

PMI Australia Project Management Awards 2026

Nominations Handbook

Awards and Assessment Criteria

Table of Content



PMI Australia Project Management Awards 2026

Where Australia's Most Impactful Projects are Recognised

Overview

The PMI Australia Project Awards recognise outstanding individuals, projects, and organisations that have demonstrated excellence in project management and its impact on delivering meaningful outcomes.



These awards celebrate achievements across a range of categories, including Project, PMO, Individual, and Academic contributions. Each category is designed to highlight different aspects of project management excellence, from successful delivery and innovation to leadership, research, and organisational capability.

Submissions are evaluated through a structured and rigorous review process aligned with defined assessment criteria for each award category. These criteria are designed to ensure fairness, consistency, and recognition of impact, quality, and professionalism.



PMI Australia Project Management Awards 2026

Purpose of the Awards

The awards aim to:

- Recognise excellence in project management and delivery
- Celebrate individuals and organisations that create meaningful value through projects
- Showcase innovation, leadership, growth
- Advance the project management profession
- Highlight contributions that positively impact organisations, communities, and the broader profession

Award Categories

Project Awards:

- 2026 Public Sector Project of the Year
- 2026 Construction and Infrastructure Project of the Year
- 2026 Sustainability Project of the Year
- 2026 Engineering and Technology Project of the Year
- 2026 Social Impact Project of the Year

Individual Awards:

- 2026 Project Professional of the Year
- 2026 Emerging Project Professional of the Year

Organisational Award:

- 2026 Project Management Office (PMO) of the Year

Academic Award:

- 2026 Academic Achievement in Project Management



PMI Australia Project Management Awards 2026

Eligibility, Rules and Submission Requirements

Eligibility (Applicable to All Awards)

Submissions are open to individuals, teams, and organisations with a meaningful connection to Australia through their work, practice, or affiliation. Additional eligibility criteria apply to specific award categories (outlined within each section).

Individuals who have failed to comply with PMI policies and procedures, including PMI's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, will have their entries automatically deemed ineligible.

Submission Requirements (Applicable to All Awards)

Each nomination should:

- Completed nomination responses (aligned to the assessment criteria) and submit an evidence pack.
- Provide clear, concise, and evidence-based responses.
- Focus on measurable outcomes, verified results, and specific examples.
- Address each question directly and avoid duplication.
- Align with PMI Culture Values where relevant (Make It Easy, Aim Higher, Be Welcoming, Embrace Curiosity, Together We Can), particularly in how your team collaborated and delivered the outcome.



PMI Australia Project Management Awards 2026

Eligibility, Rules and Submission Requirements

Award Rules & Conditions (Applicable to All Awards)

- Nominations can be submitted multiple times under multiple categories.
- After submission, projects are reviewed for eligibility. If a project is deemed ineligible, the nomination will be declined. Declined nominations cannot be revised or resubmitted during the same award season.
- Nominations that are submitted incomplete, incorrectly formatted, late, or in a language other than English will not be considered.
- PMI will not reimburse any expense for assembling nomination or presentation materials.

Conflict of Interest (Applicable to All Awards)

- Current PMI employees, contractors, and consultants are not eligible to nominate for any award.
- PMI Chapters or any PMI entities may not submit sponsored projects for any of the award.
- Individuals who applied for and accepted or served as evaluators for this award within the last two years are not eligible to submit a nomination.
- Any nomination submitted by an active or recent evaluator will be automatically declined.

To maintain the integrity of the evaluation process, attempts to bypass these requirements will be addressed in accordance with PMI's professional conduct standards.



PMI Australia Project Management Awards 2026

Evidence Pack

You may submit a maximum of 10 pages (pdf) to complement your written responses and support your application.

Examples of this evidence may include:

- Signed charters or acceptance documents
- Baseline vs. actual performance reports
- Benefits or outcome reports
- Risk logs or governance documentation
- Lessons learned or safety records
- Sustainability metrics
- Visual materials such as photos, diagrams, charts, or workflows

Applicants are encouraged to submit:

- A short supporting video, not more than 2 minutes (mov or mp4 format)
- Additional illustrative materials where relevant

Sensitive or proprietary information data may be redacted as long as you provide brief context, so reviewers understand the relevance of the material.

Evidence should enhance -not repeat- your written responses and remain concise for efficient review.



Writing a Strong Award Nomination

How you present the achievements and impact in your submission is critical in making a strong impression on judges. The following tips will help you prepare an effective nomination:

Persuasiveness and Impact

- Ensure your submission addresses the assessment criteria for the award
- Use the evaluation framework to guide your focus on the most important areas
- Clearly describe key achievements and outcomes, including measurable results where possible
- Highlight what makes the nominee, project, or organisation distinctive, using specific examples rather than general statements

Clarity and Conciseness

- Clearly articulate why the submission deserves recognition
- Keep responses focused, structured, and aligned to the criteria
- Present information logically so it is easy for judges to follow
- Use plain language and minimise jargon or acronyms, or explain them where necessary



Key Dates

- **June 2026:** Nomination window opens
- **August 2026:** Nomination deadline
- **October 2026:** Category Finalists announced
- **19 November 2026:** Winners celebrated at the PMI Australia Project Management Awards 2026 event

Submit your nominations early and ensure your nominee meets all eligibility requirements by August 2026.

Questions about the PMI Australia Project Management Awards 2026? Contact pmi.asiapacific@pmi.org



The background of the image is a construction site at dusk or dawn, with a warm, reddish-brown color palette. In the center, two construction workers wearing hard hats are silhouetted against the bright sky. They appear to be working on a structure. In the foreground, the lattice-like structure of a scissor lift is visible, also in silhouette. The overall scene conveys a sense of industrial activity and achievement.

Project Awards

2026 Public Sector Project of the Year

2026 Construction and Infrastructure Project of the Year

2026 Sustainability Project of the Year

2026 Engineering and Technology Project of the Year

2026 Social Impact Project of the Year

Project Awards

Evaluation Framework

To support a clear pathway to PMI Global Awards, all Project Award categories use a consistent six-criterion evaluation structure. While all project submissions are assessed using the same core criteria, each category recognises distinct project contexts and impact areas, which are reflected in the submission content and evaluation.

