MAVlab Innovation Awards - Entry Form

Key information

Welcome to the 2025 MAVlab Innovation Awards Entry Form.

Submissions close 5.59pm on 31 July 2025.

Before you complete this form, please review all awards information, including Eligibility and Terms and Conditions, on the MAVlab Innovation Awards website.

The MAVlab Innovation Awards recognise innovative, impactful, and scalable initiatives across Victorian local councils. We celebrate people, places, programs, and projects that demonstrate real impact in their municipalities while inspiring action in others. Recipients showcase innovation, initiative, bravery, and leadership at all levels— from service improvements to council-wide programs.

An expert panel comprising MAV Advisory Panel members, Victorian local council specialists, and sector experts will assess all entries against specific award criteria, as detailed on the Criteria and Judging webpage.

As our inaugural awards program, we've co-designed a process that we hope will be enjoyable and effective. MAVlab will refine this process using participant feedback to create an accessible and impactful awards program for Victorian councils.

In this form, we ask you to submit project or people details, responses to award criteria and supporting attachments. We have strict word limits and will remove any submitted content that exceeds the word limits specified before judging.

Preview a PDF of the Entry Form.

This Entry Form is set up so that as you progress through each page, it will save your responses on the previous page. We recommend filling in and completing this form in one session to avoid losing any data, and preparing your responses ahead of time using the above PDF form.

For any questions, support, or to share your feedback, please email mavlab@MAV.asn.au.

Thank you for helping us to shine a spotlight on incredible work in our Victorian local councils.

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Before you begin

By submitting an entry to the MAVlab Innovation Awards, you acknowledge and consent to the following uses of your personal information and submitted content:

- Assessment Process: Your entry details, including personal information and project content, will be shared with our panel of assessors for the purpose of scoring and evaluating your submission against the award criteria.
- Promotional Activities: MAV may publish and share content from your submission on the MAV website and across MAV communication channels to showcase innovative projects and celebrate participant achievements. This may include project descriptions, images, videos, and other materials you have provided.

We will liaise with you before any public sharing of your content to ensure you are comfortable with how your project is presented and to obtain any additional permissions required.

If you have any questions about how your information will be used, please contact mavlab@mav.asn.au.

Review the MAVlab Innovation Awards Terms and Conditions online.

* 1. I have received endorsement from relevant council management to submit this nomination on behalf of my council.

( ) Yes

* 2. I have reviewed and understand the MAVlab Innovation Awards Eligibility and Terms and Conditions, and believe this nomination complies with the award's terms.

( ) Yes

* 3. I consent to the collection and use of our information as outlined above.

( ) Yes

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Your details

* 1. Main contact (you) full name

* 2. Your role

   * 3. Your council

* 4. Your email address

5. Optional second contact full name (for communications related to your entry)

6. Optional second contact role

7. Optional second contact email address

8. Optional second contact phone number

   * 9. I am submitting a nomination for a

     ○ Project Award

     ○ People or Team Award (including Major Awards)

People or Team Award: Key details

You are filling out this section if you are nominating for a People or Team Award/s, including the Major Awards.

See all Award Categories on the MAV website: https://www.mav.asn.au/mavlab/futures/mavlab-innovation-awards/award-categories

In this form, you can select to enter multiple People and Team Award categories.

* 1. Which People or Team Award/s is this entry for (multiple answers accepted)?

☐ Major Award - 2025 Innovatio Pro Bono Publico Award: Leader

☐ Major Awad - 2025 Innovatio Pro Bono Publico Award: Emerging Leader

☐ The Thrive Award for Leadership in Change Management

☐ The Insights Award for Leadership in Data-driven Decision-making

* 2. Name of the person or team you are nominating for the award (this might be yourself)

[   ]

* 3. Tagline: Please share a short tagline for this person or team. Imagine this being a headline in a newspaper or the title of a blog (10 words or less).

[   ]

* 4. Description: Provide us with a summary of this person or team, including anything important you want to add that does not fit in the criteria sections below. (100 words or less)

[   ]

5. Please add details here if this nomination is for a team (name and role, bullet points).

[   ]

People or Team Award: Criteria responses

* 1. CRITERIA 1: LEADERSHIP + EXCELLENCE – 40%

Tell us how this person or team has demonstrated incredible leadership and bravery through operations, projects or programs relevant to the award (i.e. change management, data-driven decision-making or leadership). This includes resilience and innovation in the face of challenges. (300 words or less)

* 2. CRITERIA 2: IMPACT + LEGACY – 30%

Share how this person has created impact for the organisation and the community, demonstrated through data or feedback from others. (300 words or less)

* 3. CRITERIA 3: COLLABORATION – 30%

Explain how this person has driven a more collaborative or empowering workplace, helping to break down silos through behaviours and actions, encouraging others and supporting workplace cohesion. (300 words or less)

Project Award: Key details

You are filling out this section if you are nominating for a Project Award.

See all Award Categories on the MAV website: https://www.mav.asn.au/mavlab/futures/mavlab-innovation-awards/award-categories

In this form, you can select to enter multiple Project Award categories.

