



**n e c a**

**AWARDS  
2026**

**Excellence and Small Business  
Submission Guide**



national  
electrical and  
communications  
association

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## NECA Apprentice Awards Guide

[Click here to view the 2026 Apprentice Awards Submission Guide](#)

# About the Awards



## A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

The NECA Awards are the electrical and communications industry's highest accolade and one of the most prestigious awards programs in Australia.

These awards recognise outstanding achievement across the industry nationally.

Entering the Awards program provides an opportunity for your company to be acknowledged for outstanding commitment to excellence and professionalism.



## SUBMISSION DATES:

### **NECA Awards**

**(ACT, TAS, NSW, QLD, WA)**

Submissions Open - Monday, 12 January 2026

Submissions Close - See page 4

### **NECA Awards**

**(SA/NT and VIC)**

Submissions Open - Monday, 2 February 2026

Submissions Close - See page 4

# Awards Presentation Event Dates



The NECA Awards are open to all NECA members and their apprentices. The NECA Awards celebrate achievements across the entire industry through three dedicated awards programs:

- NECA Apprentice Awards
- NECA Small Business Awards
- NECA Excellence Awards

The submissions are judged at a state level, with each state hosting a gala event between July and September. State winners then progress to the National Awards.

**Queensland** | Friday, 17 July 2026

**Western Australia** | Friday, 31 July 2026

**Tasmania** | Friday, 7 August 2026

**Victoria** | Friday, 28 August 2026

**New South Wales** | Friday, 4 September

**South Australia / Northern Territory** | Friday, 11 September 2026

**Australian Capital Territory** | Friday, 18 September 2026

**National Awards** | Friday, 20 November 2026

# Important Dates



## INTERVIEW DATES

The dates below indicate the periods during which interview consultations will be scheduled.

A NECA representative will be in touch to confirm the exact date and time following the submission closing date, but please mark your calendar with this indicative timeframe so that you can ensure a suitable team representative will be available to attend.

### QLD

Submission closing date: Friday 1 May 2026

Interview schedule: from Monday 11 May - Friday 5 June 2026

### TAS

Submission closing date: Friday 1 May 2026

Interview schedule: from Monday 11 May - Friday 5 June 2026

### WA

Submission closing date: Friday 1 May 2026

Interview schedule: from Monday 11 May - Friday 5 June 2026

### NSW

Submission closing date: Friday 1 May 2026

Interview schedule: from Monday 18 May- Friday 12 July 2026

### ACT

Submission closing date: Friday 1 May 2026

Interview schedule: from Monday 18 May- Friday 12 July 2026

### VIC

Submission closing date: Friday 29 May 2026

Interview schedule: Monday 1 June - Friday 26 June 2026

### SA/NT

Submission closing date: Friday 5 June 2026

Interview schedule: Monday 15 June - Friday 10 July 2026

# Step-by-Step Guide



1

Create a log in to the NECA Awards platform and read through the category criteria and submission requirements.

**CLICK HERE** to access the NECA Awards platform or visit:  
<https://necaawards.awardsplatform.com>

If you are participating in the awards for the first time in 2026 or are using the awards platform for the first time, please register your account to begin.

If you created an account last year, you will be able to use the same login details.

2

**Obtain your client's permission** to participate in the NECA Awards, including the use of project images as part of the submission.

3

Start to collate your submission content, testimonials, images and video. You may wish to consider these items in the early stages of your submission.

**IMAGE NOTES:** You will have the opportunity to upload supporting images throughout the submission that can illustrate certain aspects of the submission/project installation or particular challenges.

In addition, you will be required to upload 10-20 high resolution images (directly to the portal) showing the submission/project in its completed stage. These high resolution images will be used to create the multimedia videos for the awards presentation event.

**VIDEO NOTES:** You have the opportunity to upload a short (max 5 minutes) video to support your submission. This video is not compulsory and is not judged on the professionalism or editing of the footage - smart phone device footage is acceptable.

4

Upload all the required content and supporting documents to the portal before the closing date. Please check the closing dates and mark your calendar as there are strictly no extensions to the submission timeframe (including submission / project images).

5

Immediately following the closing date, judges will be given access to the online portal to begin reviewing your submission.

You will then be contacted to schedule your site inspection or interview. Indicative dates for site inspections and interviews can be found on the previous page of this Submission Guide.

