

## MEDIA RELEASE

# 2026 Master Builders Awards launched at Australian War Memorial

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canberra, ACT | Friday, 6 February 2026

**The 2026 Master Builders and Asset Construction Hire Excellence Awards were officially launched last night under the stunning Oculus at the Australian War Memorial's award-winning refurbished Southern Entrance.**

Completed by Kane Constructions, the Southern Entrance project was awarded Project of the Year in the 2025 Excellence Awards, and went on to win several national level awards.

This year, Master Builders ACT is inviting entries across 58 categories, from residential builders, commercial builders, civil contractors, sustainable builders, and construction suppliers.

Anna Neelagama, Master Builders ACT CEO, emphasised the role of the awards as a pathway for Canberra businesses to achieve national recognition.

‘The Excellence Awards have become a crucial part of recognising and celebrating quality in the ACT building and construction industry,’ she said.

‘For one hundred years, Master Builders ACT has worked towards building a quality industry for our members and the region. These awards, now in their 36th year, highlight the talent and excellence of our members.

‘Last year's Project of the Year by Kane Constructions not only achieved the highest level of recognition locally, but also won multiple awards at the national level. In fact, Canberra businesses who won in the Master Builders ACT awards went on to win nine national awards last year.’

To participate, entrants must be members of Master Builders ACT.

‘Taking part in the awards is a great incentive for local construction companies to join,’ said Ms Neelagama.

‘The Excellence Awards offer invaluable recognition for local businesses. We’re calling on local builders, subcontractors, suppliers and professionals to celebrate their work by joining the industry’s leading member association, and by taking part in the most prestigious awards program available for recognising excellence in building.

*Together, we build better.* 

‘We know that ACT construction businesses do it better. The ACT took out an extraordinary nine national wins at the Master Builders Australia National Excellence in Building & Construction Awards, outperforming every other state and territory by a country mile on a per-capita basis.

‘What makes that achievement even more remarkable is the environment in which it was delivered.

‘Our members continue to deliver outstanding projects despite a slowing construction cycle, rising costs, workforce constraints, and increasingly complex regulations. Even as red tape expands and conditions tighten, the quality of work being produced in the ACT has not slipped. In fact, it has lifted. That speaks volumes about the professionalism, resilience and pride of this industry.’

Entries for the Master Builders and Asset Construction Hire Excellence Awards 2026 are open now, and will close at 5pm on Friday 13 March. Further information can be found [here](#).

Winners will be announced at the awards event on Friday 11 September 2026, with the 2026 Master Builders Australia National Excellence in Building & Construction Awards to take place in Brisbane at the new Star Casino in November 2026.

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Images are downloadable [here](#).