



Nomination Guide

NOMINATION GUIDE

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ABOUT MASTER ELECTRICIANS AUSTRALIA

Master Electricians Australia (MEA) is a national industry body focused on supporting and representing the electrical contracting sector. Its role centres on advocacy, advice, education, and providing practical tools and guidance to help contractors navigate industry requirements including legislation, standards, and safety practices.

With more than 85 years of experience, MEA works at both an industry and grassroots level, supporting contractors throughout all stages of their business. This includes contributing to industry discussions, promoting safe and compliant practices, supporting businesses strengthen and grow, and helping ensure contractors have access to relevant information and resources.

MEA's work is driven by a strong commitment to safety, professionalism, and the continual growth and advancement of Australia's electrical industry.

AWARDS OVERVIEW

Master Electricians Australia (MEA) continues to recognise outstanding achievement across the electrical industry through the Electrical Industry Excellence Awards, a respected national platform celebrating innovation, professionalism, and the contributions of businesses and individuals shaping the sector.

In 2026, the Awards format has been updated to strengthen national engagement and industry connection. State winners across all categories will be recognised together on a national stage, showcasing local excellence to a broader audience while fostering collaboration and celebration across the country.

For the first time, in 2026 five outstanding apprentices will be named [Trans-Tasman Challengers](#), recognising emerging talent and strengthening ties between Australia and New Zealand. These five apprentice-of-the-year challengers will be provided with flights and accommodation to attend the Trans-Tasman apprentice challenge in New Zealand in late 2026.

For the 2026 MEA awards, nominations will be assessed through a comprehensive and balanced judging framework, covering business performance, project delivery, and individual contribution as relevant. Criteria include key achievements, leadership and management, health, safety and environmental practices, design and innovation, quality outcomes, customer service, and community engagement, supported by relevant materials such as photos, videos, and references.

The Awards provide an opportunity to showcase achievements, gain national recognition, and contribute to the ongoing strength of the industry. MEA encourages all eligible businesses and individuals to nominate and join the celebration in Melbourne on Friday, 30 October 2026, where industry leaders, innovators, and emerging talent will come together for a gala dinner recognising excellence and building meaningful professional connections.



AWARD CATEGORIES

Master Electrician of the Year (VIEW)	Project of the Year (under \$1M) (VIEW)
Electrician (Tradie) of the Year (VIEW)	Project of the Year (over \$1M) (VIEW)
Apprentice of the Year (VIEW)	Clean Energy Project of the Year (VIEW)
Women in Contracting Award (VIEW)	Bill Bartley Service Excellence Award (VIEW)
Residential Construction or Renovation Project of the Year (VIEW)	New or Emerging Business of the Year (VIEW)

KEY DATES

Nominations close on Sunday 24 May 2026.

Judging will take place from June to September.

Judging will be based solely on the information provided in your online nomination, with no face-to-face or virtual interviews required. The only exception is the Apprentice and Electrician (Tradie) of the Year categories, where eligible nominees will participate in a practical challenge. All nominations should include comprehensive detail in their nomination, including supporting materials such as photos, references, and videos where relevant.

Apprentice and Tradie nominees will be contacted by MEA with details of the in-person 'challenge' days.

Finalists for all categories will be announced in September 2026

Apprentice "Trans-Tasman" Challengers selected to compete in the "Trans-Tasman" Challenge will be notified in September 2026 and must be eligible** and able to participate in international travel for the "Trans-Tasman" Finals event hosted by Master Electricians New Zealand, with further details to be advised by September 2026.

The Gala Dinner to celebrate the MEA Electrical Industry Excellence Awards will be held on Friday 30 October 2026 in Melbourne, VIC. Check the MEA website and emails for information on ticket sales.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Register to nominate: [Electrical Industry Excellence Awards](#)

Create your nomination, ensuring you have permission to share business/project/individual details and photos before submitting.

Submit your nomination before the close date: **24 May 2026**

Prepare for Apprentice/Tradie physical challenge: MEA will be in contact with dates and details.

Book your ticket to attend the MEA Electrical Industry Excellence Awards via links on the MEA website and emails once available.

Questions? Contact us: events@mea.asn.au or phone 1300 889 198.

MASTER ELECTRICIAN OF THE YEAR

☆ Recognising all-round excellence in electrical business operations.

The Master Electrician of the Year Award recognises a business demonstrating excellence across all aspects of its operations. It celebrates outstanding leadership, professionalism, and business performance, alongside a strong commitment to safety, quality, customer service, and community.

Nominees are assessed on business achievements, health, safety and environmental practices, leadership and management, innovation, quality outcomes, and overall operational performance.

This category is only awards category exclusively for MEA members.

