



2026

TIDY TOWNS AWARDS

ENTRY KIT

Entries close Friday 31 July 2026

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Key Program Dates

Entries Open	Thursday 30 April 2026
Entries Close	Friday 31 July 2026
Category Judging	Aug - Sep 2026
Overall Assessor Visits	16 - 21 August 2026
Tidy Towns Awards Weekend	16 - 18 October 2026 (Orange)



Chief Executive Officer's Message

Welcome to the 2026 KAB NSW Tidy Towns Awards.

For more than four decades, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has celebrated the towns, councils, community groups, schools, businesses, and individuals helping to shape a more sustainable future for regional NSW. Now in its 45th year, the Tidy Towns program continues to recognise the projects and people creating stronger, more connected, resilient, and liveable communities.

The awards showcase initiatives across a broad range of categories, highlighting the environmental, social, and economic contributions being made across rural and regional NSW. From community-led projects and local environmental initiatives to programs that strengthen tourism, culture, education, and wellbeing, the awards provide an opportunity to share ideas, celebrate success, and inspire other communities.

At KAB NSW, sustainability is about creating long-term positive outcomes for both people and place. The projects that stand out are those that demonstrate innovation, collaboration, inclusivity, and measurable impact while balancing environmental, social, and economic priorities.

The Awards weekend is not only a celebration of achievement, but also an opportunity for communities to come together, learn from one another, and build connections that continue well beyond the event itself. In 2026, we look forward to welcoming entrants and guests to Orange from 16 to 18 October to celebrate the outstanding work taking place across the state.

I would also like to sincerely thank our partners, judges, and volunteers for their ongoing support and contribution to the program. Their time, expertise, and commitment are invaluable and help make these awards possible each year.

I wish all entrants the very best for the 2026 Awards and look forward to showcasing the inspiring projects and initiatives making a difference across regional NSW.



Warm regards,

Val Southam
Chief Executive and Executive Director
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

About Tidy Towns

You've likely passed through a town proudly displaying its Tidy Towns achievement sign. Since 1981, the NSW Tidy Towns program has celebrated the projects, people, and communities helping regional NSW become more sustainable, connected, and vibrant places to live.

The program recognises initiatives across a range of categories, showcasing the environmental, social, and economic contributions being made by councils, community groups, schools, businesses, and volunteers. Many of these projects are driven by passionate local volunteers and become a source of lasting community pride and cohesion.

The annual Awards weekend provides an opportunity to celebrate these achievements while bringing communities together to share ideas, experiences, and inspiration. In October 2026, the event will be hosted by Orange, following its success as the 2025 Overall Winner.

In 1990, the state Tidy Towns programs united to form the Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Tidy Towns Awards. Each year, the NSW Overall Winner has the opportunity to be nominated as the state finalist in this iconic national sustainability program.



TIDY TOWNS
SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

About KAB NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is the premier non-profit organisation leading behaviour change by engaging the community to continually improve our local environment.

Over our 50-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated businesses, community groups, councils, schools and individuals assisting our causes.

We deliver many programs throughout the state to promote sustainability and reduce litter:

- > Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards (regional)
- > Sustainable Cities Awards (metropolitan)
- > EnviroMentors® environmental education program
- > Annual Conference



2025 Overall Winner

Orange

The Orange community was proud to be named the 2025 Overall Winner of the NSW Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards. This honour reflects the dedication, innovation and strong community spirit that define our region.

The award recognises the collective efforts of Orange City Council, residents, community groups, schools, businesses and volunteers who work together to protect our environment and build a more sustainable and resilient future. From biodiversity restoration and climate action to waste minimisation, energy efficiency and creative community engagement, Orange continues to demonstrate leadership across regional NSW.

Judges commended Orange for its collaborative and forward looking approach, including its expansion of community centred sustainability programs, strong partnerships through initiatives such as Electrify 2800, and its commitment to helping households reduce emissions and energy costs. Council's ongoing work in climate planning, resource recovery, natural area management and inclusive community education further highlights Orange's long-term vision for a thriving and sustainable city.

