



AFAC Industry Awards



About AFAC and the awards

AFAC delivers value to our members by amplifying the collective capability and capacity of emergency management organisations. We enable connection, collaboration, and innovation. We work together to achieve better outcomes for our sector and advance the safety and resilience of communities.

The AFAC Industry Awards program recognises the work of our member network and delivers on AFAC's vision of 'connected and capable emergency management'.

The awards are open to all AFAC member and affiliate member agencies and their staff, including service delivery teams and individuals (paid and volunteer).

Nominations for each award will be assessed by the AFAC Board and Staff Directors, with the winner announced at the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ Conference.

Conditions of entry

All nominations must be supported by the agency. AFAC will provide all agencies copies of nominations for endorsement prior to selection.

Multiple nominations can be submitted by a single agency.

Nominations from previous years can be resubmitted, provided the nominee did not receive an award.

Award categories

The seven (7) award categories are aligned to the sector's [Strategic Directions 2022-2026](#). In addition to an award aligned to each of the six (6) Strategic Directions, AFAC awards an achiever award in honour of AFAC's inaugural CEO, Laurie Lavelle.

The Strategic Directions are the sector's shared vision and a joint commitment to enhanced community resilience. They inform, clarify intent and identify the actions required across AFAC agencies. The Strategic Directions also set the direction and priorities for AFAC collaboration at the national level.

The award categories are:

1. Fostering Resilient Communities Award
2. Response Capability Award
3. Data in Action Award
4. People First Award
5. Knowledge Innovation Award
6. Effective Governance Award
7. Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year Award

Nomination process

Nominations are to be submitted using the [online application via Survey Monkey](#). Nominations for the 2023 AFAC Industry Awards close Friday 16 June 2023.

Nominations can be in written form or submitted via video.

AFAC will confirm agency endorsement with the agency head, prior to selections being finalised.

Nomination questions

The following questions need to be responded to for all nominations.

About the nominee:

1. Nominee name
2. Position within agency
3. Contact email
4. Contact phone number

About the agency:

1. Agency name
2. Jurisdiction
3. Name of person completing nomination
4. Contact email of person completing nomination
5. Contact phone number of person completing nomination
6. Head of agency name

About the nomination:

1. Which award is the nominee being nominated for?
2. How has the nominee demonstrated commitment to the [Strategic Directions 2022-2026](#)?
3. What have been the benefits to the agency because of the nominee's commitment?
4. How has the nominee improved culture within the agency and wider sector?

Selection panel

The successful candidate will be selected by AFAC Board Members and AFAC Staff Directors, and no further correspondence will be entered into.

Enquiries

For more information about the AFAC Industry Awards Program, please contact:

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AFAC INDUSTRY AWARD



Fostering Resilient Communities Award

Fostering Resilient Communities Award

Aligned to Strategic Direction One: supporting resilient communities through risk reduction.

Australia has developed the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (NDRRF) and National Action Plan as its response to the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), that Australia is a signatory to. The NDRRF recognises that reducing disaster risk is critical to supporting communities and economies to be resilient. This builds on the significant progress made across all sectors in Australia since the release of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience in 2011.

Fire and emergency services agencies are well placed to provide leadership and to collaborate with governments, business, communities, educational institutions, and individuals to develop strategies and take action to reduce disaster risk and support resilient communities, through mitigation, influencing policy and regulatory change, and education and engagement.

Eligibility

The nominee must be acknowledged within their agency as being a leading voice supporting resilient communities, demonstrating a significant commitment to the values of AFAC Strategic Direction One and agencies' obligations to the Sendai Framework.

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

1. The benefit to the agency of the values demonstrated by the nominee.
2. Improvements made to the organisations commitment to fostering resilient communities because of the nominee's values.
3. The impact, or potential impact, of the nominee's dedication to fostering resilience in communities served by the sector.

Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. Travel and accommodation not included.

The winner of the award will receive a trophy and certificate.

AFAC will promote the winner across its communication channels, including website and social media.



AFAC INDUSTRY AWARD



Response Capability Award

Response Capability Award

Aligned to Strategic Direction Two: providing a trusted response.

Catastrophic disasters disrupt lives and impact our communities economically and socially. Readiness is critical for the industry to ensure that the response and recovery missions are appropriately executed and successful. The sector is committed to providing management and specialist training, leading the country's risk reduction efforts, and providing research and data collection and analysis.

The sector provides current, relevant, and robust training, education and educational materials to prepare and strengthen the nation's fire and emergency services to prepare for, prevent, mitigate, respond and recover from all hazards.

An agency's improved response capability has the potential to influence the preparation of communities to prevent catastrophic results from hazards, and foster resilience in those communities.

Eligibility

The nominee must be acknowledged within their agency as being a leading voice in the improvement of agency response capabilities, demonstrating a significant commitment to the values of AFAC Strategic Direction Two.

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

1. The benefit to the agency of the values demonstrated by the nominee.
2. Improvements made to the organisational response capability because of the nominee's values.
3. The impact, or potential impact, of the nominee's dedication to improved response capability across the sector.

Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. Travel and accommodation not included.

The winner of the award will receive a trophy and certificate.

AFAC will promote the winner across its communication channels, including website and social media.



AFAC INDUSTRY AWARD



Data in Action Award

Data in Action Award

Aligned to Strategic Direction Three: using credible and timely information and data.

By utilising current and emerging technologies across a wide range of systems, sources and capabilities, fire and emergency services can enhance community advice and understanding before, during and after emergency events.

This award sets out to recognise individuals and agencies who are using information and data to improve performance across the sector. This includes information and data to improve capability and service provisions internally, across agency, and to empower the communities they serve.

This includes, but is not limited to, datasets; risk and impact assessments; Geographic Information Systems; strategic planning and decision making; workforce composition; and social media and public information.

Eligibility

The nominee must be acknowledged within their agency as leading improvements to the collection of data and/or relaying of information, demonstrating a significant commitment to the values of AFAC Strategic Direction Three.

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

1. The benefit to the agency of the values demonstrated by the nominee.
2. Improvements made to the collection of data and/or sharing of information because of the nominee's values.
3. The impact, or potential impact, of the nominee's dedication across the sector.

Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. Travel and accommodation not included.

The winner of the award will receive a trophy and certificate.

AFAC will promote the winner across its communication channels, including website and social media.



AFAC INDUSTRY AWARD



People First Award

People First Award

Aligned to Strategic Direction Four: safe, capable, and diverse workforce.

Fire and emergency services have an Australasian workforce of 288,000. It consists of 254,000 registered volunteers, 34,000 paid staff in career roles across fire services and parks and land management agencies and 6,000 retained or part time staff. Across the broader emergency management sector, the number exceeds 500,000. This is a significant workforce capability, that is organised, trained, and ultimately provides the nation with a substantial surge capacity in challenging times. This national capability is achieved through substantial volunteer contributions.

Fire and emergency services are working to build an inclusive culture, by embracing the value of bringing people from different backgrounds and different points of view to work together, to cultivate a workforce that reflects the diversity of the community.

Eligibility and selection

The nominee must be acknowledged within their agency as leading improvements to the creation of a safe, capable and diverse workforce across the emergency management sector, demonstrating a significant commitment to the values of AFAC Strategic Direction Four.

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

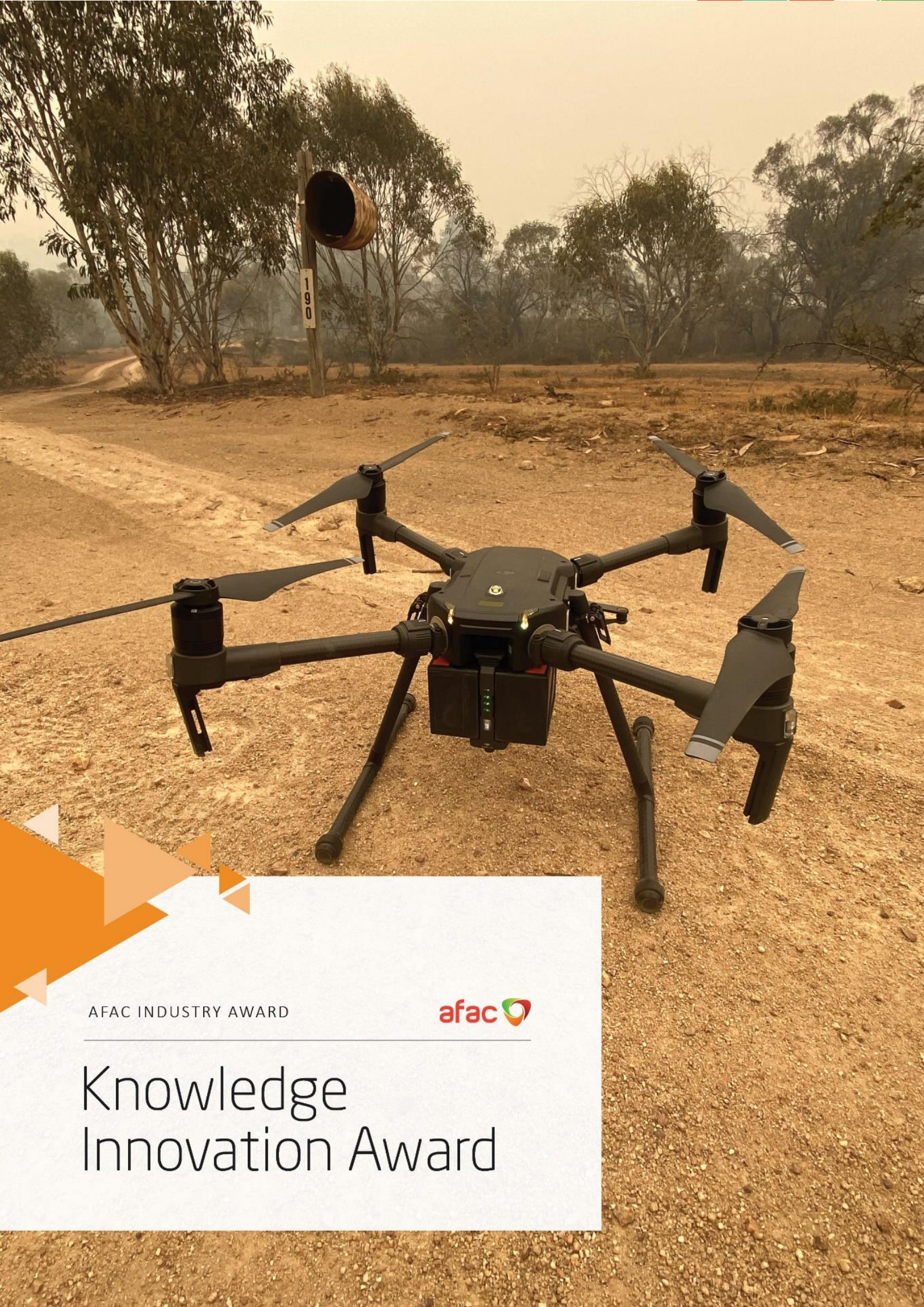
1. The benefit to the agency of the values demonstrated by the nominee.
2. Improvements made to the organisational culture because of the nominee's values.
3. The impact, or potential impact, of the nominee's dedication across the sector.

Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. Travel and accommodation not included.

The winner of the award will receive a trophy and certificate.

AFAC will promote the winner across its communication channels, including website and social media.



AFAC INDUSTRY AWARD



Knowledge Innovation Award

Knowledge Innovation Award

Aligned to Strategic Direction Five: informed by knowledge, innovation and research.

Emergency management operates in a dynamic environment with major shifts in technology, demography, and community expectations. The sector anticipates and responds to these challenges, underpinned by robust knowledge, informed by post event analysis, research and innovation.

Partnerships are established and maintained to deliver pure and applied research and importantly they look beyond the sector to understand how to achieve the path to our goals.

Eligibility and selection

The nominee must have made innovative and creative contributions to the advancement of knowledge, innovation, and research utilisation in their agency and/or the wider emergency management sector.

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

1. The innovation in the area of knowledge management or research utilisation.
2. The level of support within the agency, and how this was achieved.
3. The benefit for the sector of the innovation.
4. The sustainability and longevity of the initiative.
5. Supporting comments and/or testimonials from end users.

Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. Travel and accommodation not included.

The winner of the award will receive a trophy and certificate.

AFAC will promote the winner across its communication channels, including website and social media.



AFAC INDUSTRY AWARD



Effective Governance Award

Effective Governance Award

Aligned to Strategic Direction Six: effective and transparent governance.

The fire and emergency services sector operates within established governance frameworks, by which our members are directed, controlled, and held to account. Modelling good governance and seeking to build on best practice will foster an environment that results in greater collaboration while delivering value through strategic and transparent business and procurement practices.

Accountability is a core component of effective governance, made up of four key elements – transparency, responsibility, enforcement, and responsiveness.

Our sector is accountable for its emergency management responsibilities to governments and the communities they serve. This requires clarity in the delineation of responsibilities for decision-making authority, functions, advice, and information sharing.

Eligibility and selection

The nominee must be acknowledged within their agency as championing effective governance, demonstrating a significant commitment to the values of AFAC Strategic Direction Six.

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

1. The benefit to the agency of the values demonstrated by the nominee.
2. Improvements made to the governance because of the nominee's values.
3. The impact, or potential impact, of the nominee's dedication across the sector.

Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. Travel and accommodation not included.

The winner of the award will receive a trophy and certificate.

AFAC will promote the winner across its communication channels, including website and social media.



AFAC INDUSTRY AWARD



Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year Award

Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year

Guided by the principles of the AFAC Strategic Directions 2022-2026.

The Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year Award is guided by the principles of the AFAC Strategic Directions. The ability for the sector to achieve results, measured against the AFAC Strategic Directions, relies on the more than 288,000 people who work and volunteer across the sector.

The Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year Award aims to recognise those individuals who go above and beyond to:

- Protect the primacy of life across our communities.
- Foster trust and confidence in our emergency management sector.
- Champion interoperability through partnerships and collaboration.
- Keep themselves and their colleagues accountable.

Eligibility and selection

The nominee must be acknowledged within their agency as demonstrating a significant commitment to the enhancement of the knowledge or skills, operations, performance and/or public profile in the emergency services sector, in the areas of:

- Education and training.
- Research development and utilisation.
- Organisational governance.
- Technology and innovation.
- Community education and engagement.

Winners of other AFAC Industry Awards will automatically be considered alongside nominees in this award category.

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

1. The benefit to the agency of the values demonstrated by the nominee.
2. Improvements made to the organisational culture because of the nominees' values.
3. The impact, or potential impact, of the nominees' dedication to the sector.

Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. Travel and accommodation not included.

The winner of the award will receive a trophy and certificate. The winner will also receive a \$1,000 cash prize in recognition of their efforts over and above their normal role.

AFAC will promote the winner across its communication channels, including website and social media.