- Context and Challenge Identification (15%)
- Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception (30%)
- Outcomes, Value and Category Alignment (10%)
- Demonstration of Project Management Excellence (20%)
- Demonstration of PMI Culture Values (10%)
- Overall Project Success (15%)

Note

- For the purposes of this award, the term “project” is used broadly and may also include projects and programs, as defined by PMI standards. This can include projects of any type, from any industry, in public or private sectors.
- The project must demonstrate a clear and meaningful connection to Australia through the work undertaken or the affiliated organisation or project.
- The project must have been completed no more than 18 months before the nomination deadline.
- The Lead Nominator does not require PMI affiliation.



2026 Public Sector Project of the Year

The Public Sector Project of the Year Award recognises the success of a project and the involved project team, for the superior performance and execution of exceptional project management of all project types in the public sector.

Preparing Your Submission

Applicants are encouraged to provide comprehensive, well-structured responses supported by relevant evidence.

Supporting documentation may be included where available (e.g. WBS, organisational charts, schedules, cost curves, diagrams, photos, or videos).

Submissions should address the following areas, which align with the assessment criteria used by judges:

1. Context and Challenge

Describe the project's purpose, scope, and complexity within the public sector context, including governance arrangements, team structure with key roles and responsibilities, and key stakeholders. Detail the unusual conditions, barriers, and challenges faced, and explain the specialised management, team actions, and performance required to address them.

2. Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception

Explain how stakeholders, including government agencies, communities, and beneficiaries, were identified, consulted, and involved throughout the project lifecycle. Detail the engagement and collaboration approaches used, how their input influenced decisions, delivery, and perceived value and outcomes, with evidence of stakeholder or client satisfaction.



2026 Public Sector Project of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

3. Outcomes, Value, and Impact

Provide evidence that the project met or improved on original success criteria for cost, schedule, and quality. Detail measurable outcomes, KPIs, benefits realised, and potential for future benefits. Demonstrate the value delivered and stakeholder satisfaction, particularly in terms of public or community impact, and explain how the project aligns with this award category.

4. Project Management Excellence

Describe how project management practices were effectively applied using the relevant project management method. Highlight the originality and uniqueness of applied techniques and tools, the innovative application of practices or methods, technical aspects of delivery, and how the project contributed to advancing the project management profession.

5. PMI Culture Values

Provide examples of PMI Culture Values demonstrated through behaviours and ways of working, including collaboration, inclusiveness, adaptability, accountability, and continuous improvement. Detail how the team worked together, adapted to challenges, engaged stakeholders, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment.

6. Overall Project Success

Explain why the project should be recognised by demonstrating that it met or exceeded defined success criteria for cost, schedule, quality, benefits realised or projected, and stakeholder satisfaction. Provide evidence such as client/sponsor endorsement, project closure reports, or acceptance documentation. Summarise the project's overall success, impact, contribution to the public sector, and advancement of project management practice.

2026 Public Sector Project of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Context and Challenge The application demonstrates the complexity of the project, unusual conditions, issues and barriers requiring special management, team action and performance.	15%
Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception The project demonstrates effective engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, including government agencies, communities, and beneficiaries. The submission shows how stakeholders were consulted and involved throughout the project lifecycle, and how their input influenced decisions, delivery, and perceived value and outcomes.	30%
Outcomes, Value & Category Alignment The project met or improved on original set success criteria e.g. cost, schedule, quality, benefits realised, potential for realising benefits (in future) and stakeholder satisfaction. The submission demonstrates measurable outcomes and value delivered, particularly in terms of public or community impact.	10%
Demonstration of Project Management Excellence The project demonstrates originality and uniqueness of applied project management techniques (i.e. tools), including innovative application of practices or methods. The project exhibited technical aspects and advancement of the project management profession through effective application of the relevant project management method used.	20%
PMI Culture Values The project demonstrates behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values through its ways of working and stakeholder engagement. Evidence may include how the team worked together, adapted to challenges, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment.	10%
Overall Project Success The project met or exceeded defined success criteria, including cost, schedule, quality, benefits realised (or projected), and stakeholder satisfaction. Evidence such as client/sponsor endorsement, project closure reports, or acceptance documentation should be provided to support achievement of outcomes.	15%

2026 Construction and Infrastructure Project of the Year

The Construction and Infrastructure Project of the Year Award recognises the success of a project and the involved project team, for the superior performance and execution of exceptional project management in delivering complex built environment outcomes.

Preparing Your Submission

Applicants should provide comprehensive, well-structured responses supported by relevant evidence. Supporting documentation may be included where available (e.g. WBS, organisational charts, schedules, cost curves, diagrams, photos, or videos).

Submissions should address the following areas, which align with the assessment criteria used by judges:

1. Context and Challenge

Describe the project's scope, purpose, scale, and complexity, including site conditions, regulatory, environmental or logistical constraints. Detail the unusual conditions, issues and barriers above industry norms that required special management, risk mitigation, team action and performance. Explain the delivery structure with key roles and responsibilities including the Project Manager, and how the project context, constraints, and challenges influenced delivery decisions.

2. Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception

Explain how clients, contractors, and partners collaborated to support delivery, including how alignment across teams and stakeholders and stakeholder input influenced decisions and delivery. Describe how the project advanced the project management profession through capability development in the resource, communication, and stakeholder knowledge areas, and provide evidence of stakeholder satisfaction and perceived value delivered.

2026 Construction and Infrastructure Project of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

3. Outcomes, Value, and Impact

Demonstrate alignment with the objectives of a construction or infrastructure project by providing evidence of fit-for-purpose built environment outcomes delivered. Detail measurable outcomes, tangible and intangible benefits, and explain how the project's outputs align with its intended purpose and deliver value to organisations, communities, or infrastructure users.

4. Project Management Excellence

Describe how the project was managed through the effective and innovative application of project management practices, tools, and methodologies, including governance, planning, risk and issue management, delivery controls, and performance monitoring. Detail coordination across contractors and delivery partners and explain how these applications directly supported successful delivery, managed complexity, and achieved outcomes. Include any improvements or lessons learned applied during delivery.