Orange looks forward to hosting the 2026 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards, welcoming communities from across the state to celebrate their achievements, share innovative ideas and foster partnerships that support a more sustainable NSW. We look forward to showcasing our city, our people and our commitment to environmental excellence.



WHO CAN ENTER?

The Tidy Towns Awards are open to rural, regional, and coastal towns and villages across NSW.

Eligible entrants include, but are not limited to, Tidy Towns groups, individuals, Progress Associations, CWAs, youth organisations, Landcare groups, Chambers of Commerce, local councils, tourism associations, schools and preschools, businesses, small enterprises, industry groups, registered clubs, and community service organisations.

If you or your project, community group, business, school, town or village is based within the following local government areas, you should enter the Tidy Towns Awards Program:

- > Albury
- > Armidale
- > Ballina
- > Balranald
- > Bathurst
- > Bega Valley
- > Bellingen
- > Berrigan
- > Bland
- > Blayney
- > Bogan
- > Bourke
- > Brewarrina
- > Broken Hill
- > Byron
- > Cabonne
- > Carrathool
- > Central Darling
- > Cessnock
- > Clarence Valley
- > Cobar
- > Coffs Harbour
- > Coolamon
- > Coonamble
- > Cootamundra-Gundagai
- > Cowra
- > Dubbo
- > Dungog
- > Edward River
- > Eurobodalla
- > Federation
- > Forbes
- > Gilgandra
- > Glen Innes Severn
- > Goulburn Mulwaree
- > Greater Hume
- > Griffith
- > Gunnedah
- > Gwydir
- > Hay
- > Hilltops
- > Inverell
- > Junee
- > Kempsey
- > Kiama
- > Kyogle
- > Lachlan
- > Lake Macquarie
- > Leeton
- > Lismore
- > Lithgow
- > Liverpool Plains
- > Lockhart
- > Maitland
- > Mid-Coast
- > Mid-Western
- > Moree Plains
- > Murray River
- > Murrumbidgee
- > Muswellbrook
- > Nambucca
- > Narrabri
- > Narrandera
- > Narromine
- > Newcastle
- > Oberon
- > Orange
- > Parkes
- > Port Macquarie-Hastings
- > Port Stephens
- > Queanbeyan-Palerang
- > Richmond Valley
- > Shellharbour
- > Shoalhaven
- > Singleton
- > Snowy Monaro
- > Snowy Valleys
- > Tamworth
- > Temora
- > Tenterfield
- > Tweed
- > Upper Hunter
- > Upper Lachlan
- > Uralla
- > Wagga Wagga
- > Walcha
- > Walgett
- > Warren
- > Warrumbungle
- > Weddin
- > Wentworth
- > Wingecarribee
- > Wollongong
- > Yass Valley

For projects, community groups, businesses, schools and Council's in the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Area, please refer to the [Sustainable Cities Awards Program](#).



Biodiversity Conservation

The Biodiversity Conservation Award recognises projects that regenerate, conserve, or advance understanding of biodiversity in terrestrial or marine ecosystems.

Projects can support biodiversity through:

- > **Habitat restoration and protection:** Restoring or protecting local ecosystems.
- > **Leadership and advocacy:** Promoting conservation within the community.
- > **Community action:** Engaging people in hands-on activities to improve biodiversity.
- > **Partnerships:** Collaborating with organisations to encourage conservation efforts.
- > **Research and knowledge:** Conducting studies to improve understanding or raise awareness.
- > **Policy and planning:** Supporting strategies or programs that protect local biodiversity.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Education programs on threatened species and their protection.
- > Restoration projects or research enhancing understanding of ecosystems, species, or habitats.
- > Upgrades of local nurseries to increase access to native plants.
- > Community participation in flora and fauna conservation, including data collection or monitoring.
- > Engagement in Landcare, Bushcare, Dunecare, or other local conservation projects.



