompanying four (4) entry documents in part 5 of the Policy whether it is entered in the Heritage Category, or in another award Category, and adhere with the eight Core Evaluation Criteria above.

3. How to Enter

3.1 Eligible Entrants

To enter the National Architecture Awards, an entrant must be a registered architect and Institute member. To be eligible to enter, entrants must:

- be an architect registered in the State or Territory of the project or deemed to be registered in the State or Territory under the Mutual Recognition Act 1992 (Commonwealth)
- be an Institute Member at the time of entry (member level 1, fellow or life fellow),
- be a principal of the practice who owns, or is a formal licensee, of the copyright in the work being entered.

Where the entrant is a formal licensee (does not own the copyright), the entry must be accompanied by a written agreement from the copyright owner stating that the work may be entered for an award.

For the purposes of the Awards, and wherever it is used in this Handbook, the “entrant” is the eligible Institute Member that is authorising the entry of the project into the Awards. During the entry process, Entrants are required to enter their Institute member number and will be the member responsible for authorising the entry for all information and data that is submitted.

3.2 Eligible Projects

To be eligible in the National Architecture Awards, projects must have reached practical completion by 31 December in the year proceeding judging. For the NSW Regional Awards, projects must first be completed by 30 June in the year of judging, so entries in the 2026 Regional Awards should have reached practical completion by 30 June, 2025.

In addition to the above, in order to be eligible for the program, projects must receive a PASS result in at least 2 out of the 6 sections (General, Projection of Land and Ecological Systems, Siting and Urban Design, Energy Efficiency and Consumption, Selection of Building Materials and Process & Social Issues) on the Sustainable Architecture checklist located at the beginning of the online entry form*. This does not guarantee consideration in the Sustainable Architecture category, refer to [2.3.4 Sustainable Architecture for further information](#).

Entrants in the Small Project Architecture and Heritage categories are still required to complete the checklist to the best of their ability but are **NOT required to meet the minimum 2 out of 6 result and are exempt from this requirement.*

Refer to [Awards, Prizes and Honours Policy](#) and [9.0 Frequently Asked Questions](#) for further information.

3.3 Entry Categories

Projects entered in the National Architecture Awards may be new, renovated or altered and extended structures.

On entry, members entering must either select the category most appropriate to their project, or enter in multiple categories. Mixed use projects will be considered under the category applicable to the predominant use of the project. Individual components of a mixed-use project can be judged in the appropriate individual category and the submission should be tailored accordingly. A separate entry fee must be paid for each category entered – refer to [1.3 Entry Fees](#).

However, as per Awards, Prizes and Honours Policy juries may choose to consider projects in categories other than the category the project was originally entered in. It is at the jury’s discretion to consider a project in an alternative category provided it is eligible in the proposed category. There is no requirement for the entrant to be informed of such a re-allocation. The entrant may be contacted for further information if there is uncertainty about the eligibility of a project in a particular category.

3.3.1 Direct Entry National Categories

Some categories at Chapter level are split into subcategories. Please check your Chapter Specific Requirements for details. Award winners in Chapter subcategories progress to the National Awards in their parent category.

Public Architecture	Projects in this category must be predominantly of a public or institutional nature generally falling within BCA Class 9. However, this category does not include projects falling within the definition of Educational Architecture or any BCA Class 9b building used primarily for educational purposes.
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Educational Architecture	Projects in this category may be any preschool, primary, secondary or tertiary educational facility and/or joint research facilities in which an educational institution is a significant partner. Education projects may not be entered in the Public Architecture category.
Residential Architecture – Houses (New)	Projects in this category must be residential in nature, generally falling within BCA Class 1a, and must be new builds. Projects with up to two self-contained dwellings may be entered in this category.
Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)	Projects in this category must be residential in nature, generally falling within BCA Class 1a, and must include renovations or alterations or additions to an existing building, whether or not the building was residential in nature in the first instance. Projects with up to two self-contained dwellings may be entered in this category.
Residential Architecture – Multiple Housing	Projects in this category must be residential in nature and comprise of or include two or more self-contained dwellings (whether or not the building includes uses for other purposes).
Commercial Architecture	Projects in this category must be built primarily for commercial purposes, generally falling within BCA Classes 3b, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
Heritage	This category is for any built conservation project or study developed in accordance with the <i>Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter</i> , and/or any adaptive reuse of a heritage structure. Refer to 4.3 Digital Material (Heritage entries only) for more information.
Interior Architecture	Projects in this category must be interior spaces and environments within a new building or the refurbishment of an existing building.
Urban Design	Projects in this category may be single buildings, groups of buildings or non-building projects, studies or masterplans, which are of public, civic or urban design in nature. Awarded projects must have enhanced the quality of the built environment or public domain or contribute to the wellbeing of the broader community.
Small Project Architecture	<p>Projects in this category will be those considered to be “small” in terms of area or budget. Projects are recognised that have been constrained by space or cost restrictions, but have achieved a level of invention, creativity and craftsmanship despite these constraints. This category can accommodate projects, typically projects in the public realm, which may be over-looked against larger scale projects in other categories or may be transient or experimental in nature, such as exhibition design, set design, playgrounds, architectural sculptures or installations that may or may not be able to be visited by the Jury. Projects of all functional types may be considered.</p> <p>Exclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residential projects of a permanent nature are not eligible for this category. - Projects concurrently entered into any other category are not eligible for this category.

