



National Environmental Science Program

NESP Climate Systems Hub Climate Adaptation Champion Awards 2025-26

The NESP Climate Systems Hub wants to highlight and celebrate the actions of people in communities, business and government who are leading the way in climate change adaptation.

We want to showcase people and projects actively changing behaviour, approaches, actions and policies to adapt to a changing climate.

Climate Adaptation Champions could be:

- Excellent communicators or educators, actively communicating the knowledge needed for climate adaptation
- People, groups and governments actively involved in making decisions that take climate change impacts into account
- Leaders in their field, helping others to adapt
- Inventors, designers and businesses leading the way with innovative ways to adapt.

Champions will be chosen in 2 categories:

1. **Individual**
2. **Organisation.**

Entrants must address at least one of these five main topics:

1. **Resilient communities**

How do you engage with others to bring awareness of climate change impacts and actions into plans and practices that can improve your community or social group?

2. **Helping the natural environment**

How do you make habitats more climate resilient, care for affected wildlife or plan to help ecosystems deal with the potential effects of climate change?

3. **Climate adapted city life**

What are you doing in the city to help prepare for climate impacts such as more extremely hot days, stresses on the water supply or heavier flooding?

4. **Communicating for climate adaptation**

What have you done to connect people with the knowledge they need to understand adaptation and find solutions to climate challenges?

5. **Innovation in adaptation**

In your local environment, community or business, what innovative or novel ideas or approaches have you introduced or trialled that account for a changing climate and how has it affected what you or others do?

Important Details

1. **Dates:**

- Applications Close: 30 July 2026
- NESP Climate System Hub Adaptation Champions will be announced at the Climate Adaptation 2026 conference, Newcastle, 27 October 2026.

2. Eligibility – This competition is open to any resident, company, institution or organisation in Australia engaged in activities related to climate change adaptation except for members of projects funded through the NESP Climate Systems Hub. The NESP Climate Systems Hub reserves the right to invite submissions.

3. Categories – Two Climate Adaptation Champions will be chosen, one from each category: Individual, and Organisation. A shortlist of applicants will be selected at the discretion of the judging panel.

4. To Enter – Entries are free. People and organisations can nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else. Short-listed entrants may be asked for additional information and will be asked to supply a brief biography and photo for publication. The search for Adaptation Champions will be advertised through the media, email lists and on websites through the NESP Climate Systems Hub. All entries should be submitted through the online form by 30 July 2026.

5. Use of information – All nominations will become the property of CSIRO (as hub lead entity). The judging panel may ask entrants to provide additional information. All entrants consent, in the event they are selected as a Champion or short listed as a finalist, to the information provided in their nomination being used by the NESP Climate Systems Hub to highlight climate adaptation practice in Australia in online formats including social media, newsletters and video and audio media. The NESP Climate Systems Hub will collect, store and use your personal information for the purpose of administering your application and may, if you agree, include you in the NESP Climate Systems Hub mailing list for newsletters and events. Your personal information will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties without your consent, except where NESP Climate Systems Hub is permitted to disclose the information by law or required by law to disclose the information to meet government, legal or other regulatory authority requests.

6. Publicity – Unless chosen as Champions, entrants will not be required to undertake specific publicity unless otherwise agreed to in writing. Champions will be required to undertake publicity and will be asked to sign a separate Media Consent Form for this purpose.

7. Selection of NESP Climate Systems Hub Climate Adaptation Champions – Champions will be selected by a panel of judges from NESP Climate Systems Hub. Initial judging will take place in August 2026. The NESP Climate Systems Hub will endeavour to contact all nominees privately by email prior to the public announcement of the results. Champions will be announced on 27 October 2026. Judging will be centred around the success of the nominee's adaptation actions and programs. For the avoidance of doubt, chance or luck play no part in determining the winners. The judges' decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into with unsuccessful entrants.

8. **Prize** – Champions will receive free registration for the Climate Adaptation 2026 Conference in Newcastle, 26-28 October 2026, where they will be awarded a trophy recognising their contribution. Conference support will include return economy airfare from within Australia to Newcastle and 3 nights accommodation for one person per category. The NESP Climate Systems Hub will organise and book all travel on behalf of the recipient. Finalists will also receive a certificate and be recognised on the NESP Climate Systems Hub website and newsletter.
9. **Champions list** – In the event they are selected as a Champion or finalist, all entrants consent to have their name, company, institution or organisation identified on the NESP Climate Systems Hub website and through any subsequent media.

To the extent permitted by law, CSIRO is not liable for any loss suffered by a person by reason of any act or omission, deliberate or negligent, by CSIRO (or its employees or agents) in connection with this program.