

ARTHUR MEAD AWARD ENTRY GUIDE 2026 AUCKLAND AWARDS

The Arthur Mead Award encourages, recognises and publicises significant contributions to the sustainability and improvement of the environment involving members of Engineering New Zealand's Auckland Branch.

The Arthur Mead Environmental Award was introduced in 1977 by the Engineering New Zealand Auckland Branch in honour of eminent water engineer Arthur Mead. Mead was a great visionary and a pioneer in the environmental engineering space.

Categories

The Arthur Mead Award has two categories:

- Projects over \$10 million in value.
- Projects under \$10 million in value.

The total cost threshold (exclusive of GST) is provided for guidance.

Within each category are two sub-categories:

- Buildings
- Infrastructure – which includes new and retrofit projects in market sectors such as water, transportation, aviation, power and energy.

The judges reserve the right to consider an entry in a category or sub-category for which it was not entered. The project does not need to be complete but must have met a significant project milestone.

Judging criteria

Entries for this award will be judged against the five of the six criteria outlined in the table below. Entrants must select two primary criteria – each with a weighting of 35% – and three secondary criteria, each worth 10%.

| Criteria | Description | Primary (✓) | Secondary (✓) |
|-------------------------|--|-------------|---------------|
| Innovation | The project is recognised for its innovative solution or techniques. | | |
| Environmental | The project has or will result in significant improvements or enhancements to the natural environment. | | |
| Sustainability | The project to have a positive social and/or economic impact. | | |
| Safety in design | The project has demonstrated safety-in-design measures to protect the safety and wellbeing of stakeholders and the public. | | |
| Consultation | The project has demonstrated outstanding consultation and meaningful engagement. | | |
| Community | The project to have a positive community impact ie diversity and inclusion, Te Ao Māori in design etc. | | |

Award details

- All finalists will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement.
- The finalists for each sub-category will be designated 'Merit' or 'Excellence', with one designated 'Best in Class'.
- One of the two 'Best in Class' finalists will be announced the winner of their category and receive the Arthur Mead trophy for that category.
- The nominator accepts that the judges' decisions are final and that no correspondence will be entered into.

Finalists in each category will be awarded one of the following:

Category one: Arthur Mead Award (over \$10 million)

Sub-category: Buildings

- Merit
- Excellence
- Best in Class

Sub-category: Infrastructure

- Merit
- Excellence
- Best in Class

Overall winner

One overall winner for projects over \$10 million will be selected from the two sub-category Best in Class recipients and awarded an Arthur Mead trophy.

Category Two: Arthur Mead Award (under \$10 million)

Sub-category: Buildings

- Merit
- Excellence
- Best in Class

Sub-category: Infrastructure

- Merit
- Excellence
- Best in Class

Overall winner

One overall winner for projects under \$10 million will be selected from the two sub-category Best in Class recipients and awarded an Arthur Mead trophy.

Eligibility

- Projects located substantially within the Auckland region are eligible.
- For projects outside of the Auckland region, the lead organisation must be Auckland-based. This may include any engineering discipline, client, project manager or main construction company.
- At least two engineers from the project team must be Auckland-based.
- Entries must include the details of a sponsor, along with a supporting statement. The sponsor must be a member of Engineering New Zealand's Auckland Branch.
- Projects must not have been submitted for the Arthur Mead Award more than once previously.
- Projects must be completed, or have met a significant project milestone, in the five years to 27 February 2026.

Entries

- Entries open on Friday 14 November 2025.
- An entry for this award comprises:
 - A completed nomination form – closes on Friday 30 January 2026, and
 - A completed entry form – closes on Friday 27 February 2026
- Nomination forms are completed online. Visit the [Auckland Awards website](#) for more information.
- Entry forms should be emailed to the [Engineering New Zealand Auckland Branch](#) before the closing date.
- The awards will be presented on Friday 15 May at the 2026 Auckland Awards.