



VICTORIAN MARINE & COASTAL AWARDS 2024



Nomination Guidelines and Criteria for Assessment

The Victorian Marine Coastal Council is delighted to invite nominations for the 2024 Victorian Marine and Coastal Awards.

The 2024 Victorian Marine and Coastal Awards celebrate the many people and organisations contributing to sustainably managing and protecting the marine and coastal environment across Victoria.

The Awards recognise the role of communities and highlight the importance of partnerships in ensuring the many values of Victoria's marine and coastal areas are maintained and enhanced for the future.

Make a nomination today.

The Victorian Marine and Coastal Council (VMaCC) is seeking a diverse range of award nominations that reflect the incredible work done to maintain and enhance the marine and coastal environment. Nominations are open to all Victorian individuals and organisations, including but not limited to:

- Individuals
- Community groups
- Traditional Owner organisations and representatives
- Schools and universities
- Volunteer groups, e.g. Coastcare and 'friends of' groups
- Committees of Management
- Private companies
- Partnerships
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Local councils
- State government departments and agencies
- Private landowners and public lease/licence holders

Categories

Nominations are invited under the following seven categories:



Leadership in Climate Adaptation and Resilience



Marine and Coastal Stewardship by Private Landowners or Public Lease/Licence Holders



Excellence in Marine and Coastal Design or Development



Recognising Individual Achievement and Emerging Leadership



Distinction in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation



Embedding Traditional Owner Cultural Practices in Management



Inspiring Community Engagement and Education

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed against criteria specific to each category.

CATEGORY

CRITERIA



Leadership in Climate Adaptation and Resilience

For projects, programs or initiatives that embed a climate resilient approach in marine and/or coastal management, planning or operations.

1. Outline the motivation for, and the objectives of, the project/program/initiative.
2. How was the project/program/initiative implemented and managed? Include any challenges and how these were overcome.
3. How has this project/program/initiative contributed to climate adaptation and resilience? Include achievements to date and expected longer-term outcomes for the environment and the community.
4. How does the project/program/initiative align with the objectives of existing local, regional or state programs, strategies or policies? Identify the relevant documents.



Excellence in Marine and Coastal Design or Development

- A. Community and Volunteer groups/individuals**
- B. Professional agencies, large organisations and industry**

For projects and initiatives that showcase innovative, leading practice in marine and/or coastal design or development that is consistent with the principles of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*.

1. Outline the motivation for, and the objectives of the project/initiative.
2. How was the project/initiative implemented and managed? Include any challenges and how these were overcome.
3. How has this design, business, development or use contributed to a healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment that benefits the Victorian community now and in the future? Include achievements to date and expected longer-term outcomes for the environment and community.
4. How does the project/initiative align with the objectives of existing local, regional or state programs, strategies or policies? Identify the relevant documents.

CATEGORY



Distinction in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation

For projects, programs and initiatives delivering an outstanding contribution to enhancing, conserving and protecting coastal and marine ecosystems and species, through marine and/or coastal management, planning or operations.

CRITERIA

- 1.** Outline the motivation for and the objectives of the project/program/initiative.
- 2.** How was the project/program/initiative implemented and managed? Include any challenges and how these were overcome.
- 3.** How has this project/program/initiative contributed to positive biodiversity and ecosystem outcomes? Include monitoring and evaluation methods to support achievements to date and expected longer-term outcomes for ecosystems.
- 4.** How does the project/program/initiative align with the objectives of existing local, regional or state programs, strategies or policies? Identify the relevant documents.

CATEGORY

CRITERIA



Inspiring Community Engagement and Education

A. Community and Volunteer groups/individuals

B. Professional agencies, large organisations and industry

For projects, programs or initiatives making an outstanding contribution to community education and/or engagement to improve the Victorian community's understanding of, and connection with, the coastal and marine environment.

1. How has the project/program/initiative contributed to improving the wider community's education about, or engagement with, the coastal and marine environment? Include outcomes to date and anticipated longer-term outcomes.
2. How has the project/program/initiative engaged with the community, overcome challenges, built and maintained partnerships with key stakeholders to achieve greater understanding and connection with the marine and coastal environment?
3. How does the project/program/initiative align with the objectives of existing local, regional or state programs, strategies or policies? Identify the relevant documents.
4. How has the project/program/initiative developed the community's skills, understanding and connection with the coastal and marine environment? Your answer should include details of how many people the program/initiative has reached.
5. How has the project/program/initiative demonstrated leadership within the wider community?



Marine and Coastal Stewardship by Private Landowners or Public Lease/ Licence Holders

For private landowners and public lease/license holders who demonstrate marine and coastal stewardship – enabling and demonstrating outstanding respect and care for marine and coastal areas.

1. Outline the motivation for marine and coastal stewardship, and the objectives of the project/initiative.
2. How was the project/initiative initiated and implemented? Include how success was measured and how any challenges were overcome.
3. How has this stewardship contributed to a healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment? Include achievements to date and expected longer-term outcomes for the environment and/or community.
4. How does the project/initiative align with the objectives of existing local, regional or state programs, strategies or policies? Identify the relevant documents.