Circular Economy

Sponsored by



The Circular Economy Award recognises projects that redesign systems, products, or processes to keep materials, products, fluids, or energy circulating in the economy for as long as possible. These projects go beyond recycling to create long-term circular solutions that reduce waste and maximise the value of resources.

Projects can support a circular economy through:

- > **Circular design and innovation:** Designing products, packaging, or systems that prioritise reuse, repair, remanufacturing, or recycling.
- > **Product stewardship:** Developing producer responsibility schemes or lifecycle management approaches for products and materials.
- > **Commercial and operational models:** Establishing financially viable circular economy businesses, infrastructure, or supply chains.
- > **Resource repurposing:** Transforming waste streams into marketable products, materials, or resources.
- > **Partnerships and systems change:** Collaborating across industry, government, or community sectors to embed circular economy principles.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Extended producer responsibility schemes or product stewardship programs.
- > Projects turning waste materials into new commercial products or resources.
- > Circular business models focused on repair, remanufacturing, or material recovery.
- > Pre-commercial or commercially operating circular economy initiatives.



Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

The Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Award recognises projects that strengthen community resilience, reduce emissions, or sequester carbon.

Projects can help communities adapt to a changing climate through:

- > **Infrastructure and environmental strategies:** Implementing solutions that support sustainable management of natural and built environments.
- > **Renewable energy and emissions reduction:** Developing or adopting renewable energy, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and improving energy efficiency.
- > **Planning and risk management:** Implementing strategies to address climate impacts and extreme weather events.
- > **Education and community engagement:** Providing knowledge and opportunities for individuals and communities to take action.
- > **Research and innovation:** Exploring climate impacts and solutions through studies or projects.
- > **Corporate and organisational accountability:** Improving monitoring, reporting, and management of energy use and emissions.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Introducing renewable energy or improving energy efficiency in a community or organisation.
- > Programs reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
- > Long-term strategies to adapt to climate impacts or extreme weather.
- > Education programs supporting climate awareness and engagement.
- > Research investigating climate impacts and mitigation or adaptation solutions.



Communication & Engagement

The Communication & Engagement Award recognises programs and projects that inspire and enable environmental action through effective communication and community engagement.

Projects can drive change through:

- > **Education and communication:** Delivering campaigns that raise awareness and encourage sustainable behaviours across areas such as energy, water, or waste.
- > **Partnerships and collaboration:** Working with organisations to share resources, ideas, and knowledge.
- > **Community engagement:** Creating spaces, programs, or initiatives that support learning and practical action.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Education workshops that inspire communities to learn and take action on environmental issues.
- > Targeted programs addressing specific behaviours, such as illegal dumping or wood smoke reduction.
- > Communication campaigns delivered by councils or organisations to drive behaviour change.



Community Spirit & Inclusion

The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award recognises projects, programs, or initiatives that strengthen social connection, inclusion, participation, and community resilience. These projects celebrate communities that come together to support one another and foster a strong sense of belonging.

Projects can strengthen community spirit through:

- > **Community participation and connection:** Bringing people together through events, volunteering, shared activities, or local initiatives.
- > **Inclusion and belonging:** Creating welcoming opportunities for diverse groups to participate and feel connected.
- > **Resilience and recovery:** Supporting communities through hardship, recovery, or periods of change.
- > **Civic pride and local identity:** Encouraging community pride, celebration, and positive local culture.
- > **Innovative engagement approaches:** Using creative communication, outreach, or delivery methods to increase participation and inclusion.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Festivals, events, or programs that strengthen community connection and participation.
- > Initiatives supporting social inclusion, wellbeing, or community cohesion.
- > Community-led recovery projects following bushfires, floods, drought, or other challenges.
- > Volunteer programs or activities that bring communities together. Creative or innovative approaches to engaging local communities.
- > Projects restoring community hubs or shared gathering places following a crisis.



Heritage & Culture

The Heritage and Culture Award recognises community projects that enhance and protect built heritage, natural heritage, or Indigenous cultural heritage.