* 1. Which Project Award/s is this entry for (multiple answers accepted)?

- [ ] The Connector Award for Community Inclusion and Cohesion
- [ ] The Wellbeing Award for Community Health Impacts
- [ ] The Energiser Award for Climate Resilience and Adaptation
- [ ] The Systems and Cycles Awards for Regenerative Design
- [ ] The Now and Forever Award for Impact and Legacy
- [ ] The Stronger Together Award for Council Collaboration
- [ ] The Engage Award for Impactful and Inclusive Storytelling
- [ ] The Future is Maintenance Award for Asset Management
- [ ] The Smooth Sailing Award for Service Optimisation and CX
- [ ] The Refuge Award for Innovation in Housing and Safe Spaces for Community
- [ ] The Sandbox Award for Experimentation Practice
- [ ] The Fin-novation Award for Financial Ingenuity

* 2. Title of your project/inititative

* 3. Tagline: Please share a short tagline for this project. Imagine this being a headline in a newspaper or the title of a blog (10 words or less).

* 4. Key goals: Use bullet points to tell us about the purpose of this project or initiative. (100 words or less)

* 5. Description: Provide us with a short summary of the project, including what the project/initiative is, the date it was implemented, how long it will go for, who it's for and how you're measuring value against the goals you shared above. (100 words or less)

* 6. How many people were on the project team? (rough figures are ok, but please keep this to project team not stakeholders - who worked on it day-to-day?)

* 7. What was the project duration? (In months and years. You may choose to add key phase timings - this is not required, and you will not be penalised if you do not provide this detail.)

8. What was the project/initiative budget? (This is an optional question that helps us to understand the scale and scope of your work and assess projects fairly. Any answers to this response will remain confidential and not shared publicly.)

Project Award: Criteria responses

* 1. CRITERIA 1: CHALLENGE + CONTEXT – 20%

Submit details about the challenge and the context in which you innovated; what was the problem to be addressed, and what were the factors that made it challenging and required innovation? You might share details about constraints or challenges related to time, location, stakeholders, trust, engagement or other. Please also share any specific challenges for diverse and vulnerable cohorts. (300 words or less)

* 2. CRITERIA 2: SOLUTION + INNOVATION – 30%

Share what you did – the approach or activity – and why it was innovative. Describe how your solution responded to the challenge and context. You should share the main steps you took, designing and implementing your project, as well as how you engaged with stakeholders. You should describe why this is different to previous approaches and how it might advance local government practices. Please use this criteria to highlight how your solution was designed to be accessible and inclusive. (300 words or less)

* 3. CRITERIA 3: IMPACT + OUTCOME – 30%

Tell us what happened as a result of your project or program. What were the impacts or outcomes, and how did you measure these? It is anticipated that impacts will continue to grow over time? You should use this criteria to share any specific outcomes related to accessibility and inclusion. (300 words or less)

* 4. CRITERIA 4: SCALABILITY – 20%

Share how your innovation could scale (or be replicated) to create further impacts. This criteria highlights the importance of transferring knowledge and thinking at council and network scale for greater benefit beyond municipal boundaries. Share any thoughts about how this idea or approach can be integrated with or transferred to other councils or teams within your council to leverage the collective power of your council and our council network to scale up the value of your project or initiative.

You should also use this section to share how your idea drives towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (either on a global scale or your localised SDGs). (300 words or less)

Supporting attachments

This section is for you to submit and share supporting visual files including diagrams, sketches, graphs, photos and videos.

There is no minimum number of files you must submit, however, there is a maximum of five. We will not accept or consider any reports. Any content submitted here will be considered as complementary to the criteria submissions and not in lieu of.

Valid file types you may upload include:

- PDF, DOC, DOCX, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF

Video:

- We do not accept mp4 upload, and instead invite you to share a link to your video online on Youtube, Vimeo, Google Drive or other online location.
- Video links do not count towards your 5 file maximum.
- We suggest short videos (less than 1 minute) at 16:9, however portrait aspect is also acceptable.

Suggestions:

- Submit a range of content that you feel best represents the project or person you're submitting a nomination for.
- Please add any credits (ie photographer) in the file name of your images or videos.
- Files numbered in order of review (i.e. 1, 2, 3 etc.).
- 300 dpi (landscape or portrait is acceptable)

Requirements:

- Please name your files according to this convention: 'Council-project/person/team-##-YYYY' (where ## is a unique number for each of your files).
- No more than 5 x documents are accepted to be uploaded.
- File size maximum is 16MB (per file).

1. Please upload your file (1)

Choose File   Choose File   No file chosen

2. Please upload your file (2)

Choose File   Choose File   No file chosen

3. Please upload your file (3)

Choose File   Choose File   No file chosen

4. Please upload your file (4)

Choose File   Choose File   No file chosen

5. Please upload your file (5)

Choose File   Choose File   No file chosen

6. Link/s to supporting video/s:

7. Please share any supporting links (ie project site or linked in):

* 8. I confirm that all information submitted within this entry is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

◯ Yes