

# 2026 IQA Awards

Recognising the people, sites, and teams setting the standard across Australia's quarrying sector. Nominate the work that deserves to be seen.

[Submit a nomination](#) [View the categories](#)

Nominations close **Friday 7 August 2026**

<p><b>SEVEN CATEGORIES</b></p> <p>Safety, environment, leadership, excellence, and service</p>	<p><b>PRESENTED AT</b></p> <p>2026 IQA National Conference, Gold Coast, Queensland   6 to 8 October 2026</p>	<p><b>WHO CAN NOMINATE</b></p> <p>IQA members, quarry operations, and sector partners</p>
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**ABOUT THE AWARDS**

The IQA Awards celebrate excellence across the quarrying and extractive sector, from site safety and environmental management to individual leadership and lifelong service. Winners are announced and presented at the 2026 IQA National Conference, held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, from 6 to 8 October 2026. Nominations are held in confidence until then.

**Refreshed categories for 2026**

The 2026 program has been streamlined into seven categories. The new Quarry Leadership and Contribution Award brings together what were previously the Operator of the Year, Manager of the Year, and Excellence in Leadership awards into a single recognition open to leaders at every level. The Quarry Sector Excellence Award recognises innovative projects that deliver measurable benefits, including community engagement and positive local impact.

## The categories

Each award is judged against published, weighted criteria.

- 1**

**Gold Hard Hat Site Safety Award**

Recognises a quarry site with outstanding safety leadership, a comprehensive safety management system, and sustained performance improvement year on year.

Site award | Any operation in Australia
- 2**

**Gold Site Environment Award**

Recognises a site or company behind an outstanding environmental initiative, with clear innovation, measurable outcomes, and real impact on the operation.

Site award | Any operation in Australia
- 3**

**Quarry Sector Excellence Award**

Recognises a site, team, or individual delivering outstanding results through an innovative project that offers measurable benefits and community impact.

Open award | Members, operations, teams
- 4**

**President's Medal**

The IQA's highest individual honour, recognising sustained and outstanding service to the Institute and the wider extractive sector.

Highest honour | IQA members
- 5**

**Quarry Leadership and Contribution Award**

Recognises individuals at any level who lead with purpose and lift those around them, across leadership, operational excellence, people development, and sector contribution.

Individual award | IQA members, all levels
- 6**

**Alec Northover Award**

Recognises an individual showing exceptional competence and ongoing development through formal training, and the real application of those skills on the job.

AIQEF supported | IQA members
- 7**

**Conference Exhibitor / Supplier Award**

Recognises the most engaging and professional exhibitor display at the IQA National Conference. Judged on site during the conference.

Exhibitor award | All conference exhibitors

## How to nominate

- 01**

**Choose a category**

Review the criteria and pick the award that best fits the person, site, or project.
- 02**

**Gather your evidence**

Address each criterion with supporting detail, data, and letters of recommendation where required.
- 03**

**Submit the form**

Complete the official IQA nomination form online before nominations close.
- 04**

**Judging and reveal**

The National Awards Committee reviews each nomination, with winners announced at the 2026 IQA National Conference on the Gold Coast.

**WHERE THE WINNERS ARE NAMED**

**2026 IQA National Conference**  
*Building the Future Today*

**LOCATION**  
Gold Coast, Queensland

**DATES**  
6 to 8 October 2026

**Know someone worth recognising?**

Nominations are open now and close Friday 7 August 2026. It takes one nomination to put great work in front of the sector.

[Submit a nomination](#)