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To enter the iTnews Benchmark Awards 2026, [**fill in the online entry form here**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96872F6)**.**

**About this document**

You can refer to this document when preparing your awards entry. When you are ready to submit your entry, you must [**fill in the online entry form here**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96872F6)**.**

**The iTnews Benchmark Awards recognise Australia's leading IT projects**

For ten years, these awards have given organisations, their IT leaders and teams an opportunity to gain recognition for their ambition, innovation and the value they have delivered to government, industry and the public.

Award winners join an alumni that includes leaders and teams responsible for some of Australia's most remarkable IT projects.

**How much does it cost to enter the iTnews Benchmark Awards?**

There is no cost to enter the iTnews Benchmark Awards.

**What can you nominate for an award?**

The awards focus on IT projects by large, end-user organisations. End-user organisations are encouraged to nominate their own projects.

Technology companies/contractors can also nominate client projects, but they must have approval from their client to do so. This is a client-focused awards program, focusing on the client’s challenges and how a project helped them. So the client must be prepared to accept an award and speak about their project publically. The client will also be invited to attend the iTnews Benchmark Awards dinner if their project is a finalist.

Your project is eligible if any part of it occurred between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Judging will focus on achievements during that period.

To be eligible your project must have been conducted by an Australian organisation or solely within the Australian subsidiary of a multinational organisation.

Pilot projects are welcome, if testing with actual end-users or customers has been completed.

You may submit multiple entries.

**The judging process**

The awards will be judged by a select panel comprised of the iTnews editorial team and guest judges. Event sponsors have no involvement in the judging process.

Finalists in each category will be announced in February 2026.

Winners will be announced at a gala awards dinner on the 26th March 2026 in the CBD, Sydney.

**The Award categories**

You can submit entries in 11 categories:

1. **Best Federal Government Project**
2. **Best State Government Project**
3. **Best Local Government Project**
4. **Best Industrial (Manufacturing construction, transport & logistics) Project**
5. **Best Education Project**
6. **Best Health Project**
7. **Best Finance (and professional services) Project**
8. **Best Energy, Utilities and Electricity Project**
9. **Best Retail project**
10. **Best Not for Profit project**
11. **Best Telecommunications project**

One project entered in these categories will be selected as Australian Technology Project of the Year.

You may submit multiple entries.

**Submissions will be judged according to:**

* The strength of the business case for the project.
* The project’s delivery – evidence of agility, creative applications of IT and competencies developed, whilst keeping within targeted scope, deadline and cost.
* Whether new ground was forged – in terms of innovation and new technologies or approaches, and how this risk was managed.
* Return on investment – anticipated or measured.

**Questions?**

You can ask questions about the awards by emailing us here.

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**\*1. Please enter your details below.**

* First Name
* Last Name
* Work Email
* Job Title
* Organisation
* Phone

**\*2. Who is the company that will be accepting the Award?**

**\*3. Choose your award category from the list below.**

Best Federal Government Project

Best State Government Project

Best Local Government Project

Best Education Project

Best Health Project

Best Finance (and professional services) Project

Best Industrial (Manufacturing, construction, transport and logistics) Project

Best Energy, utilities and electricity Project

Best Not for Profit Project

Best Retail Project

Best Telecommunications  Project

**\*4. Upload an image (not a logo) that shows off the project.**

Choose a photo – not a logo – that you would like to see featured in any news story or video about your project. We accept .PNG, .JPG or .GIF. We prefer large professionally-taken photos in horizontal format, at 1400 x 900 or larger. File size limit: 16MB

**\*5. Please name your IT project for consideration.** (In fewer than ten words)

To be eligible, the work you nominate must have occurred between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 (FY 2024-25). Judges will focus on achievements in the 2024–25 financial year. If your project also took place outside that timeframe, please specify what was achieved during FY 2024-25.

**\*6. Please describe the technology project, including commencement and completion dates.** (In fewer than 400 words)

*Remember that the iTnews Benchmark Awards focus on end-user organisations’ challenges and how projects helped them.*

*And as you complete this form, remember that your entry will be judged according to:*

* *The strength of the business case for the project.*
* *The project’s delivery – evidence of agility, creative applications of IT and competencies developed, whilst keeping within targeted scope, deadline and cost.*
* *Whether new ground was forged – in terms of innovation and new technologies or approaches, and how this risk was managed.*
* *Return on investment – anticipated or measured.*

*Feel free to include links to additional supporting material.*

**\*6. What was the ultimate aim of the project?** (In fewer than 50 words)

**TECHNOLOGY**

**\*7. Was there any bespoke software development required by your team? What technology products were used?** (In fewer than 100 words)

**\*8. Were the services of any technology services providers or consultancies involved? What did they contribute to the project?** (In under 100 words)

**\*9. What return on investment was projected? What has been measured?**

*Evidence of ROI will be weighted higher during the judging process.*

**STRATEGY**

**\*10. Please name the CIO/senior IT decision maker responsible for delivery of this IT project (i.e. recipient for award).**

**\*11. Please provide the names and contact details of two peers (ideally, direct reports to the CIO/project lead or executives they report to) who would be willing to endorse the project and those that led its implementation.**

**\*12. Please name the team members directly responsible for delivery of the project.** (If applicable)

**\*13. How does this project fit within your organisation’s broader business strategy?** (In fewer than 200 words)

**\*14. How does this technology implementation set you apart from the rest of your industry?** (In fewer than 200 words)

**\*15. How did you manage change and win staff over to the new technology?** (In fewer than 200 words)

**\*16. How was the business case pitched to other senior stakeholders? How did you gain executive sponsorship?** (In fewer than 200 words)

**Conditions of entry**

iTnews reserves the right to publish details of your award entry, but will not publish information that you indicate is confidential.

Finalists will be announced in February 2026 by iTnews.

Winners will be announced at a gala awards dinner on 26th March 2026 in the Sydney CBD.

Thank you for your submission and best of luck!

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