3.3.2 Indirect Entry National Categories (Secondary Categories)

Members cannot enter these categories directly, although there will be the opportunity to provide further information for jurors in the online entry system.

Sustainable Architecture	<p>This category recognises projects which excel as architecture, and also display innovation and excellence in terms of environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Refer to 3.3.4 Sustainable Architecture Category for more information.</p>
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Both the COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture and the Enduring Architecture Award are not awarded in the NSW Regional Architecture Awards.

Some Chapters also run Chapter Specific Prizes which align with National Award entries. Please refer to your [Chapter Specific Requirements for further information and to see what other categories are available for entry. Chapter Specific Prizes do not progress to the National Awards.](#)

3.3.3 Sustainable Architecture Category

Australian architects have in many cases been international leaders in designing responsive, responsible, and delightful works of architecture that ‘do more with less’. The Sustainable Architecture category is intended to support, encourage and celebrate this significant contribution. Where many projects engage on a technical level in respect of the performance aspects of the building, measured through rating tools, the aim of the Sustainable Architecture category is to recognise the value of creative and intelligent thinking in achieving enduring and meaningful value through a holistic design response.

The category also aims to recognise integrated design thinking not only for individual works of architecture, but also in the broader ecological context.

All members **must** complete the Sustainable Architecture checklist located at the beginning of the online entry form and **must** receive a PASS result in at least 2 out of the 6 sections in order to be eligible for the Chapter and National Architecture Awards.*

Entrants in the Small Project Architecture and Heritage categories are still required to complete the checklist to the best of their ability but are **NOT required to meet the minimum 2 out of 6 result and are exempt from this requirement.*

If a member would like their project to be considered in the Sustainable Architecture Category, they must elect to do so via the online entry form checkbox. Entrants are required to provide information regarding the sustainable design of the project as part of the entry process.

All Members must complete the Sustainable Architecture checklist but only those who opt in via the checkbox will be considered in the Sustainable Architecture category. The jury considers entries in terms of the value that the project has generated in each of the environmental, social and economic domains, on the basis of descriptions submitted as part of the entry process. As the number of entries differ from Chapter to Chapter, the judging and shortlisting processes will also differ.

4. Submissions

Members must submit their entry via the Online Entry System and can nominate another person to make the entry on their behalf or be the contact person for all enquiries related to the submission. However, the authorising Member (the Entrant) remains the person who is eligible to make and responsible for all information and data that is submitted.

Entrants are required to enter the member number of the endorsing Institute member during the entry process. Once you have entered the member details and selected the entry Chapter and category, the following details are required:

Project Attribution (Entry Name)	<p>The project attribution is used by the Institute in <u>all publicity</u> which includes all media materials, printing of Award certificates, Chapter and National winner announcements and the Institute's websites, galleries and digital and printed communications.</p> <p>The Institute does not accept responsibility for incorrect spelling of or missing project attributions submitted by entrants. The project attribution must be agreed and consented to by all authors, including joint authors, and original authors of existing works, before the entry is submitted. Only individuals, not your practice, can give the necessary consent in relation to their authorship of a work. <i>Refer 5.2 Moral Rights</i>. Please note some publications have their own Style Guide and project attributions may be amended accordingly.</p>
Project Details	Address, cost, size, building contract, BCA class, client details
Project Team	Practice, construction and consultant teams, listed in order of involvement in the project. Please include any artist's attribution for public art.
Project Descriptions	<p>Project description responding to Core Evaluation Criteria, media summary and subcategory descriptions.</p> <p>In preparing pitches to external media outlets and the production of Awards collateral, the Institute's media team will refer to the media summary provided in your entry which may be edited or modified as required by the Institute to ensure clarity and consistency. These descriptions are integral to promoting projects and are therefore a good platform to outline key features of the project rather than company details. <i>Refer 5.0 Conditions of Entry, 5.1 Copyright and 5.2 Moral Rights</i>.</p> <p><u>Word limit:</u> Project description (500 words) Media Summary (150 words)</p>
Client perspective	<p>Please have your client, in their own words, provide a 100-word (or less) response to the following question: How does the design benefit the way you live/work/play/operate/educate/other? (100 words)</p>
Digital Material	Refer below (4.1, 4.2 & 4.3)
Additional Material	Refer below (4.4 & 4.5)

4.1 Digital Material: Images

Entrants are required to upload **10 high-resolution photographs** of the project that can be used by the Institute for promotional purposes. Please note that these images are used for judging purposes and may also be sent to the media. All entrant images will be displayed in the Institute's online gallery. Images may be used by the Institute on its websites and in digital and print communications in ways that promote architecture and the Australian architectural profession.

Entrants are required to select a landscape 'hero' shot of the project which is the image that the Institute will favour over others in any promotional media. Please note that external media will not necessarily favour the hero image. Please upload this photo as your first image (labelling it with number '00' at start of file name). If this image is deemed inappropriate the Institute will select an alternative image. At least one image should be in a landscape, 16:9 ratio format.

Before uploading, please label all images as such; Imagenumber_EntryID_Project_Practice_Photographer.jpg

For example: 01_53-heritage_JonesResidence_ABCArch_XYZ Photographers.jpg

- Entry ID – This is assigned to your entry at the start of the submission process and contains a number and the category tag. It is listed to the left of your entry name under 'My entries' (in Award Force).
- If your Project or Practice names are particularly long, please abbreviate them to the most important/recognisable information and add 'et al' after this section in the file name. This will prevent the file name from becoming excessively long.