5. PMI Culture Values

Provide examples of PMI Culture Values demonstrated through behaviours and ways of working, including collaboration across stakeholders, inclusiveness, adaptability in complex environments, accountability, and continuous improvement. Detail how the team worked together, adapted to challenges, engaged stakeholders, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment.



2026 Construction and Infrastructure Project of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

6. Overall Project Success

Explain why the project should be recognised by demonstrating successful delivery against defined success criteria for cost, schedule, quality, and benefits. Provide evidence such as client/sponsor endorsement or project closure documentation to confirm achievement of outcomes and stakeholder satisfaction. Highlight the project's impact, distinctive or innovative approaches used, improvements made during delivery, lessons learned, and contributions to advancing project management practice in construction and infrastructure.



2026 Construction and Infrastructure Project of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Context and Challenge The project demonstrates the complexity of the project, unusual conditions, issues and barriers above industry norms and requiring special management, risk mitigation, team action and performance. The submission clearly articulates the project context, constraints, and challenges, and how these influenced delivery decisions.	15%
Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception The project demonstrates effective engagement and collaboration across stakeholders, including clients, contractors, and delivery partners. The submission shows how stakeholder input influenced decisions and delivery, and how collaboration contributed to successful outcomes, capability development, and advancement of project management practice.	30%
Outcomes, Value & Category Alignment The project demonstrates alignment with the objectives of a construction or infrastructure project, including delivery of fit-for-purpose built environment outcomes. The submission highlights how the project's outputs align with its intended purpose and value to users or stakeholders.	10%
Demonstration of Project Management Excellence Application of governance, planning, risk management, and delivery controls that directly supported successful delivery. This includes the effective and innovative application of project management practices, tools, and methodologies to manage complexity and achieve outcomes.	20%
PMI Culture Values The project demonstrates behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values through its ways of working and stakeholder engagement. Evidence may include how the team worked together, adapted to challenges, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment.	10%
Overall Project Success The project demonstrates successful delivery against defined success criteria, including cost, schedule, quality, and benefits. Evidence such as client/sponsor endorsement or project closure documentation should be provided to confirm achievement of outcomes and stakeholder satisfaction.	15%

2026 Sustainability Project of the Year

The Sustainability Project of the Year Award is presented to an organisation or project that exemplifies the application of project sustainability management to maximise project success. This recognition acknowledges an organisation's sustainability strategy and its alignment with the PMI Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (Responsibility, Respect, Honesty and Fairness) - the ideals we aspire to.

Preparing Your Submission

Applicants should provide comprehensive, well-structured responses supported by relevant evidence. Supporting documentation may be included where available (e.g. WBS, organisational charts, schedules, cost curves, diagrams, photos, or videos).

Submissions should address the following areas, which align with the assessment criteria used by judges:

1. Context and Challenge

Describe the project's purpose, scope, and complexity, including sustainability challenges, constraints, and baseline conditions. Detail the unusual conditions, issues and barriers requiring special management, and team action taken. Explain the significance of the 'status quo' disruption created by the project and the performance achieved in addressing these challenges.

2. Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception

Explain how comprehensively stakeholders, and specifically the primary project beneficiaries and affected communities, were identified, engaged and consulted before, during, and after the project. Detail the methods and frequency of engagement across the project lifecycle.



2026 Sustainability Project of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

3. Outcomes, Value, and Impact

Define the project's intended ESG expected benefits and provide evidence of measurable outcomes achieved, including environmental impacts (energy, emissions, water, waste, biodiversity), economic impacts (business case, whole-of-life cost, local economic contribution), and social impacts. Explain how benefits were defined, tracked, and proven to have been achieved in the submission. Detail how external these impacts are to organisations, communities, or the environment beyond the project owner.

4. Project Management Excellence

Describe the application of governance, planning, risk management, controls, and standards that directly supported successful delivery and tracking of sustainability outcomes. Show how sustainability requirements were embedded into project governance and execution, including KPIs, plans, monitoring, and decision forums. Explain how the team leveraged effective practices, industry standards, and prior experience, and applied innovation, improvements, or lessons learned to improve delivery.

5. PMI Culture Values

Provide examples of behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values demonstrated through the project's ways of working and stakeholder engagement. Include evidence of how the team worked together, adapted to challenges, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment to achieve sustainability outcomes.



2026 Sustainability Project of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

6. Overall Project Success

Explain why the project should be recognised for strong overall success and value beyond traditional measures. Demonstrate delivery performance and realised, or credibly forecast, benefits including sustainability outcomes, adoption/transition, and stakeholder satisfaction. Highlight learning and continuous improvement, including lessons learned from challenges or failures, that strengthened project management practices and sustainability understanding. Describe innovative approaches used and contributions made to organisations, communities, and the advancement of sustainable project management practice.



2026 Sustainability Project of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Context and Challenge: The submission demonstrates the complexity of the project, including sustainability challenges, baseline conditions, constraints, and issues requiring specialised management, and clearly explains how the context influenced delivery.	15%
Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception The project demonstrates meaningful and inclusive engagement of stakeholders, particularly beneficiaries, before, during, and after delivery, and shows how stakeholder input influenced decisions, delivery approach, and perceived value.	30%
Outcomes, Value & Category Alignment (including environmental and economic impact) The submission demonstrates how the project's intended sustainability outcomes, including environmental and economic impacts, were clearly defined, achieved, and evidenced, and how these outcomes align with the objectives of the Sustainability category.	10%
Demonstration of Project Management Excellence The project demonstrates effective application of governance, planning, risk management, and controls to support delivery, including how sustainability requirements were embedded into project execution, monitored, and managed through appropriate tools, practices, and performance tracking (e.g., KPIs, plans, monitoring, decision forums), and how the team leveraged effective practices and prior experience ("standing on the shoulders of giants") to improve delivery.	20%
Demonstration of PMI Culture Values The project demonstrates behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values through its ways of working and stakeholder engagement. Evidence may include how the team worked together, adapted to challenges, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment.	10%

2026 Sustainability Project of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings (cont'd)

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Overall Project Success The extent to which the project reflects strong overall success and value beyond traditional measures. The submission demonstrates delivery performance and realised (or credibly forecast) benefits, including sustainability outcomes, adoption/transition, and stakeholder satisfaction. It also highlights learning and continuous improvement (including lessons learned from challenges/failures) that strengthened project management practices and sustainability understanding.	15%

2026 Engineering and Technology Project of the Year

The Engineering & Technology Project of the Year Award recognises the success of a project and the involved project team, for the superior performance and execution of innovative and exceptional project management delivering measurable business or societal impact

Preparing Your Submission

Applicants should provide comprehensive, well-structured responses supported by relevant evidence. Supporting documentation may be included where available (e.g. WBS, organisational charts, schedules, cost curves, diagrams, photos, or videos).