Projects can contribute through:

- > **Built heritage conservation:** Restoring buildings, structures, or other infrastructure to preserve local history.
- > **Education and research:** Developing programs or studies that increase understanding and awareness of an area's heritage.
- > **Indigenous heritage conservation:** Taking actions that support and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- > **Proactive heritage planning:** Implementing long-term strategies to ensure the preservation of significant heritage sites and cultural values.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Restoration of heritage buildings, sites, or infrastructure.
- > Events or festivals that celebrate local history and culture.
- > Protection of significant natural areas that form part of an area's heritage.
- > Heritage centres or similar initiatives that promote local history and documentation.
- > Educational programs that preserve Aboriginal heritage, such as language teaching or cultural practices.



Litter Prevention



The Litter Prevention Award recognises projects or programs that reduce or prevent litter through innovative approaches with measurable outcomes.

Projects may include a combination of strategies, through:

- > **Behaviour change techniques:** Encouraging individuals and communities to stop littering.
- > **Communication and education:** Using creative methods to raise awareness about litter and its impacts.
- > **Partnerships and networks:** Collaborating with organisations or community groups to prevent litter.
- > **Enforcement strategies:** Applying practical methods to reduce littering.
- > **Infrastructure and place design:** Using signage, bins, landscaping, or other design solutions to prevent litter.

Projects that combine multiple approaches are particularly valued and can address any form of litter in any environment.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > A litter reduction campaign engaging the local community.
- > Programs targeting specific groups, such as children, young people, Indigenous communities, or culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.
- > Initiatives focused on long-term behaviour change to prevent litter.
- > Innovative strategies to reduce litter, such as signage, phasing out single-use plastics, or redesigning spaces to minimise waste.



Liveable Towns

The Liveable Towns Award recognises projects that enhance the liveability, functionality, and appeal of a town, suburb, or local area. These projects help create places that are accessible, sustainable, resilient, and enjoyable for people to live, work, and visit.

Projects can improve liveability through:

- > **Accessible and sustainable mobility or housing:** Improving transport, housing, walkability, cycling access, or community connectivity.
- > **Vibrant and attractive public spaces:** Creating or enhancing parks, streetscapes, green spaces, recreational facilities, and shared places.
- > **A diverse and resilient local economy:** Supporting local business, tourism, employment, or economic development.
- > **Infrastructure and place planning:** Delivering upgrades or long-term planning that improves how a community functions and grows.
- > **Health and wellbeing infrastructure:** Providing facilities, spaces, or services that support healthy and active communities.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Micro-mobility projects or sustainable transport initiatives. Public or community housing developments.
- > Development or revitalisation of parks, green spaces, or town centres.
- > Infrastructure upgrades that improve accessibility or community amenity.
- > Urban farming or community food-growing infrastructure.
- > Community facilities that support recreation, health, or wellbeing.



Local Heroes

The Local Heroes Award recognises individuals who demonstrate leadership and outstanding commitment in their community. This award celebrates those who stand out through action, inspiration, and measurable impact across environmental, sustainability, or broader community initiatives.

Contributions can make an impact through:

- > **Leadership and advocacy:** Inspiring others and championing positive change in the community.
- > **Community action:** Taking practical steps that benefit people, the environment, or community systems.
- > **Education and engagement:** Raising awareness, building skills, or encouraging participation in community programs.
- > **Partnerships and collaboration:** Working with schools, businesses, or community groups to deliver tangible results.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Leading clean-up, restoration, or conservation projects.
- > Advocating for initiatives that improve local sustainability, health, safety, or wellbeing.
- > Mentoring or mobilising others to take action in the community.
- > Delivering projects with measurable benefits to people, the environment, or community systems.



Plastic-Free Communities

The Plastic-Free Communities Award recognises individuals, groups, schools, or communities showing innovation and leadership in reducing single-use plastics and encouraging more sustainable choices.