NB: It is imperative that your photographer is credited in your image file name, otherwise they may not be appropriately credited in promotional materials.

Image Requirements	Typical Projects	Heritage Projects	Interior Projects
File type: JPEG			
Image quality: Maximum quality setting			
Image size: Minimum size A4			
Resolution: 300dpi	2 x site context/setting	Photographs that show the building in its original state are required for the Heritage category.	1 x exterior/envelope
Colour: RGB			
File size: Must not exceed 10MB per image	3 x different external elevations	Entrants will also need to upload 2 'before' images in addition to the standard 10 'after' images.	1 x entry
Orientation: Landscape preferred	3 x interior views		3 x wide interior views
Bleed: Full bleed	2 x building views		2 x details
Images are not to be digital renders, include white or black bars, annotations, text, be image montages (two images together) or collages (multiple images in one document).			

4.2 Digital Material: Plans and Drawings

Entrants are required to submit between 1 and 6 high resolution drawings that represent your project. These should be uploaded as a single PDF file with one plan or drawing per page. Drawings will be used to describe your project to juries and may also be used in publications such as Architecture Australia. If there are extenuating circumstances that require drawings not to be published, please check the 'not for publication' box when uploading and contact your local Chapter prior to submission.

Vector-based drawings, hand drawings/sketches and digital renders are acceptable. At least one floor plan must be submitted. Entrants are also encouraged to submit a site plan, elevation(s) and section(s) where applicable.

Plan Requirements:

- Minimum A4 size
- PDF format not exceeding 1MB per page, and collated into a single PDF file with one plan or drawing per page

- Legible for digital and print purposes (eg social media, Architecture Australia), avoiding too many complex elements
- Show scale bar, scale and north point
- Vector-based PDF file black or grey lines to be greyscale, not as CMYK. Colour use for highlighted elements only
- Hand drawings and sketches minimum resolution 1200dpi
- Digital renders minimum 300dpi

4.3 Digital Material (Heritage entries only)

If entering the Heritage category **or** if your project has any Heritage components, the following requirements must be adhered to:

To be eligible, the place should adhere to all of the following:

- Be heritage listed, nominated or eligible for heritage listing in the State, Territory, Regionally, Internationally or Nationally (include evidence),
- Be submitted with a Statement of Significance
- Demonstrate the Burra Charter principles/process/methodology linked to the submission
- Include a Heritage Impact Statement and a Conservation Management Plan or similar heritage report

4.4 Additional Material: Copyright Forms

It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that each of the three [Copyright Consent Forms](#) are properly completed, signed and uploaded as part of their submission to the online entry system. At a minimum, every entry must be accompanied by a Form A from the owner and a Form B and C from the third-party photographer of the images submitted. For information on when you need to use each of the Forms, refer to 4.1 and 4.2 below.

4.5 Confidential Information

The entry form contains a section for basic project-related financial information. During the Awards process this information will be confidentially disclosed to relevant Jury members only.

At the conclusion of the Awards this information may be used by the Institute for its research and records. The Institute will make every effort to de-identify that data from a particular project.

5. Conditions of Entry

By checking the box on the online entry form you indicate that you agree to the Awards Terms and Conditions of Entry which includes the policies and procedures in this Handbook. By submitting an entry to the Awards, you are effectively making a legal promise to the Institute that you have met all your copyright obligations and you agree to protect the Institute against all claims and disputes by third parties that arise because of some issue with the copyright or moral rights associated with the project of materials.

The Institute has the sole discretion to refuse an entry or remove it from consideration for an award if the Institute is of the opinion that the entry:

- Does not comply with the Terms and Conditions of Entry.
- Is not consistent with the nature and spirit of the awards or is inappropriate, offensive, indecent, or illegal. (For example: an entry contains inappropriate or offensive words or images; an entry contains words or images that have potential for a claim of defamation; the project has generated publicity in the media for being inappropriate or offensive to the public or for casting architecture or the built environment in a negative light).

OR

- c. Breaches or infringes (is likely to breach or infringe), or there is an active dispute about, a third party's copyright or moral rights. Refer to 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.

5.1 Copyright

Copyright and moral rights are also relevant to the "Project Materials" you submit with your entry to the Awards and in turn, the way the Institute can legally use or display those Project Materials for the Awards and more broadly to promote architecture. Some of the Project Materials may have been created by another person (the 'author') or the copyright over them might be held by another person or company. For this reason, the Institute requires you to either own the copyright in the materials or to have obtained all the necessary permissions (a copyright licence) from the copyright owners to:

- submit the project for consideration and
- allow the Institute to use, reproduce or adapt the Project Materials as needed for the Awards and.
- allow the Institute to use, reproduce or adapt the Project Materials to promote architecture and the Australian architectural profession.

You must get permission from the owner and/or client to submit the project in the Awards. We have included a template Form A: Owner/Client Consent that you can send to the owner or client to give consent. Using this form will give you the first type of permission you need to enter the project. To make it easy for the owner/client, you might want to fill in all the entry details first. We recommend that you use Form A for all projects you enter into the Awards.

By entering the Awards you agree that the Institute is allowed to reproduce, exhibit, publish, and/or communicate the material and information you give about the Project and to adapt or use the Project Materials and any portion of it, or give permission to others to do so, in different ways or contexts as the Institute needs to for the purposes of the Awards and the promotion of architecture, as required. For the purpose of the Awards, 'Project Material' includes all words, images and other materials (including models, film and video) whether in digital, printed or 3D format, you submit online or give to the Institute in connection with your entry.