CATEGORY

CRITERIA



Recognising Individual Achievement and Emerging Leadership

A. For an individual in recognition of their significant and long-term contribution to the protection and improvement of Victoria's marine and coastal environment

B. For an emerging leader or youth showing potential and promise in marine and coastal leadership in Victoria

For an individual in recognition of their significant and long-term to the protection and improvement of Victoria's marine and coastal environment or an emerging leader or youth showing potential and promise in marine and coastal leadership in Victoria.

1. Explain how the individual's actions have demonstrated outstanding leadership within the community.
2. How has the individual has effectively mobilised others to contribute to the protection and improvement of Victoria's coastal and marine environment.
3. Detail projects, initiatives or activities that the individual has initiated or contributed to that deliver significant lasting positive outcomes for Victoria's coastal and marine environment.



Embedding Traditional Owner Cultural Practices in Management

For an indigenous individual, Traditional Owner organisation or group who has actively embedded cultural practices into marine and coastal management, planning or operations.

1. How did the individual's, organisation's or group's actions embed Traditional Owner cultural practices into marine and coastal management, planning or operations?
2. Describe the impact this has had on the protection and improvement of Victoria's coastal and marine environment.

*** Nominations in this category will be judged by representatives from Traditional Owner groups with appointed responsibility for coastal areas.*

Terms and Conditions

To be eligible for the 2024 Victorian Marine and Coastal Awards, entries must meet the following requirements. Failure to comply with these terms and conditions may result in the exclusion of your nomination.

Eligibility

1. Nominations for the Awards are open to all Victorian individuals and organisations, including but not limited to:
 - Traditional Owner organisations and representatives
 - Individuals
 - Community groups
 - Schools and universities
 - Volunteer groups, e.g. Coastcare and 'friends of' groups
 - Committees of Management
 - Private companies
 - Partnerships
 - Not-for-profit organisations
 - Local councils
 - State government departments and agencies
 - Private landowners and public lease/licence holders
2. Applications must relate to projects, programs, initiatives or achievements that are current or have been completed within the last two years. Nominations made in previous years may be resubmitted if they were not winners of an Award, are still current or have been completed within the last two years, and meet all other 2024 Terms and Conditions.

Applications

3. Nominations will only be accepted through the online nomination portal at www.vmaacc.awardsplatform.com. The Awards team can be contacted at vmaacc@deeca.vic.gov.au if there are any issues using the portal.
4. All fields in the application form must be completed for nominations to be accepted. Entries must address each of the key assessment criteria outlined on the nomination form for that category.
5. Applications close on 30 September 2024. All nominations, including any supporting material, must be submitted by this date. Late submissions will not be accepted.
6. All work submitted must be directly attributed to the individual or group being nominated. Where relevant, contributions of other groups or individuals to the projects must be clearly specified.
7. Images and supporting material that demonstrate the success of the nomination are highly encouraged. Attachments cannot exceed 5 MG each.

8. Projects, individuals, and groups can be nominated in more than one category. A separate entry form must be submitted for each category. The Awards team may contact applicants regarding the category for a nomination if it is determined that it may be more appropriate in an alternative category.
9. The decision of the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council (VMaCC) will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
10. All material submitted will be retained by VMaCC. VMaCC reserves the right to use all entries received for publicity and educational purposes. No material submitted will be returned.
11. VMaCC may nominate recipients or finalists to other relevant award programs in consultation with the nominee.

Permission to disclose information

12. It is a requirement that the express consent of the owner has been obtained to provide all information, documents and photographs prior to submitting or attaching to an application. Where photographs depict images of people, culturally significant places and/or sites consent must also be obtained prior to attaching to an application.

Assessment of nominations

13. Nominations will be reviewed by Technical Assessment Panels of no less than three (3) judges, appointed by the VMaCC Communications and Engagement Subcommittee on the basis of their expertise and experience in the field of the relevant Award category.
14. To ensure the integrity of the assessment process, judges will be asked to disclose to the Awards team any relationship that either is, or may lead to a perception of, a conflict of interest (i.e. a relationship that has a strong likelihood to lead nominees or the public to perceive that a judge has a conflict of interest that would undermine the credibility of the judging process).
15. Where a conflict of interest does exist, the judge may be asked to abstain from judging the nomination. Where required, a member of VMaCC may be requested to act as substitute judge for the assessment of that nomination and will be provided with assessment information on other nominations to ensure consistency.

Privacy Statement

The Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) is committed to protecting personal information provided by you in accordance with the privacy principles in the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic). The information you provide will be used for the purposes of the 2024 Marine and Coastal Awards. Your contact details may also be used to survey you about your experience with DEECA.

The information you provide will be accessed by VMaCC and its secretariat to assess nominations for the 2024 Victorian Marine and Coastal Awards and convey information about Awards process and event. The information you provide may also be shared with members of Technical Assessment Panels appointed by VMaCC to assess nominations under relevant Award categories. The nominee's Name, Organisation, location (suburb/region only), details about the nature of the project/work to which the nomination pertains, and photographs of Award nominees may be provided to media outlets for promotional purposes. You may access the information you have provided to DEECA by contacting vmacc@deeca.vic.gov.au.



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