Projects can focus on empowering individuals, businesses, or the broader community to take meaningful action, through:

- > **Education and awareness:** Informing local businesses and community members about alternatives to single-use plastics.
- > **Incentives and participation:** Running programs that reward avoiding single-use products or providing reusable options.
- > **Product and packaging redesign:** Supporting initiatives that replace plastics with sustainable materials.
- > **Reusable solutions:** Supplying reusable crockery or containers for local events and activities.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Running an education campaign to inform local cafés and retailers about plastic-free alternatives.
- > Offering incentives for individuals or businesses to say no to single-use products.
- > Supporting product or packaging redesign to use alternative materials.
- > Supplying reusable crockery for local festivals, markets, or community events.



Resource Recovery

The Resource Recovery Award recognises projects and programs that recover, recycle, or safely manage materials that have already become waste, diverting them from landfill and supporting better waste management outcomes.

Projects can support resource recovery through:

- > **Recycling and material recovery:** Collecting, sorting, processing, or recycling waste materials for reuse.
- > **Waste diversion:** Keeping valuable materials, food organics, or other resources out of landfill.
- > **Recovery infrastructure and services:** Improving facilities, systems, or collection programs that support recovery and disposal.
- > **Responsible disposal and management:** Providing practical solutions for difficult or problematic waste streams.
- > **Community participation and education:** Encouraging recycling, recovery, and appropriate disposal practices.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Recycling initiatives that recover materials and reduce landfill.
- > Resource recovery facilities, strategies, or action plans. Programs addressing food organics and other recoverable materials.
- > Free drop-off or collection programs that reduce illegal dumping.
- > Waste management systems for events, public spaces, or local communities.



Waste Avoidance

The Waste Avoidance Award recognises projects and programs that prevent waste from being created in the first place through education, behaviour change, and practical alternatives.

Projects can reduce waste through:

- > **Waste prevention:** Avoiding unnecessary consumption, packaging, and disposable products.
- > **Behaviour change and education:** Encouraging individuals, schools, businesses, or communities to adopt low-waste habits.
- > **Sustainable alternatives:** Promoting reusable products, packaging-free options, or low-waste lifestyles.
- > **Food waste reduction:** Preventing edible food and organic materials from becoming waste.
- > **Community engagement:** Supporting participation in waste reduction initiatives and everyday sustainable practices.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Campaigns encouraging reusable alternatives to single-use products.
- > Programs reducing packaging waste or promoting low-waste living.
- > Backyard composting, worm farming, or food waste avoidance initiatives.
- > School or community education programs such as "Waste-Free Wednesdays".
- > Demonstrations of zero waste homes, cafés, restaurants, or hospitality businesses.



Water Conservation & Protection

The Water Conservation and Protection Award recognises leadership and innovation in water conservation and management for the future.

Projects can focus on protecting waterways, beaches, and marine environments, or improving water use in drought-affected areas, through:

- > **Innovative water management:** Implementing smarter water use, infrastructure improvements, or creative conservation approaches.
- > **Advocacy and education:** Raising awareness and inspiring sustainable water practices.
- > **Community action:** Engaging people in clean-ups, monitoring, or restoration projects.
- > **Habitat and species protection:** Enhancing aquatic habitats and supporting sustainable fishing or aquaculture.
- > **Pollution reduction:** Reducing litter, plastics, or harmful runoff.
- > **Cultural stewardship:** Protecting the cultural and ecological values of freshwater and marine environments.

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Developing a school or community program that reduces water use during drought.
- > Building fish ladders or restoring vegetation along rivers or streams.
- > Caring for beaches or waterways through clean-ups, signage, or improved infrastructure.
- > Advocacy campaigns addressing threats to water sources, such as plastic reduction or sustainable fishing practices.



Young Legends (≤ 25)

The Young Legend's Award celebrates individuals, school groups, or youth teams aged 25 and under who show outstanding leadership in environmental action.

Projects can focus on any environmental area - litter, biodiversity, waste minimisation, and more - through:

- > **Advocacy and volunteering:** Participating in clean-ups, community nurseries, Bushcare, or local committees.
- > **Mentoring and education:** Leading programs that inspire sustainability at school or in the community.
- > **Partnerships:** Collaborating with other organisations to make a real environmental impact.
- > **Sustainable practices:** Introducing eco-friendly methods or whole-school behaviour change programs.