The Institute requires that either:

- you personally, or your practice, own(s) all copyright in the project and the Project Materials, and you authorise the Institute to use them as needed for the Awards, including for publicity;

OR

- you promise that you personally have, or your Practice has, the authority of each and every owner of the copyright in the project, and the Project Materials to authorise and you do authorise the Institute to use them as needed for the Awards, including for publicity.

If you or your practice does not own all copyright in the Project Materials, use Form B (licence) along with Form C which lets you list the Project Materials you are being given permission to use.

If the Institute is put on notice of a dispute concerning copyright associated with any part of the Project Materials, then 5.0 C above may apply. It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure [Copyright Consent Forms A, B & C](#) are signed and submitted in Award Force before the applicable chapter entry closing date.

5.2 Moral Rights

Being the owner of copyright is not the same as the moral rights that the author(s) who created the design has.

Copyright is a legal right (like owning property) that can be created, bought, sold and transferred between individuals or companies—so the person who "holds" copyright might not be the original author(s) who created the work.

Moral Rights are individual rights that come into existence when an author creates a work. This includes architects and their design; or photographers and their images. A creative author can't transfer, sell or terminate their Moral

Rights, but they can give permission to other people (like to an architecture practice employer) that they don't expect to be acknowledged as an author ("attribution") of that creative work or architectural design or photographic image.

Under the moral rights provisions of copyright law, entrants to the Awards must ensure that they, or the practice of which they are a principal, are authorised to attribute authorship of the project contained in their entry.

Attribution is a legal and moral obligation that every person in the world has to publicly and properly acknowledge the actual author (and all co-authors) of a creative work, like an architectural design.

All Project Materials submitted online or in hard copy must include a 'Project Attribution' (see Form B at the end of this handbook). This Project Attribution is a short form of attribution of the designer's moral rights that is comprised of the project name and the practice name, for example: XYZ House, John Smith Architects or where there are various contributors (co-authors) to the design, for example: Falling Bridge, Archie Architecture with John Dutch Engineering. This should include attribution of original authors of entries where the project is an alteration, addition or fitout and the original author can be reasonably identified. The Project Attribution will be used by the Institute in all publicity which includes all media materials, printing of award certificates, State and National winner announcements and the Institute's website(s), and digital and print communications.

The Institute cannot accept responsibility for incorrect or incomplete project attributions submitted by entrants and relies on each entrant to submit this information correctly. The project attribution must be agreed and consented to by all authors, including joint authors, before the entry is submitted. Authors have the right to give their consent to not be specifically acknowledged as an author of work. This is known as: consent to non-attribution of moral rights, or a "waiver". Such consent must be in writing (or can be incorporated as a term of an employment contract). Only individuals, not your practice nor a company, are "authors" under the Moral Rights laws who can give the necessary consent/waiver to not be attributed as an author of a work.

A person or an entity (i.e. your practice) who has copyright, or a copyright licence, can pass on the moral rights consent of the individual authors if the author has already given a consent to that person or entity on the condition that it can be passed on to others who acquire the copyright or are given the right (a licence) to use the copyright.

In relation to the awards, the Institute fits in to the latter category because it is the recipient of your grant to the Institute of a licence. We will assume you have the authority to grant it and you promise this when you agree to the Awards Terms and Conditions. If the Institute is put on notice of a dispute concerning moral rights associated with any part of the Project Materials, then 5.0 C above may apply.

For further information on copyright and moral rights refer to Acumen, the Institute's online database of architectural practice advisory material: acumen.architecture.com.au

- Architects and copyright
- Copyright and architectural photography

How to get...	Use...	Who signs/gives it?	For example...?
<i>Consent to enter the Awards</i>	Form A	Owner/client	In all cases, you must get consent from the owner/client to submit an entry to the Awards. Also use Form A if the Owner owns the copyright to the project design.
<i>Copyright permission for the Project Materials and Project Attribution</i>	Form B + C	Author or copyright holder	Every co-author or joint contributor to the design; the builder or consultant who contributes to the design; photographer of Project Materials being submitted to the project. If the Owner owns the copyright in the project design, use Form A. Won't need this Form for any co-author or joint contributor who has waived their moral rights in the project design.

5.3 Pre-judging Public Listing of Project Attribution

Shortly after the online entry system has closed in each Chapter and Region, all project attributions submitted for the 2026 Awards program will be uploaded to the Institute's awards webpage. The publishing of project attributions provides entrants and any members of the public with an opportunity to check the attributions.

The Institute accepts comments from members of the Institute and the public regarding the project attributions for one month following release of the details. If any problems are identified an entry will be suspended. The entrant is required to resolve any issue before the relevant jury begins deliberation. In the case of the NSW Regional Awards, resolutions should be released before site visits commence. No late attribution changes will be accepted and all details supplied in the entry at time of deadline will be used for all Awards related activity and promotion.

After notice is given to the entrant of the issue, and if it is not resolved satisfactorily, the Institute may withdraw acceptance of the entry in accordance with 5.0 C above and will notify the entrant if this is the case.