Submissions should address the following areas, which align with the assessment criteria used by judges:

1. Context and Challenge

Describe the project's purpose, scope, and complexity. Demonstrate the unusual conditions, issues, and barriers requiring special management, the team action taken, and performance achieved. Explain the judicious use of technology applied to address these challenges. Include system or technology context and team structure, supported by drawings, photos, or videos where available.

2. Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception

Explain how stakeholders across technical, business, and user groups were identified, engaged, and aligned throughout the project. Show how stakeholder input shaped delivery decisions, how change and adoption were enabled, and how value perception was created and validated for users, customers, and sponsors. Provide evidence of stakeholder or client satisfaction and demonstrate tangible and intangible benefits delivered.

2026 Engineering and Technology Project of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

3. Outcomes, Value, and Impact

Provide evidence of measurable results and benefits aligned to the intent of an engineering or technology initiative. Demonstrate improvements in performance, reliability, productivity, and business impact, including technical or operational improvements and user impact. Show how innovative approaches contributed to enhanced outcomes. Include performance against cost, schedule, and quality where relevant.

4. Project Management Excellence

Describe the effective and innovative application of relevant project management methods, standards, practices, tools, techniques, and technologies used to manage complexity. Include governance, planning, risk and issue management, integration of technical and delivery teams, performance monitoring, and the application of methodologies. Detail any innovations, improvements, or lessons learned applied during delivery.

5. PMI Culture Values

Provide examples of behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values demonstrated through the project's ways of working and stakeholder engagement. Include evidence of how the team worked together across technical and business teams, adapted to challenges in complex or evolving environments, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment to achieve outcomes. Highlight accountability and continuous improvement where demonstrated.



2026 Engineering and Technology Project of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

6. Overall Project Success

Explain why the project should be recognised for meeting or improving on original success criteria including cost, schedule, quality, benefits realised or credibly forecast, and stakeholder satisfaction. Provide measurable proof of outcomes and evidence such as endorsement letters or acceptance/closure reports. Demonstrate success beyond delivery metrics through adoption, scalability, and sustained value. Highlight distinctive or innovative approaches, impact, and contributions to engineering, technology, and the advancement of project management practice, including improvements to methods and lessons learned.



2026 Engineering and Technology Project of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Context and Challenge The application demonstrates unusual conditions, issues and barriers requiring special management, team action, performance and the judicious use of technology.	15%
Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception The project demonstrates strong engagement and alignment across technical, business, and user stakeholders. The submission shows how stakeholder input shaped delivery decisions, how change/adoption was enabled, and how value perception was created and validated for users/customers/sponsors.	30%
Outcomes, Value & Category Alignment The project demonstrates measurable results and benefits aligned to the intent of an engineering or technology initiative. This includes improvements in performance, reliability, productivity, or business impact, including where innovative approaches contributed to enhanced outcomes.	10%
Demonstration of Project Management Excellence The project demonstrates effective application of the relevant project management methods and standards. This includes the effective and innovative application of project management practices, tools, techniques, and technologies to manage complexity, address technical challenges, and achieve successful outcomes.	20%
PMI Culture Values The project demonstrates behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values through its ways of working and stakeholder engagement. Evidence may include how the team worked together, adapted to challenges, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment.	10%
Overall Project Success The project met or improved on original set success criteria (e.g., cost, schedule, quality, benefits realised or credibly forecast, stakeholder satisfaction). Evidence may include endorsement letters, acceptance/closure reports, and measurable proof of outcomes. This criterion reflects success beyond delivery metrics where relevant (e.g., adoption, scalability, sustained value).	15%

2026 Social Impact Project of the Year

The Social Impact Project of the Year Award recognises a project or initiative that addresses a defined social need by improving quality of life, equity, or community well-being through effective project delivery and measurable, positive outcomes.

Preparing Your Submission

Applicants should provide comprehensive, well-structured responses supported by relevant evidence. Supporting documentation may be included where available (e.g. WBS, organisational charts, schedules, cost curves, diagrams, photos, or videos).

Submissions should address the following areas, which align with the assessment criteria used by judges:

1. Context and Challenge

Describe the project's purpose, objectives, and the defined social need addressed. Explain the baseline context, including scale and complexity of the environment, and clearly identify the primary beneficiaries or communities involved. Detail why the need mattered in this context and outline key constraints requiring specialised management or coordination. Include governance arrangements and project team structure where relevant.

2. Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception

Explain how stakeholders and affected communities were meaningfully and inclusively engaged before, during, and after delivery. Show how beneficiary and community input shaped decisions, delivery, and trade-offs, and how value was perceived and validated by those impacted. Provide evidence of stakeholder or beneficiary satisfaction, including endorsements from sponsors, partners, or community representatives, and reports validating outcomes.

2026 Social Impact Project of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

3. Outcomes, Value, and Impact

Provide evidence of achievement of measurable social outcomes aligned to the Social Impact category, including improvements in quality of life, equity, access, well-being, or social resilience. Explain how impact was defined, measured, and evidenced, and show how outcomes reflect the intent of a social impact project. Detail the value delivered to communities or stakeholders and how the project advanced equity, improved access, or strengthened resilience in a community-driven manner.

4. Project Management Excellence

Describe the application of governance, planning, risk management, controls, and standards that directly supported successful delivery of social impact outcomes. Explain how project management practices enabled coordination across partners, managed constraints and risks, ensured responsible delivery, and sustained focus on outcomes. Include performance monitoring and detail any innovation, improvements, or lessons learned applied during delivery.