You will need to be available at your designated site inspection / interview time. If you are unable to attend, you will need to nominate a suitable replacement who can answer questions about the project. It is your responsibility to arrange (in advance) access to the site and ensure that either yourself (or a suitable representative) is there to meet the judges at the agreed time and day.

6

Book your tickets to your state's awards presentation event!

## HINTS:

- All fields except those marked as 'optional' in the portal must be answered for your submission to be valid.
- Answers given must specifically relate to the category that you are entering, avoid copy/pasting if you are entering multiple categories for the same project as you may be penalised in the scoring.
- A project can be entered into a maximum of 2 categories only (with the exception of the Innovation Award).

# Small Business Awards Categories



## CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

### Emerging Small Business



A small business employing less than 10 technical employees, demonstrating a wide range of skills and excellence in electrical installation and/or service. A Recognition Award for **first time entrants during their first five years of business.**

### Small Contracting Business of the Year



A small business employing less than 10 technical employees, demonstrating a wide range of skills and excellence in electrical installation and/or service.

### Small Business Project of the Year



A small business employing less than 10 technical employees. The project may have been commercial, domestic or industrial, which through its delivery has exceeded the expectations of the client and community.

A woman in a red dress stands at a podium on a stage, smiling. Behind her is a large blue backdrop with the text "neca SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS 2026" in white. The backdrop also features a large gold star graphic on the right side.

neca  
SMALL BUSINESS  
AWARDS  
2026

# Emerging Small Business

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### Emerging Small Business

A small business employing less than 10 technical employees, demonstrating a wide range of skills and excellence in electrical installation and/or service. A Recognition Award for **first time entrants during their first five years of business.**

**Section 1** - Contact Information

**Section 2** - Essential Business Details

**Section 3** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

**Section 4** - Examples of Success (see below)

**Section 5** - Testimonials

**Section 6** - Media Images

**Section 7** - Media Statement

**Section 8** - Site / Project Video (optional)

**Section 9** - Confirmation page

### Evidence of Excellence:

#### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

In this section we want to learn about your business, how you started and where you are going.

#### TRAINING

In this section we would like to understand your approach to training and why it would make your business stand out as a leader in the industry.

#### CULTURE

In this section we want to learn about your business' people and culture.

#### WHS

In this section we want to learn about how you approach WHS in your workplace.

### Examples of Success:

In this section we'd like to hear about your successes. Briefly outline the following:

- How you define success
- Up to 5 examples of projects that have been important for your business and what made them successful.



# Small Contracting Business of the Year

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### **Small Contracting Business of the Year**

A small business employing less than 10 technical employees, demonstrating a wide range of skills and excellence in electrical installation and/or service.



**Section 1** - Contact Information

**Section 2** - Essential Business Details

**Section 3** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

**Section 4** - Examples of Success (see below)

**Section 5** - Testimonials

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**Section 9** - Confirmation page

### Evidence of Excellence:

#### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

In this section we want to learn about your business, how you started and where you are going.

#### **TRAINING**

In this section we would like to understand your approach to training and why it would make your business stand out as a leader in the industry.

#### **CULTURE**

In this section we want to learn about your business' people and culture.

#### **WHS**

In this section we want to learn about how you approach WHS in your workplace.

### Examples of Success:

In this section we'd like to hear about your successes. Briefly outline the following:

- How you define success
- Up to 5 examples of projects that have been important for your business and what made them successful.

# Small Business Project of the Year

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### **Small Business Project of the Year**

A small business employing less than 10 technical employees. The project may have been commercial, domestic or industrial, which through its delivery has exceeded the expectations of the client and community.



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**Section 4** - Testimonials (optional)

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**Section 8** - Confirmation page

### Evidence of Excellence:

#### **COMMERCIAL FACTORS**

Describe in 300 words or less, the key/outstanding commercial initiatives your company implemented, and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### **TECHNICAL & INNOVATION**

Describe in 300 words or less, the significant/exceptional technical and/or innovative initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT**

Describe in 300 words or less, the most substantial and noteworthy sustainability and/or environmentally friendly initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project an Excellence Award entry.

#### **QUALITY**

Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant and noteworthy quality initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### **MANAGEMENT**

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important and meaningful management initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### **WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant WHS initiatives your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### **TRAINING**

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important training initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

# Excellence Awards Categories



## **1. Leaders in Diversity (Business)**

A recognition award for businesses who are industry leaders in diversity and inclusion, with demonstrated actions, policies or strategies that have resulted in positive diversity-related outcomes.