5.4 Your Indemnity to the Australian Institute of Architects

Copyright, moral rights and confidentiality obligations create rights which may be legally pursued by you, the owner or other third parties. You, as the entrant, are responsible for ensuring copyright, moral rights and confidentiality requirements are met before submitting your entry. The Institute relies on you to have taken all the necessary steps to 'put your house in order' in relation to these issues before you submit your entry.

As a condition of entry, each entrant gives the Institute a legally enforceable promise to reimburse any direct and indirect costs in relation to a claim against the Institute concerning the entry. This includes, but is not limited to breaches of copyright and moral rights, as a result of the Institute using the information and Project Materials contained in your entry for the purposes intended, where the Institute had no notice that there was an issue.

The amount you must pay includes any damages the Institute pays and the Institute's actual legal costs. The indemnity is contained within the entry form and becomes operative when you check the box signifying your acceptance of the Terms and Conditions. Because the legal requirements of copyright and moral rights are so critical, the Institute reserves the right to remove the entry from consideration if inconsistency in the entry form, or information received, puts the integrity of the entry, or indemnity, in doubt. However, the Institute will not do so without seeking clarification from you as the entrant, and allowing reasonable attempts to rectify any defect or discrepancy the Institute is concerned about.

6. Judging

The judging process adopted by Chapter and Regional Juries will reflect the process required of the National Jury as per Awards, Prizes and Honours Policy except that the shortlisting of entries is not mandatory, and all entrants in a category may be required to present or submit to interview, and all entries in a category may be visited. In some Chapters there are different juries responsible for different categories. Please refer to your [Chapter Specific Requirements](#) and the Jury Handbook for more information.

6.1 Jury Selection

To facilitate openness and transparency, Members, Chapters and National Council will be encouraged to nominate prospective National jurors, but the final composition will be determined by the President. Architects on National, Chapter or Regional Juries will be Member Level 1 Institute members, Fellows or Life Fellows of the Institute.

National jurors will not serve more than two years consecutively. Jurors shall not serve on a Chapter or Regional Jury for more than three years consecutively.

6.2 Jury Composition

The National Jury will comprise:

- The Immediate Past President (at the time of final judging) (Chair);
- A senior respected and awarded architect;
- A senior respected and distinguished architect;
- A younger emerging architect; and
- An architectural commentator or academic

Composition of the Chapter and Regional Juries should reflect the range of backgrounds required of the National Jury.

Heritage Juries

At least one juror on a Chapter Heritage Jury should be a member of either the Chapter Heritage Committee or the National Heritage Committee.

It is understood that there are no requirements for a juror for the Regional, International and National Architecture Awards to be a member of these committees. Specialist heritage advisors can be appointed where such additional expertise is deemed necessary, see clause 1.3.7 Specialist Advisors from the Awards Jury Handbook

6.3 Unsuccessful Entries

Because only projects receiving Named Awards and Architecture Awards are eligible to be considered for a National Award in the same year, projects awarded a Commendation or no award by a Chapter or Region may resubmit in one future Awards Program.

However, projects that received a Named Award or Award in Category 11: Sustainable Architecture and/or Category A1: COLORBOND Awards for Steel Architecture at any level (National/Chapter/Region), but received no Named Award or Award in any other category at any level, may be resubmitted in categories other than Category 11: Sustainable Architecture and/or Category A1: COLORBOND Awards for Steel Architecture at any level (National/Chapter/Region). Even so, entries may be judged at the National Awards level only once.

7. Media & Publicity

The National Architecture Awards showcase projects recently completed by Institute members both in Australia and overseas and provide an excellent opportunity to promote the industry to the broader community. The Institute actively seeks to promote the Awards program and individual project entries to media outlets for the purpose of increasing the awareness and understanding of the architecture profession as well as advocating for good design and the use of architectural services in future projects of all types and scales.

By entering the Awards program, you are agreeing to partake in this opportunity to raise not only the profile of the profession but also of your own practice through local, national, online and social media avenues. As part of the Institute's work in promoting the Awards the media team produces media releases to be sent to media outlets including print, online, TV and radio. We also liaise closely with media and respond to requests from journalists to provide specific information about entered projects and will pitch individual projects with unique stories to relevant media.

The Institute will provide images to the media for use in the promotion of the National Awards Program, highlighting the need for correct use of attributions, along with media summaries and subcategory descriptions. The Institute will not divulge confidential details regarding the project including addresses, client details or costs to media with the exception of our Media Partners, Architecture Australia and The Australian's WISH magazine solely for the purposes of preparing their coverage of the Awards (confidential information will not be published), Images are not provided to the media for use in any context other than the promotion of the Awards unless you have given us permission to do so. Images may be used by the Institute in collateral and activities for the purpose of promoting the awards program, and architecture and the Australian architectural profession.

In addition to your Media Summary, having the following additional information and resources will assist the media team to promote your project and may increase your chance of media/social coverage:

- Video footage of your project that can be used for television purposes. As this is an expensive endeavour the Institute does not recommend commissioning video coverage solely for the Awards program (which may never be used).
- Approval by the clients for TV camera crews to film the project and possibly interview the client.
- Social Media account details including Twitter, Instagram and Facebook names so we can follow you and tag you in posts.

National Award entries provide a great catalogue of current architecture that showcases trends and exceptional projects. Media outlets often find this gallery of projects a very useful tool in preparing and guiding their architecture coverage throughout the year.

If a media outlet is interested in a project for a non-Awards related article or feature, the Institute ensures that permission is received from the entrant before proceeding. These opportunities may include print features of residential projects in the weekend papers and trend-based stories.