5. PMI Culture Values

Provide examples of behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values demonstrated through the project's ways of working and stakeholder engagement. Include evidence of how the team worked together with communities, adapted to challenges in complex social environments, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment. Highlight inclusiveness, accountability, and commitment to delivering positive social impact where demonstrated.



2026 Social Impact Project of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

6. Overall Project Success

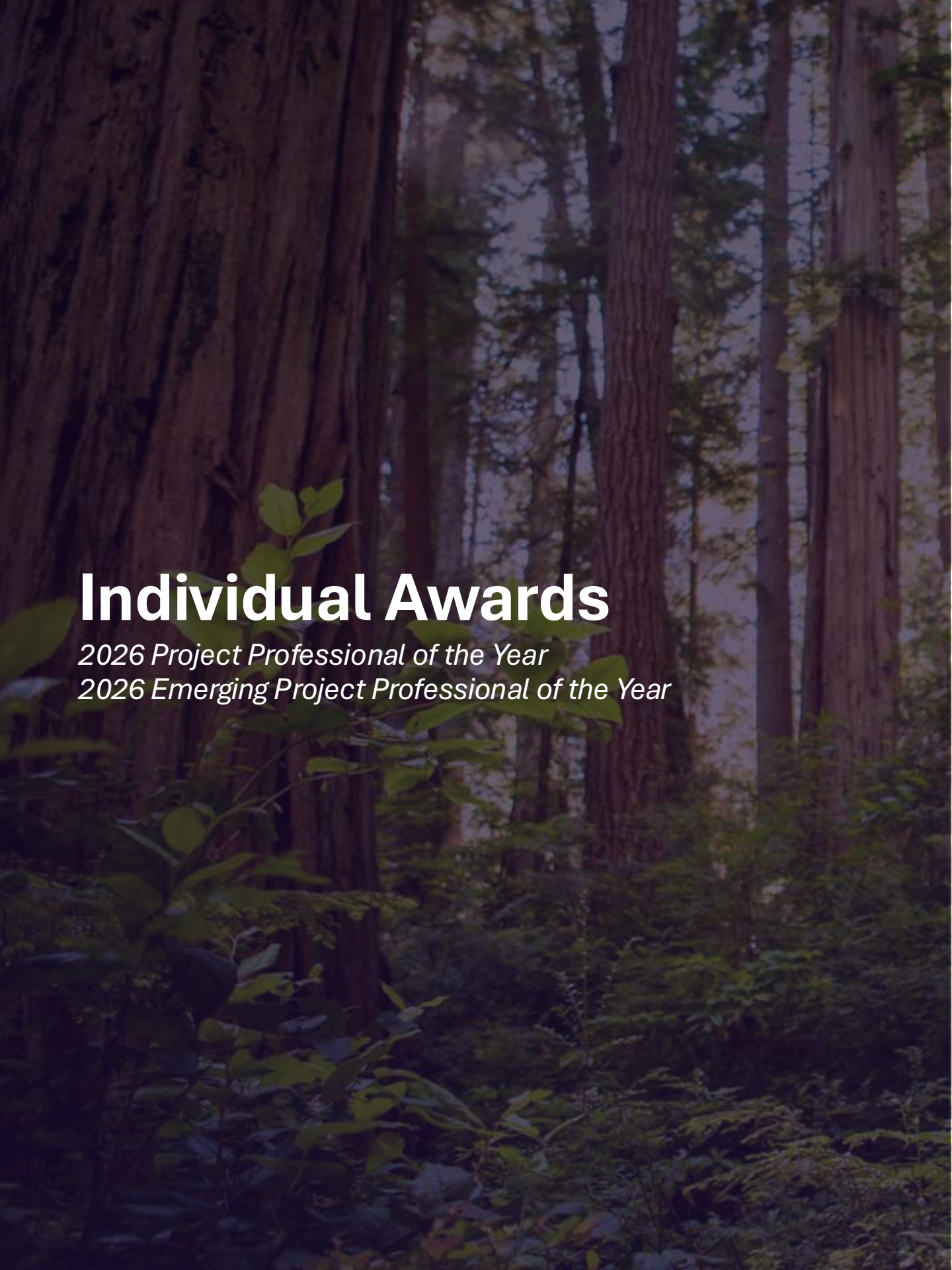
Explain why the project should be recognised for demonstrating success beyond scope, schedule, and cost by delivering value worth the effort and investment, especially sustained social benefit. Provide evidence including outcomes reports, beneficiary feedback, endorsement letters, or acceptance/closure documentation confirming results and satisfaction. Describe the sustainability of impact through continued benefit, handover, ongoing capability, or scalability. Highlight overall success, contribution to communities, and advancement of socially responsible project management practice.



2026 Social Impact Project of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Context and Challenge: Clarity of the project purpose, objectives, constraints, baseline context, and the defined social need addressed. The submission clearly identifies who the primary beneficiaries/communities are and why the need mattered, including the scale and complexity of the context in which social impact was delivered.	15%
Stakeholder Engagement and Value Perception Demonstrates meaningful and inclusive engagement of stakeholders and affected communities before, during, and after delivery. The submission shows how beneficiary/community input shaped decisions, delivery, trade-offs, and how value was perceived and validated by those impacted.	30%
Outcomes, Value & Category Alignment: Achievement of measurable social outcomes aligned to the Social Impact category (e.g., improved quality of life, equity, access, well-being, or social resilience). The submission shows how impact was defined, measured, and evidenced, and how outcomes reflect the intent of a social impact project.	10%
Demonstration of Project Management Excellence: Application of governance, planning, risk management, controls, and standards that directly supported successful delivery of social impact outcomes. The submission explains how project management practices enabled coordination across partners, managed constraints/risks, ensured responsible delivery, and sustained focus on outcomes.	20%
Demonstration of PMI Culture Values: The project demonstrates behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values through its ways of working and stakeholder engagement. Evidence may include how the team worked together, adapted to challenges, and fostered a positive and inclusive delivery environment.	10%
Overall Project Success The project demonstrates success beyond scope, schedule, and / or cost by delivering value worth the effort and investment, especially sustained social benefit. Evidence may include outcomes reports, beneficiary feedback, endorsement letters, or acceptance/closure documentation confirming results and satisfaction. The submission should describe sustainability of impact (continued benefit, handover, ongoing capability, or scalability).	15%



Individual Awards

2026 Project Professional of the Year

2026 Emerging Project Professional of the Year

Individual Awards

Evaluation Framework

Individual Awards are tailored by category but align to PMI Global Awards principles, with a consistent focus on measurable outcomes, leadership, and professional contribution:

- Project Contributions & Measurable Outcomes (30%)
- Leadership & Influence (20%)
- Professional & Community Engagement (20%)
- Growth & Development (15%)
- Embodiment of PMI Values (15%)

Note

- The Lead Nominator for a nominee must be a PMI member in good standing.
- Self-nomination is permitted for candidates with a PMI membership in good standing.
- The nominee must demonstrate a clear and meaningful connection to Australia through their work or affiliated organisation or project.



