



2026 NT Natural Resource Management Awards

Shining a light on the people that make a difference in the NT

Do you know someone who's doing great work to care for country, protect wildlife, or support healthy land and water in the Northern Territory? Maybe it's you?

The Northern Territory Natural Resource Management Awards are all about celebrating the people, groups, projects and activities - big and small - that are helping to look after the NT's environment and natural resources. That might be through farming practices, science, education, cultural knowledge, conservation, or community action.

You can nominate an individual, group or organisation, or even your own project!

We want to hear about:

- Rangers, landholders or community members making a real difference on the ground
- Scientists and researchers whose work is helping us better understand and manage our environment
- Schools and young people who are getting hands-on and thinking big for a more sustainable future
- Farmers and pastoralists using smart, sustainable ways to manage land and water
- Businesses and organisations showing leadership in looking after the environment

These are the people shaping the future of our land, water and biodiversity, and we'd love to share their stories.

Nominations are now open. Get involved and help us celebrate the Territory's NRM champions!

Important Information

All nominations must be submitted through the official 2026 NT Natural Resource Management (NRM) eAwards [online nomination portal](#).

- You can nominate yourself or another individual, organisation or community group (subject to any additional restrictions outlined in the category you are nominating for).
- All entries will be acknowledged and reviewed.
- If you're a finalist in any award category, you're automatically included in the People's Choice Award category.
- Please take a moment to read through the information below.

Nominations close at midnight on Friday, 4th September 2026.

Winners will be announced on Wednesday, 18th November 2026.



CONTACT

08 8942 8300

events@territorynrm.org.au

www.tnrmconference.org.au



Best Collaboration in Natural Resource Management Award

What does it celebrate?

- Great teamwork and strong partnerships that have made a positive difference to the natural environment, a place or species in the Northern Territory.

Who can be nominated?

- This award is for two or more groups or organisations working together – it must be a joint nomination.
- The nominees can be organisations, businesses, community groups, schools, or local authorities.

Any exclusions?

- Research-focused collaborations are not eligible for this category and should apply for the Impactful Research in Natural Resource Management Award.

Questions for this category:

1. What was the focus of the project or activities carried out by the nominees, and how did they work together?
2. How did the people or groups involved benefit from working in partnership?
3. What positive outcomes for the natural environment, place or species were achieved through the collaboration, and how were these shared with the NT community?
4. How did the nominees build and keep their collaboration strong, and how are they planning to keep it going into the future, even beyond the current funding or goals?



Sustainable Enterprise & Producer Award

What does it celebrate?

- Thoughtful and practical efforts by producers, businesses, or organisations in looking after the Northern Territory's natural resources. This category celebrates people and groups who are coming up with new ideas, caring for the land or sea, and offering services that help communities, the environment, and local economies thrive now and into the future.

Who can be nominated?

- An individual producer, small-to-medium business, or organisation working in areas like farming, pastoralism, fishing, horticulture, bushfoods/products, animal production, forestry, or natural resource services. Nominees should be involved in projects or activities such as:
- Using or creating sustainable practices for looking after land, water, or other natural resources.
- Offering services or products that help protect or improve the NT's natural places.
- Restoring or caring for important habitats and ecosystems.
- Finding new ways to solve natural resource challenges or improve environmental and business strength.
- Showing leadership by making sustainability part of how they work or operate in their industry.

Any exclusions?

- Open to businesses or organisations with fewer than 200 employees and a GST-exclusive turnover of less than \$10 million.
- Government departments are not eligible.

Questions for this category:

1. What approach, product, or service has been used to support the sustainable use or protection of a natural resource in the NT?
2. What benefits or positive changes have come from this work for the environment, the business, and/or the wider industry?
3. How has the approach, product or service responded to the unique challenges of looking after natural resources in the NT?
4. How has this initiative or work been shared with others, or made a difference to the community or industry beyond the original approach, product or service?



Community Environment & Conservation Award

What does it celebrate?

- Meaningful efforts by individuals or community-based groups who are working to care for the environment and protect nature. This could be through hands-on work and encouraging others to get involved through community and Landcare groups, volunteer teams, or local ranger groups.

Who can be nominated?

- An individual, small organisation, or community group that has carried out a project or activity involving strong community participation that has made a real difference for conservation or the environment.

Any exclusions?

- Government departments are not eligible.
-

Questions for this category:

1. What was the project or activity, and what environmental or conservation issue did it aim to address?
2. What role did the nominee play, and how did they help with the on-ground work or bring the community together to take part?
3. What positive environmental or conservation outcomes were achieved?
4. How were the outcomes or lessons from the project or activity shared with others in the community?



NextGen Natural Resource Management Award

What does it celebrate?

- A young person or group who has created or led a project or activity that helped raise awareness, encourage sustainable practices, protect or care for the environment or a natural resource (like water, soil, marine areas, native plants, or wildlife) through hands-on action.

Who can be nominated?