If you have any concerns regarding media and publicity, please contact: media@architecture.com.au

8. Chapter Specific Requirements: NSW Regional Awards

8.1 Key Dates

Jury expressions of interest open	Monday, 14 July
Online entries open	Friday, 1 August 2025 9:00am AEST
Jury expressions of interest close	Tuesday, 12 August 2025
Online entries close	Tuesday, 30 September 2025 17:00pm AEST
Submission of additional material	Tuesday, 30 September 2025 17:00pm AEST
Presentation to Juries	South Division: Monday, 20 October North Division: Wednesday, 22 October Central Division: Friday, 24 October <i>Additional days may be added if required. All entrants are invited to present either in person or online</i>
Jury Site Visits	Monday, 1 December 2025 – Friday, 5 December 2025
Awards Announcement	Friday, 13 February 2026

8.2 Eligibility

To be eligible for the NSW Regional Architecture Awards, your project must be located in the state of NSW, and be located outside of Greater Sydney.

8.3 Additional Material

Following completion of your online entry, please submit the following to the ACT Chapter.

Consent Forms	It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that all relevant Copyright Consent Forms are signed and uploaded as part of their submission to the online entry system. These forms are available on the Institute Awards webpage.
COMPULSORY	
Due Tuesday, 30 September 2025 11:59pm AEST via online entry system	

8.4 Awards in NSW Regional Division Awards

National Awards Category	Regional Named Award	Chapter Architecture Award	Chapter Commendation
Public Architecture	Named Award for Public Architecture (NSW Regional)	Award for Public Architecture (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Public Architecture (NSW Regional)
Educational Architecture	Named Award for Educational Architecture (NSW Regional)	Award for Educational Architecture (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Educational Architecture (NSW Regional)
Residential Architecture – Houses (New)	Named Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (New) (NSW Regional)	Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (New) (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (New) (NSW Regional)
Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)	Named Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions) (NSW Regional)	Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions) (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions) (NSW Regional)
Residential Architecture – Multiple Housing	Named Award for Residential Architecture – Multiple Housing (NSW Regional)	Award Residential Architecture – Multiple Housing (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Residential Architecture – Multiple Housing (NSW Regional)
Commercial Architecture	Named Award for Commercial Architecture (NSW Regional)	Award for Commercial Architecture (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Commercial Architecture (NSW Regional)
Heritage	Named Award for Heritage (NSW Regional)	Award for Heritage (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Heritage (NSW Regional)

Interior Architecture	Named Award for Interior Architecture (NSW Regional)	Award for Interior Architecture (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Interior Architecture (NSW Regional)
Urban Design	Named Award for Urban Design (NSW Regional)	Award for Urban Design (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Urban Design (NSW Regional)
Small Project Architecture	Named Award for Small Project Architecture (NSW Regional)	Award for Small Project Architecture (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Small Project Architecture (NSW Regional)
Sustainable Architecture	Named Award for Sustainable Architecture (NSW Regional)	Award for Sustainable Architecture (NSW Regional)	Commendation for Sustainable Architecture (NSW Regional)

** Due to the recent introduction of Named Awards into the NSW Regional Program, Names will be introduced slowly and may be introduced after the point of this handbook's release, pending ratification of Chapter and National Council.*

8.5 NSW Regional Specific Awards and Prizes

The following do not progress to the State Architecture Awards

Award/Prize	Description	Entry instructions and fee
Regional Medallion	The highest honour awarded by the Regional Award Jury chairs. All Regional Named Awards can be considered for this award.	Fee: N/A
James Barnet Award	An Award given to a regional architect practicing in the North division whose project displays architectural excellence.	Fee: N/A Entry: All projects entered online through Award Force will be considered, provided they are completed by a regional architect based in the North Division
Named Central Award	An Award given to a regional architect practicing in the Central division whose project displays architectural excellence. <i>The eponym for this Prize is yet to be decided</i>	Fee: N/A Entry: All projects entered online through Award Force will be considered, provided they are completed by a regional architect based in the Central division
Named Southern Award	An Award given to a regional architect practicing in the South division whose project displays architectural excellence. <i>The eponym for this Prize is yet to be decided</i>	Fee: N/A Entry: All projects entered online through Award Force will be considered, provided they are completed by a regional architect based in the South Division
Timber Prize	This prize recognises outstanding architectural work where timber is integral to the project's success	Fee: N/A Entry: All projects entered online through Award Force will be considered
President's Prize for Services to Regional Architecture	An Award, selected by the NSW Chapter President, awarded to an architect in recognition of their contribution to the regional landscape and/or to the promotion, celebration, and service to the regions.	Fee: N/A Entry: There is no entry for this Award. Award is at the discretion of the President

8.6 NSW Regional Divisions

The NSW Regional Awards (now comprising the retired Newcastle Awards and Country Division Awards) encompass projects with addresses located in the state of NSW that are outside of the Greater Sydney boundary. Within the single awards program, entries will be judged according to a geographic division, by a specific jury appointed to said division. Each division will hold its own Jury Presentations, have its own Site Visit Schedule, and have its own Commendations, Awards, and – in some instances – division specific Prizes. The division Jury Chairs will meet to

decide a single Named Award for each relevant category, with only one Named Award selected from all combined divisions (see [2. Overview of Awards](#) for more information).