Who can enter?

- > Individuals
- > Schools & pre-schools
- > Youth groups

Examples of eligible projects:

- > Volunteering at a community nursery to restore local bushland.
- > Reducing plastic litter through clean-ups, campaigns, and community partnerships.
- > Running a school-based sustainability project.
- > Participating in environmental projects through pre-school or vacation care programs.



Overall Award

An overall winner will be chosen for each population category. From these category winners, the Overall KAB NSW Tidy Towns Winner for 2026 will be selected.

A regional council, town, village, or regional centre is eligible for the overall award in their population category if they have entered four or more categories.

Entries from other organisations within the local government area, such as schools or businesses, may be included towards these four categories, provided there is clear evidence of collaboration between the council and the external organisation.

POPULATION CATEGORIES

The Tidy Towns awards are divided into population categories to recognise the different challenges and resources available to towns of varying sizes across New South Wales.

On your application, please enter the population of your town only, not the total population of your Council. To confirm your town's population, refer to the most recent Census data under the "Urban Centres and Localities" heading.

- > Population Category A: ≤ 1,500
- > Population Category B: 1,501 - 5,000
- > Population Category C: 5,001 - 12,000
- > Population Category D: 12,001 - 23,000
- > Population Category E: > 23,000

Preparing + Submitting Your Entry

Before completing the online form, we recommend gathering all your submission materials in advance. This makes it easier to copy, paste, or upload the required content. Please refer to the list below for the information you'll need. [A Microsoft Word template is also available on the awards program page of the KAB NSW website.](#)

Once you complete the first page of the form, you'll receive an email with a unique link, allowing you to return to edit or finalise your submission at any time before the closing date.

As you prepare your submission, consider what sets your entry apart. How have you gone above and beyond business-as-usual? In what ways is your work leading or innovative? How have you collaborated with stakeholders across community, business, and government?

It is important to provide supporting documentation—such as evidence, data, or examples—that clearly demonstrates the results and impact of each initiative.

We encourage you to submit entries in as many categories as possible, as this increases your opportunity for overall award recognition. However, entries in just one or a few categories are also welcome.

General Information

- > Town Name
- > Population Category
- > Primary Contact (Name, Role, Mobile, Email)
- > Local Council Name
- > Population of your city or town
- > Social Media Tags (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram)
- > Please list your local newspaper(s)
(it would be very helpful if you can provide their social media tags)
- > Please list your local radio station(s)
(it would be very helpful if you can provide their social media tags)
- > If you wish to submit as an Overall Finalist:
 - > Confirm that your Local Council is aware that you are making the submission
 - > Organisation/Program/Council Logo (prefer EPS or AI format)
 - > Please provide a brief description for your Town (50 words max).
For examples visit <https://kab.org.au/tidy-towns-2026-finalists/>
 - > **Town Images** (Up to four, please include both landscape and portrait options, minimum 300 dpi or larger than 1MB please)

For each category*:

- > **Project Name** (max 40 characters including spaces, please enter as you would wish it to appear on any awards)
- > **How many volunteers have worked on this project**
- > **Project Overview** (max 100 words):