2026 Project Professional of the Year

The Project Professional of the Year recognises an individual project professional who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and contribution to the success of projects and teams, with measurable outcomes and evidence of strong project management practice.

Preparing Your Submission

Submissions should be clear, structured, and supported by relevant evidence where available. Supporting documentation such as endorsement letters or project closure reports is required to substantiate the nomination.

Submissions should address the following areas, which align with the assessment criteria used by judges:

1. Project Contributions and Measurable Outcomes

Describe the nominee's most significant project or program achievements, demonstrating that performance was significant in nature. Provide measurable outcomes and impact with supporting evidence, including benefits delivered, value created, and performance against key indicators. Explain how the project or program was delivered according to the criteria set by the methodology used and how the nominee met or exceeded client expectations. Include demonstration of strong knowledge and application of project management theory, standards, practices, tools, techniques, and methodologies to achieve successful outcomes.



2026 Project Professional of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

2. Leadership and Influence

Explain how the nominee demonstrated strong leadership and initiative in creating a productive environment to work in, with the drive and impetus to make things happen. Describe how they balanced technical and management skills while juggling different views, perspectives, backgrounds, and personalities. Show how they maintained focus to ensure their team's performance was optimised and the project's objectives were met, including decision-making and stakeholder alignment in complex environments.

3. Professional and Community Engagement

Describe the nominee's active contribution to the advancement of the project management profession that extends beyond their immediate project role. Include engagement in professional communities such as PMI chapters, knowledge sharing, mentoring, volunteering, and contributions to industry initiatives. Highlight organisational initiatives only where they demonstrate broader impact on the profession.

4. Growth and Development

Provide evidence of the nominee's commitment to continuous professional development, including the pursuit of knowledge, certifications, training, or stretch opportunities. Show how the nominee has developed their capabilities and applied learning to improve their effectiveness in project delivery, linking specific development activities to successful outcomes.

5. Embodiment of PMI Culture Values

Provide examples of behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values demonstrated through the nominee's actions, leadership style, and professional conduct. Show how these values are reflected in their work and interactions with others, including collaboration in delivering project outcomes where demonstrated.

2026 Project Professional of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

6. Overall Professional Excellence and Recognition

Explain why the nominee should be recognised as Project Professional of the Year. Summarise their most significant contributions, sustained professional impact, influence on others, and advancement of the project management profession. Describe how their achievements represent excellence beyond their immediate role and why they are a role model for others in the profession.



2026 Project Professional of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Project Contributions & Measurable Outcomes The achievement/performance was significant in nature. This may include: • The nominee has delivered significant achievements with measurable outcomes and impact, supported by measurable outcomes and evidence where applicable. • Delivered the project/program according to the criteria set by the methodology used, met or exceeded clients' expectations.	30%
Leadership & Influence The achievement demonstrates leadership. This may include: • The nominee demonstrates strong leadership and initiative while creating a productive environment to work in, as well as the drive and impetus to make things happen. • Balanced technical and management skills, juggling different views and perspectives, backgrounds and personalities. • Maintained focus ensuring their team's performance is optimised and the project's objectives are met.	20%
Professional & Community Engagement The nominee demonstrates active contribution to the advancement of the project management profession. This may include: • Engagement in professional communities (e.g. PMI chapters), knowledge sharing, mentoring, volunteering. • Contributing to industry initiatives that extend beyond their immediate project role.	20%
Growth & Development The nominee demonstrates a commitment to continuous professional development, including the pursuit of knowledge, certifications, training, or stretch opportunities. The submission should show how the nominee has developed their capabilities and applied learning to improve their effectiveness in project delivery.	15%
Embodiment of PMI Culture Values The nominee demonstrates behaviours aligned with PMI Culture Values through their actions, leadership style, and professional conduct. The submission should provide examples of how these values are reflected in their work and interactions with others.	15%

2026 Emerging Project Professional of the Year

The Emerging Project Professional of the Year recognises rising talent – those individuals who, despite being in the early stages of their project management careers, are demonstrating good project practices and that they can make a difference to the project management profession and the companies, organisations and clients for whom they work.

Preparing Your Submission

Submissions should be clear, structured, and supported by relevant evidence where available. Responses should reflect both the nominee's current achievements and their potential for future impact in the project management profession.

Submissions should address the following areas, which align with the assessment criteria used by judges:

1. Project Contributions and Measurable Outcomes

Describe how the nominee's achievement or performance was significant in nature and made a significant positive difference to the outcome of a project, or a section of a major project. Provide measurable outcomes, value delivered, and evidence of performance within their role. Explain how the project or section was delivered according to the criteria set by the project methodology used, met or exceeded client expectations, and how the achievement demonstrated professionalism in delivery. Include demonstration of knowledge and application of project management theory, standards, practices, tools, techniques, and methodologies.



2026 Emerging Project Professional of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

2. Leadership and Influence

Explain how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and initiative in creating a productive environment to work in, with the drive and impetus to make things happen. Describe how they balanced technical and management skills while juggling different views, perspectives, stakeholders, backgrounds, and personalities. Show how they maintained focus to ensure their team's performance was optimised and the project's objectives were met. Provide evidence of how they have proactively developed their leadership capability in their current role, including influencing stakeholders, contributing to decision-making, and showing proactive ownership of outcomes.