The 2026 Regional Award Divisions will be broken into North, Central, and South Divisions, with the boundaries drawn to balance entry numbers across the state.

The NSW Chapter, in consultation with the Regional Committee, and the NSW Awards Working Group, will publish the division boundaries annually, before entries are officially opened. These groups reserve the right to change boundaries to reflect trends in entry numbers and locations both annually and following the entries close period.

The boundaries will be detailed on the [Regional Awards webpage](#).

8.7 NSW Regional Judging Process

The NSW Regional Awards has multiple juries, each responsible for a geographic division within the state. All juries include a Jury Chair and are overseen by an overarching Chair of Juries, who will be instated before Regional Award Entries Open, and serve through to the duration of the State Architecture Awards of the same season.

Jury 1	North Division
Jury 2	Central Division
Jury 3	South Division

8.8 Jury selection process

- The Jury Chair of Chairs is appointed by the Chapter President in consultation with the NSW Chapter, and the NSW Awards Working Group. The Jury Chair of Chairs should have served as a Jury Chair in at least one previous State Awards Jury, **and** should – at minimum – have an understanding of the specificity of regional architecture, or have also served as a Jury Chair in at least one previous Regional Awards Jury.
- Regional Awards Jurors are appointed by the Chapter President, following recommendations made by the NSW Awards Working Group, in consultation with designated members of the NSW Regional Committee.
- Juries shall reflect the make-up of the profession with a diversity of experience and, in the instance of the Regional Awards, efforts will be made to ensure each Jury has at least 50% Regional representation.
- All jurors are selected after a call for EOIs from the membership, apart from guest jurors or lay members. EOI submissions are considered for a period of five years before a re-submission is required.
- The number of positions on each jury is determined by program requirements from year to year. In NSW Regional Awards, each division jury consists of three jurors. In the case where the jury consists of four members, the fourth is intended to be a lay member, media representative or suitable expert.
- The composition of the NSW Regional Awards juries will be announced to the membership prior to the online close of entries date.

8.9 Awards selection process

1. The Awards jurors are appointed to review all entries in their award categories.
2. All entrants are required to present their project to the Awards jury of their relevant division.
3. Each relevant jury will determine a shortlist and select the projects they wish to visit after the presentation.
 - The site visit duration for each shortlisted entry is 30 minutes for small and residential projects, and 45 minutes for larger projects. This is dependent on the particular Jury site visit schedule. Some projects may have a longer time slot allocated due to accessibility.
 - The site visit schedule will be issued by the NSW Chapter. Entrants are required to coordinate with their team and client/s and the Chapter cannot accommodate requests for changes in times and dates
 - It is expected that the majority of jury members will visit each project.
4. Following site visits and further deliberation, each jury will determine the commended and awarded projects for their region, while each Jury Chair, along with the Chair of Chairs will meet to determine the Named Award and Prize winners.

8.10 Progression

Named Award winners are invited to progress to the NSW State Awards, where they will receive automatic shortlisting in their category. Projects that received Awards are also invited to progress (some may also receive notations of Special Merit by the jury), however they must be selected to be shortlisted via the relevant state awards juries, alongside all other state award entrants.

Any project invited to progress will be invited to edit their award entry before it is submitted into the State Awards, and will be required to pay the difference in entry fees from Regional to State awards.

All progressing projects – regardless of automatic shortlisting – will be required to participate in the State Awards Presentations to Jury.

Contact

NSW Chapter

Tusculum, 3 Manning Street, Potts Point NSW 2011

nsw@architecture.com.au

9. Frequently Asked Questions

1. I am a member of the Institute and I am the Principal of the practice entering the awards. I am an architect but not registered in the required State of entry. The project architect is registered in the required State of entry, but is not the Principal of the practice. Should the entry be made under my name or the project architects name?

The entry should be made under your name as the principal; but you will also need to be registered in the relevant State or Territory of entry.

2. I am an architect registered in the relevant State or Territory of entry, and I am a member of the Institute. The organisation I am employed by, and the organisation who the copyright is attributed to, is a Government organisation, a University, or a multidisciplinary design firm. As a result, the “principal” in this instance is not an architect or a member of the Institute. Can this organisation still enter the project in the awards?

Yes, provided that there is a defined unit or division within the organisation that operates as, or like, an architectural practice, and the entrant has responsibility for the operation of that unit. If such a unit does not own the copyright, the entry must be accompanied by a written agreement from the copyright holder stating that the work may be entered for an award.

3. I am a member of the Institute as an employee of an A+ practice, but I would like to enter the Awards under the name of my private practice, for a project undertaken by my private practice. Can I still enter, and do I need to set up my own A+ practice?

Yes you can still enter, provided you meet all three key eligibility criteria, as entry is linked to an individual member number. To gain maximum marketing coverage around your entry, the Institute would strongly encourage you to sign up as an A+ practice as your private practice. Please contact our membership team if you have any questions regarding the benefits of A+ Membership.

4. I am a member of the Institute and I am the principal of the practice entering the awards. I am an architect but not registered in the required State of entry. The local architecture firm we collaborated with is registered in the required State or Territory of entry. Can the entry be made under my name?

If the principal of the local firm is a member and registered in the required State of entry, the entry should be made under their name. If not, either they will need to become a member of the Institute, or you will need to be registered in the State or Territory of entry.

5. I am an architect based in Australia and I am a member of the Institute. I wish to enter a project located in Singapore (or other location) in the International Category. I undertook the project in association with a local Singaporean architecture firm; do I also need to be registered in the country where the project is located?