## **2. Women in Energy (Individual)**

A recognition award for an individual who is championing change for women in the electrical and communications industry. Their demonstrated actions and efforts have resulted in positive outcomes for women in their business and/or the wider industry community. (Open to all genders)

## **3. Innovation**

A custom designed and produced service, product, tool, system, technology (or similar) that required outstanding problem-solving, innovation and creativity. This innovation may be a physical product, digital platform/system or any other format - but must be directly relatable to the electrical/communications industry or specifically designed to support an electrical/communications project or business.

## **4. Work Health & Safety – Excellence in Action**

Recognition for companies who have demonstrated an 'above and beyond' commitment to Health and Safety management within their business and/or for major innovative new hazard controls, safety improvements or safety solutions.

## **5. Domestic Residence**

A single residence project in the domestic sector (as described in AS/NZS 3000, clause 1.4.53) where the contractor has worked with the homeowner and/or designer to deliver an electrical installation of outstanding quality and use of technology.

## **6. Lighting Design & Installation**

A commercial, industrial, residential, hospitality, retail, entertainment or sports project of any value, where the applicant's influence on lighting resulted in a higher or improved creative and aesthetic design, and/or technical excellence than the original design or concept.

## **7. Sustainable Energy**

A project where the applicant's direct and proactive influence on design, product selection, lighting, processes or technologies resulted in a substantially improved and more sustainable energy efficient installation than the original design or concept.

## **8. Voice/Data Communications & Audio Visual**

An information, voice/data, communications & audio-visual project of any contract value, where the applicant's influence on the project resulted in a higher or improved level of performance and technical excellence than the original design or concept.

## **9. Industrial Projects**

An industrial project which may also include, but is not limited to, undertakings of a civil, mining, high voltage, manufacturing or process nature. Projects are categorised by contract value as outlined below:

Industrial Small - < \$2 million  
Industrial Large - \$2 - \$20 million  
Industrial X-Large - > \$20 million

## **10. Commercial Projects**

A commercial project may include multiple domestic and residential electrical installations (as described in AS/NZS 3000 clauses 1.4.54 and 1.4.55). Projects are categorised by contract value as outlined below:

Commercial X-Small - < \$1 million  
Commercial Small - \$1 - \$3 million  
Commercial Medium - \$3 - \$10 million  
Commercial Large - \$10 - \$25 million  
Commercial X-Large - > \$25 million

# Leaders in Diversity

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### **Leaders in Diversity (business applicant)**

A recognition award for businesses who are industry leaders in diversity and inclusion, with demonstrated actions, policies or strategies that have resulted in positive diversity-related outcomes.

**Section 1** - Contact Information

**Section 2** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

**Section 3**- Testimonials (optional)

**Section 4** - Media Images

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**Section 7** - Confirmation page

### Evidence of Excellence:

#### **INTRODUCE YOUR BUSINESS**

(max 400 words)

- Provide a general overview of your company/organisation, a description of your team, recent projects (if applicable) and any other details that are contextually relevant.

#### **WHY DOES DIVERSITY MATTER?**

(max 400 words)

- When it comes to diversity, people have varied ideas about what diversity is and how we can achieve it. Tell us what diversity means in your organisation.
- What motivated you and your management team (if relevant) to make diversity-related changes within your business?
- Why do you believe diversity matters in the electrical industry?

#### **YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

(max 600 words)

- Describe the steps, strategies, actions and/or changes that your business has implemented (big or small) and that have improved diversity in your workplace.

#### **YOUR IMPACT**

(max 400 words)

- Describe the impact that these changes or strategies have had on your business, team, projects, clients, community and/or any other positive outcomes that resulted from your efforts.
- Tell us about any challenges you have overcome and how you overcame them.



# Women in Energy

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### **Women in Energy (individual applicant)**

A recognition award for an individual who is championing change for women in the electrical and communications industry. Their demonstrated actions and efforts have resulted in positive outcomes for women in their business and/or the wider industry community. (Open to all genders)

**Section 1** - Contact Information

**Section 2** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

**Section 3**- Testimonials (optional)

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**Section 7** - Confirmation page

### Evidence of Excellence:

#### **INTRODUCE YOURSELF (OR THE NOMINEE)**

(max 600 words)

- Tell us about yourself (or the nominee). We encourage you to include information about your role in the business, current responsibilities, the organisation you work for, current projects and any other relevant information that you may wish to include.
- Please tell us what motivated you to work in the electrical industry, and what support and/or challenges influenced you during your journey.
- Tell us why championing women in industry is important to you. What motivated you to promote change?