- Open to any young Territorian aged 20 or under, or any NT group where the main members are all 20 years old or younger.
- This could be a school group, youth club, scouts/guides, or simply a bunch of young people who teamed up to tackle an environmental or natural resource issue they care about.

Any exclusions?

- Individuals over 20 years of age are not eligible.
- Groups where the main members over 20 years of age are not eligible.
- Government departments are not eligible.

Questions for this category:

1. What was the project or activity about, and what environmental or natural resource issue did it focus on?
2. If the project or activity had adult or teacher support, how did the young people show independence, take initiative, and make the project their own?
3. What improvements or positive changes came from the project or activity?
4. In what ways was the project or activity shared with the community, or how were community members involved?



Indigenous Natural Resource Management Award

What does it celebrate?

- A group or organisation that has been looking after land and sea Country in a way that helps keep the environment healthy, supports strong communities, and maintains cultural connections. This award celebrates work led by Indigenous people in the Northern Territory, where caring for Country has had good results for the environment, and also supports culture, knowledge, and wellbeing.

Who can be nominated?

- Any group or organisation based in the Northern Territory where Indigenous Australians are leading or closely involved in looking after land and/or sea Country. This might include Indigenous organisations, ranger groups, Traditional Owner groups, cultural land management teams, or other community-led efforts.

Any exclusions?

- Open only to Northern Territory-based groups or organisations where Indigenous Australians are leading or playing a key role in caring for land and/or sea Country.

Questions for this category:

1. What was the project or activity about, and what natural resource or environmental issue on Country did it focus on?
2. What positive changes or benefits for land or sea Country came from this project or activity?
3. How did this project or activity support culture, knowledge and wellbeing and strengthen connection to country?
4. In what ways was the project or activity shared with the wider community, or how were community members involved?



Research for Natural Resource Management Award

What does it celebrate?

- This award recognises research that helps us better understand, care for, protect, or restore the Northern Territory's land, water and biodiversity. It celebrates practical, real-world research that can be applied to the management of our natural resources.

Who can be nominated?

- An individual, organisation, or institution that has carried out research contributing to better natural resource management in the NT.
- Joint nominations are also welcome if the project involved collaboration.

Any exclusions?

- No exclusions!
-

Questions for this category:

1. What was the focus of the research, and what natural resource management issue or knowledge gap did it aim to explore or solve?
2. What were the main findings or results, and how have they helped improve the way natural resources are managed in the NT?
3. How has this research been used in real-life situations, and what changes or benefits has it brought about?
4. How were the research results shared with others, and how have they been made available to the wider community or industry?



Ranger of the Year Award

What does it celebrate?

- A dedicated ranger who has made a real difference over the past year by caring for Country and/or managing conservation or protected areas in the Northern Territory.

Who can be nominated?

- Any ranger currently working in the Northern Territory.

Any exclusions?

- Only open to rangers who are currently employed and working in the Northern Territory

Questions for this category:

1. What has the ranger done over the past year to care for places like national parks, reserves, marine parks, Indigenous Protected Areas, or Land Trusts?
2. What positive changes or results has the ranger achieved through their work?
3. How has the ranger supported or worked with others - for example, their team, community members, or partner organisations?
4. Why do you think this ranger deserves to be recognised and celebrated?



Lifetime Achievement Award

What does it celebrate?

- This award recognises a dedicated individual who, over many years, has made a lasting and meaningful contribution to the care and management of natural resources in the Northern Territory. Their work may be in conservation, agriculture, land and sea management, or the environment more broadly.

Who can be nominated?

- Anyone who is or has been involved in protecting, restoring, or supporting the NT's natural resources

Any exclusions?

- Groups are not eligible.

Some tips for nominations:

- The nominee doesn't need to be currently active in natural resource management, and their work doesn't have to be hands-on.
- This person will have made a real difference through efforts such as:
- A long-term commitment to natural resource management in a specific place or region.
- Taking action to address an environmental challenge and working steadily toward a better outcome.
- Supporting or inspiring others through education, advocacy, or guidance.

Questions for this category:

1. Tell us about the person's journey - what kind of work / activities have they done in natural resource management in the NT, in what roles, and for how long?
2. What positive changes or contributions have they made to natural resource management in the NT?
3. How have they supported, encouraged, or inspired others through their work?
4. Why do you believe this person deserves to be recognised and celebrated for their lifetime of effort?



People's Choice Award

Finalists in all the above categories will be entered into the People's Choice Award category.

Voting will open 2 weeks prior to the 2026 NT NRM Awards Gala Dinner.

Online voting and in person voting opportunities during the conference will be available until midday on Wednesday, 18th November 2026.