You will need to ensure that you meet all legal obligations associated with practicing architecture in the country where the project is located. In some countries, associating with a local practice may be sufficient. In others you may need to be registered. Claiming authorship of a project in any location amounts to an acknowledgement that you are practicing architecture in that location.

6. I am an International member of the Institute. I work for a large international architecture firm and I was project architect on an international project that I wish to enter in the architecture awards. The principal of my firm is not a member of the Institute and I am not sure whether they are eligible to become a member. Can the entry be made in my name, or does the principal of my firm need to become a member?

The Principal of the practice responsible for the project must be a member of the Institute.

7. How old can a project be to be entered in the Awards?

There is technically no limit, as long as the project is completed by 31 December in the year preceding the year of judging. Advise the entrant to just bear in mind that the majority of entries the project would be competing against will have been completed in the last couple of years, so this is something to be considered when deciding whether to enter the project or not.

8. I am a graduate and have completed an urban design project that I would like to enter in the Awards, how do I do this?

Unfortunately, you cannot. Entry to all categories in the Institute's Awards program is limited to registered architects.

9. My project was entered and shortlisted in a previous year's Awards; can it be entered in this year's awards?

Yes, provided that the project was not awarded an Architecture Award or Named Award (and therefore did not progress to the National Awards). Projects that were not awarded anything or those that were awarded Commendations can be entered in one future Awards program.

10. Is it possible to get a copy of, or replicate my entry from last year's awards?

Yes, if you are using the same Award Force login, your previous entries should be available. If you are using a different login, contact your Chapter Awards Coordinator and they will be able to provide it for you.

11. The project I would like to enter is a temporary exhibition space, can I still enter this if it is dismantled before the Awards are announced?

Yes you can, but it must be entered in the Small Project Architecture category, as this allows transitional projects that cannot be site visited.

12. My project fits into multiple categories. How do I choose which category to enter?

As a general rule, the project should be entered in the category which is the building's predominant use, however provided the entry material and entry presentation speaks to the category the project is entered in, it can be entered in whichever eligible category you choose, or multiple categories. Projects can be entered in as many categories as entrants choose, but multiple entry fees will apply. Once one entry is completed, entries can be 'copied' on your login page from the 'my entries' section to save time, and then edited to suit. Jurors are required to check for entries that they believe are in unsuitable categories, so there is a check point in place.

13. Can you explain the Small Project category, how big is small?

There is no set answer for this question unfortunately. The Small Project category was introduced to recognise projects that may otherwise be overlooked in other categories, so if the project is either small in budget or small in size, then the project can go in this category. Because of this, projects entered in the Small Project Category cannot be entered any other categories. Also, residential projects of a permanent nature cannot be submitted in the Small Projects Category. Juries are briefed that projects in the Small Project category can differ vastly and are judged accordingly, however if they feel that the project is not small it can be moved by the jury to another category after entries close.

14. I'm an A+ member with a practice, however, have done a project on the side under my own practice. Do I need to be an individual member, or can I enter while being a member under my A+ practice?

Entries are submitted alongside your individual membership details, so yes, you can, provided that you remain a member for the duration of the Awards program (if you leave the A+ practice you must arrange payment for your own membership). When you enter, the field 'Practice name for publication' under the 'Practice Team' tab is what will be used as the attribution for the project, so this can be whatever you want it to be.

15. My project received an Award / Named Award at the Chapter Architecture Awards. What now?

Congratulations! Your project/s will now be considered by the National Jury.

First the National Jury will determine a shortlist of projects which they will then visit across a two-week period in July/August of the same year. The National Jury determines its shortlist of projects to be visited based solely on the entry material supplied via the online entry system. Entrants do not have an opportunity to present to the National Jury prior to the shortlist being determined.

Please note that all projects awarded Named Awards and Architecture Awards by Chapters progress to be considered by the National Jury and are considered equally at a National level. The National Jury is unable to visit all eligible projects even if they received a Named Award at Chapter level.

The results of the National Architecture Awards will then be announced at the 2025 National Architecture Awards event which is held on the first Thursday of November in the same year.

16. My project received a Named Award at the Regional Architecture Awards. What now?

Congratulations! Your project, if you choose, will be invited to progress to the State Awards. To have your project progress to the State Awards, you will need to submit a new submission entry and pay an additional fee. A project which received a Named Award will automatically be shortlisted in the category for which it received this honour. You may enter the project into any other relevant categories at your own cost.

You will still be required to present to the jury at the Presentation to Jury week even though the project will be automatically shortlisted. The State jury will also undertake a site visit.

17. My project received an Award at the Regional Architecture Awards. What now?

Congratulations! Your project, if you choose, will be invited to progress to the State Awards. To have your project progress to the State Awards, you will need to submit a new submission entry and pay an additional fee.

While you do not receive automatic shortlisting, the Regional Jury may select to provide a Notation of Special Merit to the State Jury.

You will still be required to present to the jury at the Presentation to Jury week. If the State jury shortlists your project, you will receive a site visit.

18. My practice is based in metro Sydney but I have a project in the catchment of the Regional Awards. Can I enter the Regional Awards?

Yes!

19. I have already entered into the NSW Awards. Can I enter into the Regional Awards?

Yes, provided you did not win an Award or Named Award in the NSW Awards and you have not previously entered the project in two of the National Award programs.