3. Professional and Community Engagement

Describe how the nominee demonstrates active engagement beyond their immediate project role, contributing to the advancement of the project management profession. Include examples of mentoring, knowledge sharing, participation in professional communities such as PMI chapters, volunteering, and contributions to organisational or industry initiatives.

4. Growth and Development

Provide evidence of the nominee's commitment to continuous professional development, including learning, training, certifications, or taking on new challenges. Show how the nominee has proactively developed their capabilities and applied this learning to improve performance in their role. Include stretch assignments that demonstrate growth beyond their current level of experience.



2026 Emerging Project Professional of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

5. Embodiment of PMI Culture Values

Provide evidence of the nominee's learning and growth through behaviours aligned to PMI Culture Values. Include examples showing how the nominee's understanding and application of these values has developed during their time in the role, and how this has positively impacted their project work and interactions with others.

6. Overall Professional Excellence and Recognition

Provide a compelling justification for why the nominee should be recognised as Emerging Project Professional of the Year. Summarise the nominee's standout achievements, demonstrate clear evidence of their potential to become a future leader in the profession, and articulate their overall contribution to advancing project management excellence and practice.



2026 Emerging Project Professional of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Project Contributions & Measurable Outcomes: The achievement/performance was significant in nature. This may include: • The nominee has made a significant positive difference to the outcome of a project (or a section of a major project). • Delivered the project according to the criteria set by the project methodology used and met or exceeded clients' expectations, and the achievement demonstrates professionalism in the delivery of the project or program.	30%
Leadership & Influence: The nominee demonstrates leadership. This may include: • The nominee has demonstrated leadership and initiative while creating a productive environment to work in, as well as the drive and impetus to make things happen. • Balanced technical and management skills, juggling different views and perspectives, stakeholders, backgrounds and personalities. • Maintained focus ensuring their team's performance is optimised and the project's objectives are met. Show evidence of how they have proactively developed in their current role.	20%
Professional & Community Engagement The nominee demonstrates active engagement beyond their immediate project role, contributing to the advancement of the project management profession. This may include: • Mentoring, knowledge sharing, participation in professional communities (e.g. PMI chapters). • Contributing to organisational or industry initiatives.	20%
Growth & Development The nominee demonstrates a commitment to continuous professional development, including learning, certifications, or taking on new challenges. The submission should show how the nominee has proactively developed their capabilities and applied this learning to improve performance in their role.	15%
Embodiment of PMI Values: Evidence of learning and growth, and behaviours aligned to PMI Culture Values.	15%



Organisational Award

2026 Project Management Office (PMO) of the Year

Organisational Award

Evaluation Framework

The Organisational Award aligns with the PMI Global Awards framework, recognising organisational excellence in project management capability, value, and impact. Submissions are assessed on maturity, effectiveness, and influence across evolution, delivery, governance, innovation, and outcomes:

- PMO's Evolution (20%)
- Client Service Excellence (15%)
- Adherence to Best Practices (15%)
- Innovation & Adaptability (15%)
- Community Engagement (10%)
- Value Creation and Impact (25%)

Note

- For this award, the term “PMO” refers broadly to any Project Management Office or equivalent organisational function responsible for overseeing project, program, or portfolio delivery. This may include departmental, enterprise, or organisational PMOs, across any industry or sector.
- The PMO must demonstrate a clear and meaningful connection to Australia through its operations or affiliated organisation or initiatives.
- The PMO must be active and operational at submission.
- The Lead Nominator does not require PMI affiliation.



2026 Project Management Office (PMO) of the Year

The Project Management Office (PMO) of the Year Award recognises a Project, Program or Portfolio Management Office (PMO/EPMO/VMO) that has successfully developed and matured the organisation's project, program, or portfolio management capability of the organisation's projects/programs/portfolios.

Preparing Your Submission

Submissions should be clear, structured, and supported by relevant evidence where available. Responses should demonstrate the PMO's role, impact, and contribution to organisational performance.

Submissions should address the following areas, which align with the assessment criteria used by judges:

1. PMO Evolution

Describe the scope of the PMO's responsibilities (e.g., departmental or enterprise) and current maturity level. Outline its establishment, strategic approach, and development journey, including key factors that shaped its current state. Provide evidence of consistency in delivery, adaptability to organisational needs, and how the PMO has developed leadership capabilities and improved project management competency, standards, and maturity across the organisation.

2. Client Service Excellence

Demonstrate how the PMO delivers effective and relevant services to stakeholders, including the range, suitability, and quality of services provided to support organisational delivery. Provide evidence of how well these services meet stakeholder needs and performance expectations. Show strong engagement with stakeholders, including senior leadership, and evidence of alignment, trust, sponsorship, stakeholder satisfaction, and adoption of PMO services across the organisation.

2026 Project Management Office (PMO) of the Year

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

3. Adherence to Best Practices

Demonstrate how the PMO applies and continuously improves project management best practice across the organisation. Show how people, processes, systems, tools, and methodology work to provide visibility, consistency, and decision-making across portfolio, program, and project delivery, including governance, benefits, and risk management.

4. Innovation and Adaptability

Demonstrate how the PMO has made significant contributions to organisational innovation and continuous improvement. Include creative approaches to solving business challenges, adoption of new tools, systems or technologies, lessons learned, and how the PMO has adapted to changing organisational needs and environments to support business initiatives and opportunities.

5. Community Engagement

Demonstrate how the PMO contributes to building a strong project management culture across the organisation. Include how it fosters collaboration, transparency, accountability; enables knowledge sharing, capability uplift; strengthens engagement across teams and stakeholders; promotes consistent and sustainable ways of working.

6. Value Creation and Impact

Demonstrate the measurable value delivered by the PMO to the organisation over the past 12–24 months. Provide evidence of tangible improvements in project, program, or portfolio performance; benefits delivered to customers, stakeholders, and the organisation; increased organisational maturity in project management; and evidence that success can be attributed to PMO influence. Include metrics and data showing business impact, and evidence of strong executive engagement and sponsorship.