#### **YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

(max 600 words)

Describe how you have been leading the way for women in the electrical industry. This may include;

- Actions you've taken
- Strategies you've initiated or been part of
- Participation in mentoring
- Participation in advisory groups
- Employment initiatives
- Anything else that demonstrates how you are a champion for women in the electrical industry

#### **YOUR IMPACT**

(max 400 words)

- Describe any other outcome(s) that demonstrate the positive impact of your actions for women in the electrical industry.
- Describe the way your contributions have made a difference for other individuals, your workplace, community, clients and/or projects.



# Innovation CRITERIA



## CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

### Innovation

A custom designed and produced service, product, tool, system, technology (or similar) that required outstanding problem-solving, innovation and creativity. This innovation may be a physical product, digital platform/system or any other format - but must be directly relatable to the electrical/communications industry, or specifically designed to support an electrical/communications project or business.



**Section 1** - Contact Information

**Section 2** - General Submission Information

**Section 3** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

**Section 4** - Testimonials (optional)

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### Evidence of Excellence:

#### PROFILE

Describe in less than 300 words, your company profile, with a specific focus on the sector your business operates in. Additionally, provide some context for why an innovative solution was needed.

#### IDEA - THE INNOVATION

In 500 words or less, please describe generally, how the product or service developed is innovative.

#### COMMERCIALISATION

In 500 words or less, describe how your company went from conception to commercialisation.

#### CORPORATE CITIZEN

In 300 words or less, describe how this innovation contributes to being a socially responsible 'Corporate Citizen'.

#### WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR INNOVATION?

Every good idea deserves another. How would winning this award drive your company to continue on the innovation pathway?

# Work Health & Safety

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### **Work Health & Safety - Excellence in Action**

Recognition for companies who have demonstrated an 'above and beyond' commitment to Health and Safety management within their business and/or for major innovative new hazard controls, safety improvements or safety solutions.

**Section 1** - Contact Information

**Section 2** - General Submission Information

**Section 3** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

**Section 4** - Testimonials (optional)

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### Evidence of Excellence:

#### **WHS TECHNICAL OR INNOVATION**

Describe in 300 words or less, the most exceptional or significant technical or WHS innovation initiatives your company has implemented.

#### **WHS SYSTEM**

Please select which WHS System / WHS management plan you have in place (choose from a check box).

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Describe in 300 words or less, the hazard & risk management procedures your company has implemented.

#### **TRAINING**

Describe in 300 words or less, the training processes your company has implemented to improve your WHS outcomes.

#### **WHS COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION**

Describe in 300 words or less, your company's WHS communication and consultation process.

#### **WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE**

Describe in 300 words or less, how your company's safety performance is improving.

#### **MANAGEMENT WHS COMMITMENT**

Describe in 300 words or less, the way your management team demonstrates their commitment to WHS.



# Domestic Residence

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### Domestic Residence

A single residence project in the domestic sector (as described in AS/NZS 3000, clause 1.4.53) where the contractor has worked with the homeowner and/or designer to deliver an electrical installation of outstanding quality and use of technology.

**Section 1** - Contact Information

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**Section 3** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

**Section 4** - Testimonials (optional)

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### Evidence of Excellence:

#### COMMERCIAL FACTORS

Describe in 300 words or less, the key/outstanding commercial initiatives your company implemented, and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### TECHNICAL & INNOVATION

Describe in 300 words or less, the significant/exceptional technical and/or innovative initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Describe in 300 words or less, the most substantial and noteworthy sustainability and/or environmentally friendly initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project an Excellence Award entry.

#### QUALITY

Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant and noteworthy quality initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### MANAGEMENT

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important and meaningful management initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant WHS initiatives your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### TRAINING

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important training initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.



