LGFA TAITUARĀ
Local Government Excellence Awards

Taituarā

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Entry information

2027

The LGFA Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards® recognise outstanding programmes, projects and approaches that demonstrate professional excellence in local government management. Councils are encouraged to enter to gain recognition for their excellent work. All New Zealand local authorities and council-controlled organisations (CCOs) are encouraged to enter and showcase their achievements.

In these guidelines, "project" means the programme, project, initiative or approach being entered.

Award winners will be announced at the LGFA Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards event at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington on 10 June 2027.

2027 award categories

The Award for Excellence in Digital Local Government

How is your council making use of the power of technology?

This category recognises the successful application of digital or technological solutions that transform services, enhance democratic participation, or improve community outcomes. Project learnings must be transferable to other local authorities.

The Award for Excellence in Community Engagement

Are your council's community relationships delivering results?

This category recognises initiatives that demonstrate exceptional community engagement or empowerment beyond statutory requirements. Project learnings must be transferable to other local authorities.

The Award for Excellence in Collaborating for Results

What benefits has your community achieved through your council working with other local or central government agencies?

This category recognises achievements through collaboration with government agencies, community, or private organisations. Project learnings must be transferable to other local authorities.

The Award for Excellence in Placemaking

Is your council making the community a better place to live?

This category recognises programmes or projects that shape vibrant local economies, cultures or societal outcomes. Project learnings must be transferable to other local authorities.

Te Tohu Waka Hourua (the Double Canoe) — Excellence in Māori–Council Partnerships

Is your council working effectively in partnership with Māori? Kei te āta mahi tahi rānei tō kaunihera ki a ngāi Māori?

E aro ana tēnei wāhanga ki ngā hōtaka, ngā kaupapa rānei e whakaatu ana i te takohanga mauroa o te mahi tahi ki a ngāi Māori. E wātea ana ki ngā wāhanga katoa o ngā mahi kaunihera ā-rohe, engari me taea te whakaatu i te wāhi ki te ao Māori me te mārama, te whakatinanatanga hoki o ngā mātāpono o te Tiriti.

This category recognises programmes, projects or initiatives that show a demonstrable and ongoing commitment to working in partnership with Māori. Entries may come from any area of local government activity but must be able to demonstrate the application of Te Ao Māori or an understanding and application of Te Tiriti principles.

The Award for Excellence in Environmental Leadership

How is your council modelling environmental sustainability?

This category recognises programmes, projects, or initiatives that provide tangible benefits to the environment, or showcase leading practice in managing environmental impacts in the local community. Project learnings must be transferable to other local authorities.

The Award for Excellence in Cost Effectiveness

Is your council getting better outcomes through improved efficiencies?

This category recognises programmes or projects that achieve significant cost reductions without compromising outcomes. Project learnings must be transferable to other local authorities.

Guidelines for completing your entry

Your entry form

To enter you must:

- complete the entry form which includes:
  - award category, project name, organisation contacts, link to video project entry confirmation that at least one ticket has been purchased for the 2027 awards event.
  - endorsement (signature) of the organisation's Chief Executive or nominee, complete a written entry containing the Project Summary and responses to all four assessment sections (see more information below);
- Create a 2-3 minute video project entry which showcases the entry. This should be in 16:9 format and 1080p resolution. There are two ways to get your video to us:
  - *Preferred* – share the file via a service such as Dropbox.
  - Upload to YouTube or Vimeo and share the link with us.

Your written entry

Your written entry should include a short project summary followed by responses to the four assessment sections below. Your written entry can be saved in Word or PDF and attached alongside your entry form.

Section	Maximum words	Marks
Project summary	200	NA
Strategic context	400	20
Project management	400	20
Partnerships and relationships	400	20
Project success	1,400	40
Total	**2,800**	**100**

Project Summary – 200 words
Provide a concise, high-level overview or executive summary of the project, including its purpose, approach and principal results. The judges do not assess this part, but it will be used for media or promotional purposes.

Strategic context (20 marks; 400 words)
Entries must describe:

- Evidence of the need for the project and how that need was assessed.
- The intended outcomes and how the project was designed to achieve them.
- Alignment with the council's strategic direction.

Project management (20 marks; 400 words)
Entries must describe:

- Key elements of the project plan including scope, governance, timeframes, resources.
- The criteria used to assess success and how those criteria were established.
- The tools and methods used to provide quality assurance.
- The principal project risks and how they were managed.

Partnerships and relationships (20 marks; 400 words)
Entries must describe:

- The key internal or external groups involved and the stages at which they participated, including iwi, hapu or mana whenua, where appropriate.
- The tools and techniques used to manage partnerships and relationships.
- Examples of how engagement influenced project design, implementation or results.

Project success (40 marks; 1400 words)
Entries must describe:

- The project's actual outcomes and how they compared with the planned outcomes.
- Barriers to success and how they were addressed.
- Lessons learned and how they were shared across the organisation.
- How the project has been integrated into business as usual.
- Whether, and under what conditions, the project could be transferred to other local authorities.

Note:

- The overall word limit is 2,800 words. This comprises the 200-word Project Summary and 2,600 words across the four assessed sections. Entries may exceed the overall limit by no more than 100 words. If an entry exceeds 2,900 words, Taituarā may:
  - Disregard excess material
  - Return the entry for revision
  - Decline the entry
- The written entry must include all information required for assessment. Judges will not review supporting attachments or external links, except for the mandatory video link.
- Photos and diagrams may be embedded in the written entry to support or illustrate its content. Do not submit visual aids as separate supporting attachments.