ELECTRICIAN (TRADIE) OF THE YEAR

☆ Recognising outstanding technical skill, workmanship, and commitment to safety in the trade.

The Electrician (Tradie) of the Year Award recognises a tradie who demonstrates exceptional technical skill, strong industry knowledge, and a commitment to quality and safety. It highlights outstanding work ethic, the ability to deliver high-quality work, and proven experience across a range of projects.

Nominees will be assessed through a practical challenge evaluating core workplace skills, including testing, fault finding, switching, use of tools and meters, working under time constraints, completing documentation, and applying electrical fundamentals.

WOMEN IN CONTRACTING AWARD

☆ Recognising women bringing meaningful contributions and initiatives to the industry.

The Women in Contracting Award recognises women in technical and non-technical roles who have made a significant impact in the electrical contracting industry. It celebrates their achievements, contributions to business success, and role in supporting diversity within the industry.

Nominees are assessed on the impact of their accomplishments, contribution to business and industry, and efforts to support diversity.

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

☆ Recognising a skilled, motivated Apprentice with a strong work ethic.

This award recognises a well-rounded Apprentice demonstrating strong technical skills, steady industry progression, a positive attitude, commitment to safety, and a willingness to learn.

To be eligible for the 2026 Apprentice of the Year Award, nominees must be employed as an Apprentice under a licensed electrical supervisor at the time of nomination.

Nominees will be assessed through a practical challenge evaluating key workplace skills, including testing, fault finding, switching, effective use of tools and meters, working under time constraints, completing documentation, and applying electrical fundamentals.

TRANS-TASMAN CHALLENGE EVENT

In 2026, MEA has partnered with Master Electricians New Zealand to deliver the “Trans-Tasman” Apprentice of the Year Challenge, to be held in New Zealand later in the year.

MEA will run the Apprentice Challenge across Australia to determine State Winners as well as the five highest-ranked apprentices nationally, who will be named “Trans-Tasman Challengers*”. These Challengers will be announced in September 2026 and will receive a sponsored trip to New Zealand to compete.

State Apprentice Finalists will also be announced in September, with State Winners revealed at the Electrical Industry Excellence Awards on Friday, 30 October 2026.

** To be eligible, Trans-Tasman Challengers must be 18 or older at time of travel, hold a valid passport at entry to this Awards program, and be available to attend the finals in November 2026 (dates and location to be confirmed in August 2026).*

***Trans-Tasman Challengers will receive return economy flights, accommodation with standard meals, and a ticket to the New Zealand Apprentice Awards celebration, arranged by MEA.*

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR

☆ Recognising excellence in residential electrical projects, innovation, and delivery.

This category recognises excellence in the electrical component of residential construction or renovation projects, with a focus on technical expertise, safety, and quality outcomes. It highlights achievements in design innovation, project management, HSEQ practices, and customer satisfaction.

Nominees are assessed on project overview and outcomes, commitment to health, safety and environmental practices, and the application of design and innovation.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR (UNDER \$1M)

☆ Recognising excellence in small-scale commercial and industrial electrical projects.

This category recognises commercial and industrial projects under \$1 million that demonstrate excellence in safety and innovation.

Nominees are assessed on project overview, commitment to health, safety and environmental practices, design and innovation, and quality outcomes, along with project execution, financial performance, and customer feedback.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR (OVER \$1M)

☆ Recognising excellence in large-scale commercial and industrial electrical projects.

This category recognises large commercial or industrial projects exceeding \$1 million that demonstrate excellence in safety and innovation.

Nominees are assessed on project overview, commitment to health, safety and environmental practices, design and innovation, and quality outcomes, as well as project execution, financial performance, and customer feedback.

CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

☆ Recognising excellence in renewable energy and innovative electrical solutions.

This category recognises contracting businesses in the renewable and distributed energy sector, highlighting projects that deliver clean energy and energy savings through innovation and strong practices.

Nominees are assessed on project overview, commitment to health, safety and environmental practices, design and innovation, and the quality of clean energy outcomes delivered.

BILL BARTLEY SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD

☆ Recognising excellence in service, maintenance, and customer care.

The Bill Bartley Service Excellence Award honours the legacy of Bill Bartley by recognising businesses that excel in service and maintenance, delivering high-quality workmanship and exceptional customer care.

Nominees are assessed on business achievements, commitment to health, safety and environmental practices, leadership and management, quality outcomes, and customer service and community support.

NEW OR EMERGING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

☆ Recognising emerging businesses demonstrating strong growth and leadership.

The New or Emerging Business Award recognises contracting businesses operating for less than three years that demonstrate strong early growth, leadership, and a commitment to quality and sustainability.

Nominees are assessed on business achievements, commitment to health, safety and environmental practices, leadership and management, quality outcomes, and customer service.
