

2026 **INTEGRATED PLANNING** AWARDS

Nominations close: Monday 23 February 2026

2026 INTEGRATED PLANNING AWARDS

ABOUT THESE AWARDS

These awards celebrate the success of individuals and teams working in Victorian Local Government's integrated planning space.

The **Community and Integrated Planning Award** focuses on local government initiatives that demonstrate excellence in the areas of:

- **Council planning**
- **Community planning – empowering community**
- **Integrating Council and community planning**
- **Performance measurement and management**
- **Service planning, transformation or enhancement**
- **Sustainable community involvement in Council and community visioning**
- **Planning for environmental sustainability, accessibility, gender equality**
- **Planning for business transformation**
- **Transparent reporting**

The **Best Practice and Innovation in Council Plan Development Award** is aligned with the legislative period for developing a Council Plan. The purpose of this award is to foster continuous improvement in project planning, stimulate innovation and to acknowledge best practice development of Council Plans.

2026 INTEGRATED PLANNING AWARDS

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the award must be completed online and will close on Monday 23 February 2026 at 5pm.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominations will be accepted from both LGPro members and non-members, however at least one nominator must be an LGPro member. One of the two nominators must be the nominating council's Chief Executive Officer. In the case of a team submission, at least one member of the team must be an LGPro member.

NOMINATION PROCESS

When you begin a nomination, you will be required to create a username and password. This allows you to complete the form in stages or add further information prior to the closing date. When submitting your nomination, all questions must be answered in sequential order to progress.

Up to five high-definition images in JPEG format must be included with a description of each photograph in the relevant space provided in the online application form. These digital photos must be at least 1MB each and no more than 5MB.

A short video (approximately 45 seconds) detailing the process undertaken in implementing the nominated initiative must also be submitted. The video will be used to provide the judging panel with more context around your nomination. It can be filmed using an iPhone and does not have to be a polished production.

JUDGING

The judging panel will comprise a Local Government Chief Executive Officer or an LGPro Board Member and a Local Government representative. Each judge will individually review all nominations and allocate preferences based on how the submission meets the award criteria. Final scores will be reached through averaging and consensus of the judging panel. In the event of a tied decision, LGPro will assist with the adjudication.

Please Note: The LGPro Community and Integrated Planning Award is an initiative of the LGPro Integrated Planning Special Interest Group. Nominations for these awards will be received and judged by an independent panel appointed by LGPro. The judging panel's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

AWARD PRESENTATION

The award will be presented following the Integrated Planning stream at the 2026 LGPro Annual Conference on Wednesday 17 June 2026 at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne, 123 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000.

FINALISTS

Finalists will be notified at least two weeks prior to the Annual Conference. All award finalists will receive a certificate.

WINNERS

The winning individuals/teams will receive an award in the form of a statuette and a certificate will be posted to their Chief Executive Officer and an article on the winning entry may appear in upcoming editions of LGPro's Profile magazine.

2026 INTEGRATED PLANNING AWARDS

PREPARING YOUR NOMINATION

The following is a copy of the questions you will need to answer in the online portal as part of your nomination. The online portal allows you to pause and continue your nomination at any time, but the below is provided to help you gather the requisite information ahead of time and simplify the process.

COMMUNITY AND INTEGRATED PLANNING AWARD

1. Provide a promotional summary of the initiative (up to 100 words)

A short paragraph on the key aspects of the initiative (please use full sentences and not dot points). If your nomination is successful, this will be read out at the Awards ceremony held at the Welcome Reception at the 2026 LGPro Annual Conference.

2. Description of the initiative – Selection Criteria

Strategic alignment

- Explain the extent to which the initiative was developed to address an identified need and aligned to the Council Plan or Community Vision (up to 200 words)

Implementation and change management

- Explain how the initiative was successfully implemented and any change management methods employed. Please provide evidence and examples (up to 300 words)

Integration and engagement

- Explain how the initiative was integrated across the organisation and community? Please list any innovative practices (up to 300 words)
- How was the community engaged to develop and sustain the initiative? Please provide evidence to substantiate the community engagement. Please list any innovative processes (up to 200 words)

Community outcomes and sustainability

- List the demonstrated outcomes. Please provide evidence of outcomes (up to 400 words)
- If ongoing, how will the initiative be sustained? (150 words)

Knowledge sharing and collaboration

- Were the learnings from the initiative shared across the sector and, if so, how? Please provide evidence and examples (up to 400 words)

3. Provide details of the specific contribution made by the individual or team involved (up to 300 words)

4. General comments (200 words)

5. Please attach four to five high resolution photos (minimum of 1 MB each)

6 Please attach a 45 second video detailing the process undertaken in implementing the initiative to provide judges with more context. It does not have to be a polished production and can be filmed using an iPhone

2026 INTEGRATED PLANNING AWARDS

BEST PRACTICE AND INNOVATION IN COUNCIL PLAN INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT AWARD

1. Provide a promotional summary of the project or initiative (up to 100 words)

A short paragraph on the key aspects of the project/initiative (please use full sentences and not dot points). If your nomination is successful, this will be read out at the awards ceremony.

2. Description of the initiative addressing the following criteria under the headings listed below:

Council Plan formulation

- Outline the best practice project management process **(up to 150 words)**
- How did the process seek to identify and respond to the emerging challenges facing Local Government (generally) and your Council (specifically)? **(up to 200 words)**
- Outline the planning methodology utilised in the project **(up to 150 words)**
- Outline the project time frames and what resources were used to develop the plan **(up to 250 words)**
What consideration was given to quantitative/qualitative data? **(up to 150 words)**

Community and Council deliberative engagement

- How was the community involved in the development of the plan? **(up to 150 words)**
- How was Council and staff involved in the development of the plan? **(up to 200 words)**
- How has this differed from previous years? **(150 words)**

Implementation

- How will the Council Plan be translated into action? **(up to 150 words)**
- What plans or strategies have been integrated into the Council Plan? **(up to 250 words)**
- How will the Council Plan drive the strategic and operational direction of the Council? **(up to 150 words)**
- How will progress towards the strategic objectives identified in the Council Plan be measured and monitored over time? **(up to 150 words)**
- What structures are in place for reporting on the plan? **(up to 150 words)**

Process Improvement

- How is process improvement managed? **(up to 100 words)**
- In what ways did you improve your project management this year from four years ago? **(up to 200 words)**

Innovation

- How do you consider your Council Plan project has been innovative? **(up to 150 words)**

Continued next page

2026 INTEGRATED PLANNING AWARDS

Evaluation

- What would you do differently upon reflection of the process? **(150 words)**
- How did you evaluate and close off the current Council Plan (before commencing the new one) i.e. Council Plan 2017–2021 to Council Plan 2022–2026 **(150 words)**

3. Any general comments you may wish to add: (Optional – up to 100 words)

Attachments of four to five high resolution photos (minimum of 1MB each).

4. Attachments of four to five high resolution photos (minimum of 1 MB each)

5. Please attach a 45 second video detailing the process undertaken in implementing the plan to provide judges with more context. It does not have to be a polished production and can be filmed using an iPhone

Need more information?

For further information, contact LGPro directly on (03) 9268 6400 or info@lgpro.com