2026 Project Management Office (PMO) of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Assessment criteria	Weighting
PMO Evolution The submission demonstrates the evolution and maturity of the PMO, including its strategic approach, development journey, and the factors that have shaped its current state. This includes consistency in delivery, adaptability to organisational needs, and the development of leadership capabilities within the PMO.	20%
Client Service Excellence The PMO demonstrates the delivery of effective and relevant services to stakeholders. This includes the range, suitability, and quality of services provided to support organisational delivery, and how well these services meet stakeholder needs and performance expectations. The submission should show strong engagement with stakeholders, including senior leadership, and evidence of alignment, trust, and sponsorship across the organisation.	15%
Adherence to Best Practices The PMO must demonstrate good understanding and application of PMO practices including the continuous improvements in its services. Expected to have an interconnected results from People, Processes, Systems, Tools, Methodology and other key factors to deliver the best results for the key stakeholders. The PMO demonstrates the breadth from Portfolio, Methodology, Governance, Benefits, Risk Management and all aspects. Team has demonstrated to follow the best practice and methodology provided by the PMO: • There is a visibility of all the Projects, Programs, Portfolio to the business to help all the key stakeholders to make quick decisions, manage risks proactively, forecast the future time, cost and future issues. • Methodology used in the Portfolio, Program, Project to avoid duplication of efforts and increase consistencies of results. Cater for different types of projects as needed e.g. Infrastructure, ICT, Agile, Business Change etc • Processes - unified and simplified when running the Portfolio, Program or Project including the Prioritisation. Values/Benefits identified in the Program are aligned to the Business Strategy. • Systems and Tools - integrated systems within the PMO's control	15%

2026 Project Management Office (PMO) of the Year

Assessment Criteria and Weightings (cont'd)

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Innovation & Adaptability: The PMO must demonstrate significant contributions on the Organisation's innovation to support the business initiatives, challenges and opportunities. This includes: • Creative approaches to solving organisational challenges. • Adoption of new tools, systems, or technologies. • Continuous improvement initiatives (including learning from experience). • Adaptability to changing organisational needs and environments.	15%
Community Engagement: The PMO contributes to building a strong project management culture across the organisation. This includes: • Fostering collaboration, transparency, and accountability. • Enabling knowledge sharing and capability uplift. • Strengthening engagement across teams and stakeholders. • Promoting consistent and sustainable ways of working.	10%
Value Creation and Impact: The PMO demonstrates measurable value delivered to the organisation, supported by appropriate metrics and evidence. This includes: • Tangible improvements in project, program, or portfolio performance. • Delivery of benefits to customers, stakeholders, and the organisation. • Increased organisational maturity in project management. • Evidence that success can be attributed to PMO influence. • Strong executive engagement and sponsorship.	25%



A satellite with solar panels is shown in space, with the Earth's horizon visible on the left side of the frame.

Academic Award

2026 Academic Achievement in Project Management

Academic Award

Evaluation Framework

The Academic Achievement in Project Management Award recognises research that advances project management knowledge, practice, and professional development. Submissions are evaluated on academic rigor, contribution to the profession, and relevance to project management practice.

- Contribution to Knowledge (30%)
- Rigor and Methodology (25%)
- Practical Application and Enduring Value (25%)
- Innovation and Thought Leadership (10%)
- Clarity and Communication (10%)

Note

- For this award, “research” refers broadly to academic or applied research relating to project management, including theses, publications, industry studies, or equivalent work.
- Research must be completed or published within the past 18 months.
- Submissions may be made by individuals or teams, through self-nomination or third-party nomination.
- The Lead Nominator does not require PMI affiliation.



2026 Academic Achievement in Project Management

The Academic Achievement in Project Management Award aims to recognise an individual or team that has advanced the concepts, knowledge, and/or practices of project-based management through research that significantly advances the profession or aspects thereof.

Preparing Your Submission

Submissions should be clear, structured, and supported by relevant evidence where available. Responses should demonstrate both academic rigor and practical contribution to the project management profession. Clarity and communication is assessed across all the responses.

Submissions should address the following areas, which align with the assessment criteria used by judges:

1. Research Overview and Context

Provide a clear summary of the research, including the problem addressed, objectives, methodology, key findings, and conclusions. Demonstrate how the research is grounded in project management practice and its applicability to improving project, program, or portfolio delivery and outcomes.

2. Contribution to Knowledge

Demonstrate how the research makes a significant and original contribution that advances project management theory, concepts, or practices. Clearly articulate what is new or improved and why it is important to the profession.



2026 Academic Achievement in Project Management

Preparing Your Submission (cont'd)

3. Rigor and Methodology

Demonstrate the sound and appropriate research design and methodology used, including data collection, analysis, and validation of findings. Show that the work is well-supported by evidence and demonstrates academic or professional rigor and credibility of conclusions.

4. Practical Application and Enduring Value

Demonstrate the clear relevance of the research to project management practice. Provide evidence of real-world application, adoption, or strong potential for practical use, and show the enduring value delivered to practitioners, organisations, or the profession.

5. Innovation and Thought Leadership

Demonstrate how the research introduces new perspectives, frameworks, or approaches that advance the profession and contribute to thought leadership in project management.

6. Overall Contribution and Recognition

Summarise why this research merits recognition, synthesising its significance, demonstrated impact, and contribution to advancing the project management profession and practice.



2026 Academic Achievement in Project Management

Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Assessment criteria	Weighting
Contribution to Knowledge The submission demonstrates a significant and original contribution that advances project management theory, concepts, or practices. The application clearly articulates what is new or improved and why it is important to the profession.	30%
Rigor and Methodology The submission demonstrates sound and appropriate methodology, including research design, data collection, analysis, and the validity of conclusions. The work is well-supported by evidence and demonstrates academic or professional rigor.	25%
Practical Application and Enduring Value The submission demonstrates clear relevance to project management practice, including evidence of real-world application, adoption, or strong potential for practical use. The work provides enduring value to practitioners, organisations, or the profession.	25%
Innovation and Thought Leadership The submission introduces new perspectives, frameworks, or approaches that advance the profession and contribute to thought leadership in project management.	10%
Clarity and Communication The submission is well-structured, clearly articulated, and accessible to both academic and practitioner audiences, enabling effective understanding of the research purpose, findings, and implications.	10%



About PMI®

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