Your video entry

You must create a 2-3 minute video project entry.

Your video is an opportunity to bring your project to life and show the people, places and outcomes behind your entry. It is up to your team how you want to approach the video – rather than replicating exactly what's in your written entry, think of it as a companion piece to your written entry.

The video will be shared in the lead up to the awards on the Taituarā website and used in the Member's choice voting. The winning category entries will be shown on the night of the Awards.

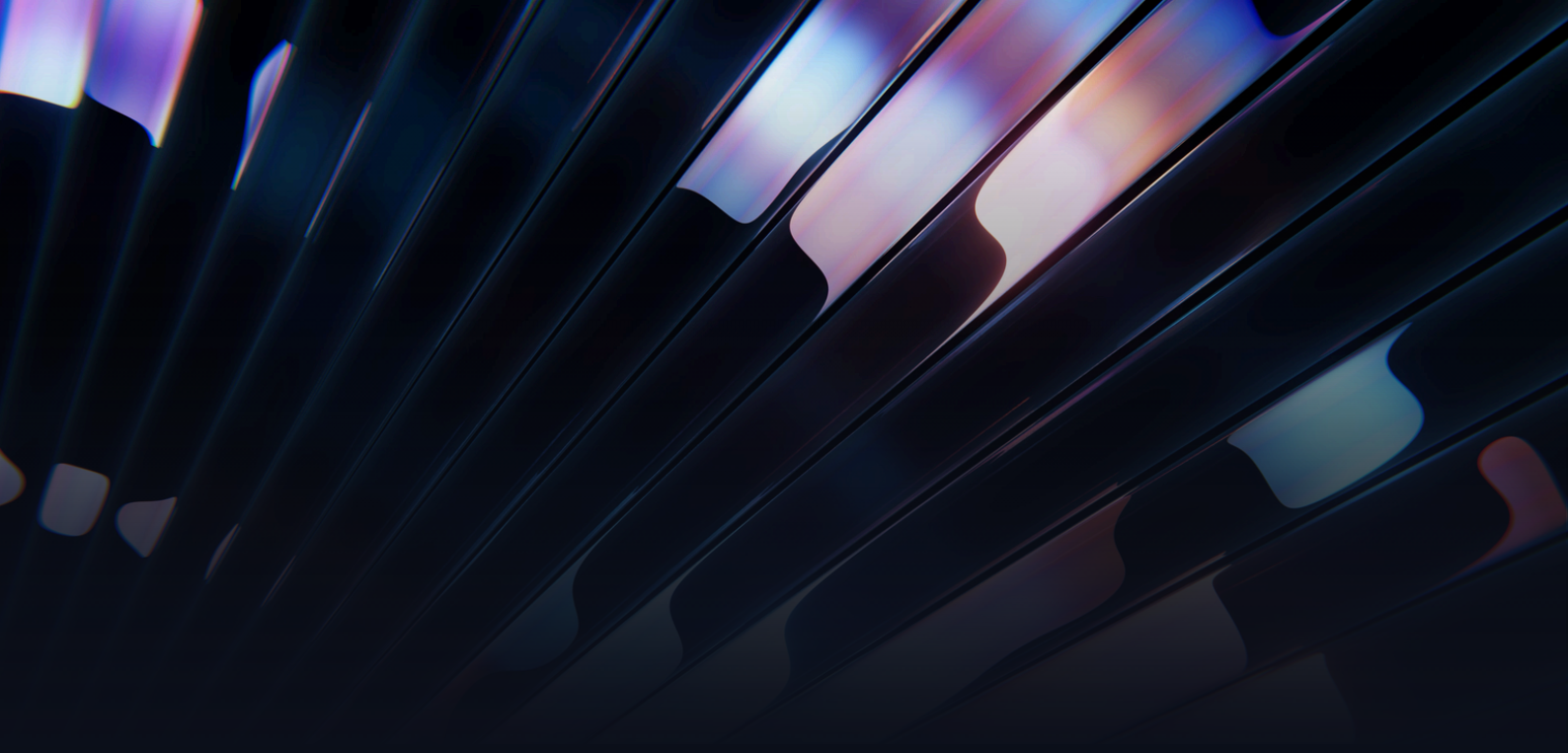
Technical details:
Your video should be in landscape 16:9 format and 1080p resolution.
Make sure you have permission to use any footage, images, music or interviews included in your video.

There are two ways to get your video to us:

- *Preferred* – share the file via a service such as Dropbox.
- Upload to YouTube or Vimeo and share the link.

Conditions of entry

- Entry is open to all New Zealand local authorities and council-controlled organisations (CCOs).
- Each project may be entered in one award category only. Entrants must not divide a project into separate components for entry in multiple categories.
- Entrants confirm that they own, or have permission to use, all submitted material and agree to indemnify Taituarā against any related intellectual-property claims.
- Entries submitted without a video will be disqualified.
- Entrants confirm that they own, or have permission to use, all submitted material and agree to indemnify Taituarā against any related intellectual-property claims.
- Entrants agree to present at up to two Taituarā events if selected. Travel costs will be covered. Failure to comply may result in withdrawal of awards.
- Email the completed entry to awards@taituara.org.nz by midday on Friday 5 March 2027. Use the filename format "Council Name – Project Name". Incomplete entries will be retur



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