Entry Rules and Conditions

1. Acceptance of a nomination entry into the NT NRM Awards is at the sole discretion of Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM). TNRM may reject any nomination entry without providing a reason.
2. Nomination entries must be submitted via the online portal. If you are having any technical difficulties with the online portal, please contact eAwards Technical Support at info@eawards.com.au. If you are unable to access the portal and need to submit your nomination entry another way, please contact TNRM on 08 8942 8300.
3. All nomination entries must include images of the project as high-resolution JPG or TIFF files.
4. TNRM accepts no responsibility for nomination entries or supporting documentation for nomination entries not received by the nomination closing date.
5. TNRM does not accept any responsibility for errors or omissions within nomination entries reproduced in the presentation or the supporting documentation, or for work lost, or damaged under any circumstance.
6. A nominee can only be a finalist once in each category.
7. A finalist can be a winner in only one category.
8. Joint nomination entries that represent the work of several individuals, groups, organisations or authorities are accepted where all parties provide approval, if required. This will remain the sole responsibility of the nominee. TNRM bear no responsibility for obtaining approval regarding the origin of any nomination entries. Only one joint prize and trophy will be awarded if the nomination wins an NT NRM Award in their nominated category.
9. Additional award trophies that are the same as the originally awarded trophy can be purchased from TNRM at a rate of the cost of the item/s (inc. GST), plus a 10% administration fee.
10. Current TNRM employees, TNRM Board Directors and their immediate family members are not eligible for nomination.
11. Judging Panel
 - An independent Judging Panel, with representatives from NRM in the NT, will judge the nomination entries.
 - TNRM Board Directors and TNRM staff are excluded from judging the nomination entries.
 - Judges are selected based on their knowledge and expertise on NRM and will sign a confidentiality agreement before being eligible to participate in the judging process.
 - If a judge has an association with a nominated individual, group, organisation, authority, business or enterprise, TNRM may deem that judge unsuitable to judge the nomination entry or may implement a conflict-of-interest process.



12. Decisions of the Judging Panel will be based on the following:
 - The completion of the nomination entry form with ALL judging criteria for the category addressed.
 - Information provided in response to questions within the nomination entry form.
 - Interviews if deemed appropriate by the judges.
 - Reference checks if deemed appropriate by the judges.
13. The submission of all relevant information to the judges is the responsibility of the nominee or nominator, however judges may seek further information or clarification if necessary.
14. The judges reserve the right not to award finalists or winners in a particular category, or to move nomination entries between categories.
15. The decision of the Judging Panel will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
16. Except for the category finalists and winners, which will be retained by TNRM, all other nomination entries accepted into the competition may be destroyed.
17. The NT NRM Awards are dependent upon the nominee permitting TNRM or their agents to publish sufficient information about the nomination entry so that the public can understand it. This information may be used for promotional purposes for the NT NRM Awards.
18. The nominee grants TNRM permission to show the nomination entries at the NT NRM Awards Gala Dinner and at such other places and times as deemed appropriate in the sole discretion of TNRM.
19. TNRM reserve the right to use the information from the nomination entries at any time. Including photographs, in any marketing or public relations promotion for the sole purpose of promoting NRM in the NT. All rights are reserved.



Entry Requirements

Nominators must respond to all judging criteria for their nominated NT NRM Award category, with a maximum of 200 words allowed for each judging criteria point.

All nomination entries **MUST** include:

- All details requested for both the nominee and the nominator.
- A brief summary of your nomination. This summary should be a short overview, touching on the main highlights of your nomination. This summary will be used for promotional purposes, including case studies, NT NRM Awards and TNRM Conference programs, media articles or social media.
- Information that demonstrates how the nominee meets ALL of the judging criteria in the nominated NT NRM Award category.
- Contact details for two independent referees that can verify the ability of the nominee to meet the judging criteria of the relevant NT NRM Award category (referees may be contacted by the judging panel).
- At least two good quality photographs to illustrate your nomination. These should be uploaded and adhere to the following guidelines:
 - Photographs must be digital, high resolution files in JPEG or TIFF format and a minimum of 1MB in size. (To be safe, set your camera on the highest possible resolution setting).
 - Take photographs in landscape orientation (sideways, not up and down) and don't leave the date stamp on your camera.
 - Photographs with people are preferable. The NT NRM Awards are about recognising the dedication and commitment of the people involved - we want to see you!
 - Photographs may be used by the organisers at any time in promotional activities relating to the NT NRM Awards, and all permissions relating to their use must be confirmed by the nominee prior to submission.

Supporting Documentation

Applicants are encouraged to provide supporting documentation demonstrating how the award criteria have been met. Supporting files must be uploaded through the online portal and may only be submitted in the following formats: DOC, DOCX, XLS, PPT, PDF, JPEG or TIFF. Video files up to 15MB may be uploaded directly; larger videos should be uploaded to YouTube with the link provided in the portal.

If you are unable to upload supporting documentation, please contact TNRM after all reasonable attempts have been made. Where approved by TNRM, supporting documentation may be submitted via USB. All supporting documentation must be received, or confirmed as sent, by the nomination closing date.



Contact Us

For general enquiries in relation to the 2026 NT NRM Awards please contact:

Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)

Phone: 08 8942 8300

Email: events@territorynrm.org.au

For any technical issues with the online portal please contact e-Awards:

eAwards Technical Support

Email: info@eawards.com.au