In your response, please address: What challenge was this initiative seeking to address? How did you address the challenge (What did you do)? Who were the main stakeholders? What were the key outcomes/achievements? What did you learn/what would you change for next time?
NOTE: This information will be used for awards promotions. No score will be assigned to this section.
- > **Project Background** (max 200 words):
 - > What is the history of the initiative?
 - > How was the need identified?
- > **Partnerships/Collaboration** (max 200 words):
 - > Who was involved in the initiative?
 - > How was the community, stakeholders and/partners engaged in the initiative
- > **Planning** (max 200 words):
 - > What were the steps involved in planning for the initiative?
- > **Implementation** (max 300 words):
 - > Describe the opportunities and challenges that arose when developing and implementing the project.
- > **Impact & Outcomes** (max 300 words):
 - > What were the measurable outcomes of the initiative? Have you provided supporting data/evidence?
 - > How did you evaluate the overall success of the initiative?
 - > What opportunities arose from the initiative?
 - > Is the project replicable or scalable?
 - > What is the future/legacy of the project?
- > **Supporting Documentation:** Please provide supporting documentation with evidence/data showing the results achieved for each initiative.
- > **Supporting Links** e.g. links to project websites, YouTube videos etc.
- > **Photographs:** Please submit 2- 4 high resolution photographs or images of your project. Please include both landscape and portrait options.
- > **Photo Release** (if required) - [If your photos include children under the age of 18, please click to download, complete and upload a release providing permission to use the images.](#)

** The Local Hero Award category includes a slightly different set of questions compared to the other award categories. Please refer to the entry form template.*

Now that you are prepared, visit
<https://www.kabnsw.org.au/awards/> to start your submission

Assessment Guide

So that entrants understand exactly what our esteemed judges are looking for and provide a more transparent and educative judging process (for both our entrants and our judges) a copy of the judges' scoresheet is provided below.

Assessment Rubric

Assessment	Score	Criteria
Outstanding	9-10	Outstanding responses and excels in meeting the criteria and is of extremely high standard and quality.
Excellent	7-8	The responses have been answered at a high standard but requires additional evidence to score higher.
Good	5-6	Moderate quality entry and has met the category outcomes and criteria sufficient to finalise.
Limited	3-4	The entry demonstrated limited evidence in meeting the criteria.
Poor	1-2	The initiative is of minimal quality with insufficient evidence of meeting the category criteria.

Scoresheet

Section	Score/10	Weighting
Project Background		10%
Partnerships and Collaboration		20%
Planning		20%
Implementation		20%
Outcomes		20%
Innovation/X-Factor		10%

Feedback/Suggestions

Positives

Areas/suggestions for possible improvements

General comments

Terms + Conditions

1. Entrants should endeavour to attend the Awards Event to be held 16 - 18 October 2026 in Orange. Inability to attend does not disqualify entry).
2. Entry is free and open to both KAB NSW members and non-members.
3. Entries must be based in New South Wales.
4. All guidelines should be addressed in your online nomination. Supporting documents and photographs should be attached to your nomination if relevant.
5. By entering the Awards the entrant gives permission to KAB NSW to publish, exhibit and promote the content of the submission, including supporters of the Awards, where their use of submission content is specifically related to their promotion of their involvement in the Awards.
6. Entrants agree to media publicity and promotion associated with the Awards nomination, including any photos submitted or taken at the Awards Presentation ceremony.
7. All entrants must be prepared to submit further material for exhibition and publication if required, such as additional photography,
8. Entries close on 31 July 2026.
9. The 2025 Overall winner is not eligible to enter the Overall Award category for 2026.
10. By entering, the main contact declares that they are authorised to submit the project, and that they have obtained appropriate releases and authorities in writing from project clients, collaborating organisations, copyright holders for entry submission materials, licensees, photographers. In particular where images of children are used.
11. By entering this program, the entrant agrees to absolve KAB NSW from any liability relating to confidentiality or intellectual property issues that may be raised by any party.
12. KAB NSW is committed to providing a quality awards program and makes every attempt to ensure accuracy, currency and reliability of the information included in this document and elsewhere. However, changes in content and process may become necessary at the absolute discretion of KAB NSW. KAB NSW accepts no liability for any use of the said content or reliance placed upon it.

FURTHER INFORMATION + CONTACTS

For further information about Keep Australia Beautiful NSW or any of our programs, please contact us using the details below:

- Phone:** 02 8594 4000
- Email:** info@kabnsw.org.au
- Website:** www.kabnsw.org.au
- Mailing address:** c/- Suite 29, Level 1, 93 George Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

HENRY PARKES TOURISM CENTRE TURN LEFT 300m

2024 NSW Tidy Towns Overall Winner



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