# Lighting Design & Installation

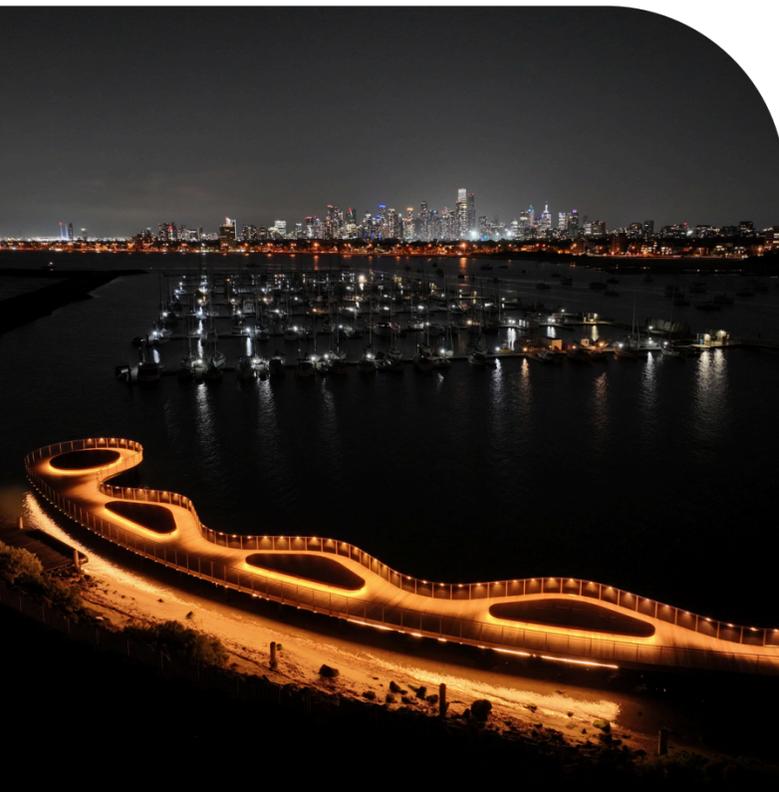
## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### Lighting Design & Installation

A commercial, industrial, residential, hospitality, retail, entertainment or sports project of any value, where the applicant's influence on lighting resulted in a higher or improved creative and aesthetic design, and/or technical excellence than the original design or concept.



**Section 1** - Contact Information

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**Section 4** - Testimonials (optional)

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#### Evidence of Excellence:

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##### MANAGEMENT

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important and meaningful management initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

##### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant WHS initiatives your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

##### TRAINING

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important training initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

##### AESTHETIC DESIGN ACHIEVEMENT

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important aesthetic design initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

# Sustainable Energy

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### **Sustainable Energy**

A project where the applicant's direct and proactive influence on design, product selection, lighting, processes or technologies resulted in a substantially improved and more sustainable energy efficient installation than the original design or concept.



**Section 1** - Contact Information

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#### **Evidence of Excellence:**

##### **COMMERCIAL FACTORS**

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##### **TECHNICAL & INNOVATION**

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Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant and noteworthy quality initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

##### **MANAGEMENT**

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important and meaningful management initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

##### **WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant WHS initiatives your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

##### **TRAINING**

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important training initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

# Voice/Data Communications & Audio Visual CRITERIA



## CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

### Voice/Data Communications & Audio Visual

An information, voice/data, communications & audio-visual project of any contract value, where the applicant's influence on the project resulted in a higher or improved level of performance and technical excellence than the original design or concept.

**Section 1** - Contact Information

**Section 2** - General Submission Information

**Section 3** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

**Section 4** - Testimonials (optional)

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### Evidence of Excellence:

#### COMMERCIAL FACTORS

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#### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant WHS initiatives your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### TRAINING

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important training initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.



# Industrial Projects

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### Industrial Projects:

An industrial project which may include, but is not limited to, undertakings of a civil, mining, high voltage, manufacturing or process nature.

Projects are categorised by contract value as outlined below:

**Industrial Small - < \$2 million**

**Industrial Large - \$2 - \$20 million**

**Industrial X-Large - > \$20 million**



**Section 1** - Contact Information

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**Section 3** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

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### Evidence of Excellence:

#### COMMERCIAL FACTORS

Describe in 300 words or less, the key/outstanding commercial initiatives your company implemented, and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

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#### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

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#### TRAINING

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important training initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

# Commercial Projects

## CRITERIA



### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

#### Commercial Projects

A commercial project which may include multiple domestic and residential electrical installations (as described in AS/NZS 3000 clauses 1.4.54 and 1.4.55). Projects are categorised by contract value as outlined below:

**Commercial X-Small - < \$1 million**

**Commercial Small - \$1 - \$3 million**

**Commercial Medium - \$3 - \$10 million**

**Commercial Large - \$10 - \$25 million**

**Commercial X-Large - > \$25 million**



**Section 1** - Contact Information

**Section 2** - General Submission Information

**Section 3** - Evidence of Excellence (see below)

**Section 4** - Testimonials (optional)

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### Evidence of Excellence:

#### COMMERCIAL FACTORS

Describe in 300 words or less, the key/outstanding commercial initiatives your company implemented, and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### TECHNICAL & INNOVATION

Describe in 300 words or less, the significant/exceptional technical and/or innovative initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Describe in 300 words or less, the most substantial and noteworthy sustainability and/or environmentally friendly initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project an Excellence Award entry.

#### QUALITY

Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant and noteworthy quality initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### MANAGEMENT

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important and meaningful management initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Describe in 300 words or less, the most significant WHS initiatives your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

#### TRAINING

Describe in 300 words or less, the most important training initiatives that your company implemented and that you believe make this project a worthy Excellence Award entry.

# Conditions of Entry



## About the Judging Panel

The judging panel is comprised of a chairperson and experienced electrical industry representatives. They are selected or appointed by the relevant NECA Branch for State/Territory judging, and by NECA National for National judging.

### Note:

- Judging for State/Territory Awards is subject to the same categories, criteria and weightings as for the National Awards.
- The judges and NECA reserve the right to transfer entries into the category they deem more appropriate, to withhold an award in a category if it is deemed the nomination does not meet the requirements or reject incomplete applications. Neither the judges nor NECA will enter into any correspondence regarding the judging process.
- No changes between the original State/Territory entry and the National entry will be accepted.
- The winning State/Territory entry for each category will be entered in the same category for the National Awards.
- Winners of a State/Territory Award will automatically be entered in the National Awards unless the entrant expressly advises (via email) to their State/Territory Branch office, that they do not wish to be entered and judged for a National Award.
- Site inspections and/or interviews (as and if required) will be at State/Territory level only and will be determined by the relevant Branch office.
- National judging is done solely on the online submission and comments/scores from the state judges.

## Conditions of Entry

- Entrants must be current NECA contractor members at the time of entry and throughout the award process.
- At the time of submission, the project needs to be beyond practical completion stage. (Projects must be completed between Jan 2025 - April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026)
- All entries must be completed online via the Awards portal.
- All required questions must be completed for an entry to be valid.
- Entrants must adhere to the criteria of the Awards Category being entered.
- Projects may be entered into a maximum of two categories. Each entry must reflect the specific criteria of the Category, supported by visual evidence specific to that Category (with the exception of the Innovation Award category).
- Entrants must obtain client permission to submit a project. This includes obtaining written permission from the client to use photographs in the entry and gain site access for the purposes of judging where required.
- By entering a project, you give NECA permission to use project details and photographs on the NECA website, magazine, promotional material, social media and media.
- Entrants must clearly identify in their submission, any connection either the project or the entrant (or its Company) has with any NECA Board of Directors or a Branch Council/Committee representative.

## EXCELLENCE AWARDS SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

Entrants may enter the Innovation Award and WHS - Excellence in Action multiple / consecutive years, provided the submission / project / innovation / subject matter is different each time.

## SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

- Entrants may enter Emerging Small Business (first time entrant only) and Small Contracting Business of the Year one time only.
- Entrants may enter Small Business Project of the Year multiple / consecutive years, provided the project is different each time.

To ensure fairness and provide equal opportunity for recognition, previous winners of a merit-based (non-project) award category are not eligible to re-enter for a period of five (5) years from the year of their win.

This applies to the following categories:

- *Small Contracting Business of the Year*
- *Women in Energy*
- *Leaders in Diversity*

## Privacy Policy

Information collected by the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) is protected by the Privacy Act 1988 and NECA's Privacy Policy. Information collected from the submissions is for the purpose of assisting NECA in the award judging process and Awards multimedia presentation material and will not be disclosed to a third party, except where prior written permission is obtained from the individual who supplied the information and to whom the information related. NECA will not retain personal information that is sensitive information. Please contact NECA if you wish to access or correct personal information collected or if you have any queries in regard to information handling procedures.

# Contact Information

## Local Branch Contacts

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**neca**

EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS  
2026



national  
electrical and  
communications  
association