

MEDIA RELEASE

Canberra builders set their sights on national glory with record 42 finalists in national awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canberra, ACT | Tuesday 22 September 2026

Winners of the Master Builders and Asset Construction Hire Excellence Awards for 2026 will go on to represent the ACT in a record 42 categories at the 2026 Master Builders Australia National Excellence in Building and Construction Awards.

The national awards, to be announced in Brisbane on 27 November 2026, will bring together the best building and construction projects and professionals from across the country, with the ACT representing its largest number of finalists yet.

The ACT's Project of the Year and House of the Year winners are both in the running for multiple national honours. Lendlease Construction, awarded Project of the Year for the Australian War Memorial ANZAC Hall and ANZAC Atrium Redevelopment, is a finalist in three national categories: the National Excellence in Work Health and Safety Award, the National Commercial Historical Restoration/Renovation Award, and the National Commercial/Industrial Construction Award over \$100 Million. Lendlease is also up for National Construction Master Builder of the Year.

Gen5 Construction, which took out House of the Year for its standout Passive House Plus home in Turner, is a finalist for the National Contract Home Award over \$8 Million as well as National Residential Builder of the Year.

Local contractor Eifer, winner of Best Use of Material in a Project for its exceptional glass installation on the Bean Building at the Australian War Memorial, is a finalist for the National President's Award.

Vdara Construction, which won both the Sustainable Residential Project and Custom Built/Project Home \$500,000 to \$750,000 categories at the ACT awards, is a finalist for the National Sustainability in Residential Building Award.

The Territory's emerging talent is also well represented, with Master Builders ACT Apprentice of the Year Jay Botterill from Crafted Design & Build up for National Apprentice of the Year, and ACT Young Builder of the Year Mark Cole from Freedom Built in the running for National Young Builder of the Year.

Anna Neelagama, CEO of Master Builders ACT, congratulated all of the finalists and said the record number of nominations reflected the strength and diversity of the territory's building and construction industry.

'To have so many ACT winners and finalists competing across 42 categories on the national stage is a tremendous achievement and a clear demonstration of the world-class skill, craftsmanship and professionalism we have here in the ACT,' Ms Neelagama said.

'Our members are delivering projects of exceptional quality across every sector of the industry, including commercial, civil, residential and sustainable building.'

Ms Neelagama said the individual awards highlighted the depth of talent coming up through the industry ranks.

'Our Apprentice and Young Builder of the Year finalists show that the future of our industry is in very good hands. These awards recognise not just finished projects, but the people behind them.'

'We wish every one of our finalists the very best in Brisbane in November. Whatever the results, they have already earned their place among the best in the country.'

Full list of ACT finalists for the Master Builders Australia National Excellence in Building and Construction Awards

1. **National Sustainability in Residential Building Award** – Vdara Construction, Macgregor House
2. **National Sustainability in Commercial Building Award** – Joss Construction, Garran Primary School P-6 Modernisation
3. **National Excellence in Work Health and Safety Award** – Lendlease Construction, Australian War Memorial
4. **National Education Facility Award** – Cappello Commercial Hydraulics & Civil Pty Ltd, CIT Woden
5. **National Entertainment/Sporting/Recreation Facility Award** – Complex Co., Netball ACT Court Remediation Works Stage 2
6. **National Commercial Historical Restoration/Renovation Award** – Lendlease Construction, Australian War Memorial ANZAC Hall and ANZAC Atrium Redevelopment
7. **National President's Award** – Eifer, Bean Building, Australian War Memorial

8. **National Renovations/Extensions Award – under \$350,000** – Elite Renovations ACT, The Spiros
9. **National Renovations/Extensions Award – \$350,000 to \$500,000** – Prof Homes, Nicholls
10. **National Renovations/Extensions Award – \$750,000 to \$1 Million** – NEWR, Deakin
11. **National Renovations/Extensions Award – \$1 Million to \$2 Million** – Vdara Construction, Weetangera House
12. **National Renovations/Extensions Award – over \$2 Million** – Manteena, Griffith
13. **National Display Home Award – over \$800,000** – Classic Constructions, The Portsea Denman Prospect
14. **National Contract Home Award – \$400,000 to \$600,000** – Kolak Living, Whitlam
15. **National Contract Home Award – \$600,000 to \$800,000** – Vdara Construction, Macgregor House
16. **National Contract Home Award – \$800,000 to \$1 Million** – Kovarc Build, Mellow Yellow House, O'Connor
17. **National Contract Home Award – \$1 Million to \$2 Million** – Sterne Homes, Deakin
18. **National Contract Home Award – \$2 Million to \$4 Million** – Walmsley Building, Solas House, Ainslie
19. **National Contract Home Award – over \$8 Million** – GEN5 Constructions Pty Ltd, Turner
20. **National Medium Density Award – 2 to 5 Dwellings** – Sterne Homes, Deakin
21. **National Medium Density Award – Over 5 Dwellings** – Preferred Builders, The Menzies, Curtin
22. **National Assisted/Adaptable Living Award** – Pichelmann Custom Building Service, Secret Garden House
23. **National Lifestyle Housing for Seniors Award – Retirement Villages** – Construction Control Australia, LDK Amberfield Stage 2
24. **National Lifestyle Housing for Seniors Award – Aged Care Facilities** – Construction Control Australia, LDK Amberfield Stage 2
25. **National Specialist Contractor of the Year – Residential** – SVC Contractors
26. **National High Rise Apartment Building Award** – Hindmarsh Construction Australia, Woden Green Apartments
27. **National Fit-Out Award – under \$5 Million** – Complex Co., COMPLEX HQ Office Fit Out
28. **National Fit-Out Award – \$5 Million to \$10 Million** – FDC Construction & Fitout (ACT), Samsara Eco Commercial Innovation Hub
29. **National Fit-Out Award – over \$10 Million** – Built, National Library of Australia

30. **National Commercial/Industrial Construction Award – under \$5 Million** – Elevated Constructions (Aus), Norwood Park Crematorium
31. **National Commercial/Industrial Construction Award – \$5 Million to \$10 Million** – Monarch Building Solutions, Deakin Early Learning Centre
32. **National Commercial/Industrial Construction Award – \$10 Million to \$20 Million** – Design Construct Industries, Dhammadharo Buddhist Temple, Lyneham
33. **National Commercial/Industrial Construction Award – \$20 Million to \$50 Million** – Shaw Building Group, Acton ACT Emergency Services Station
34. **National Commercial/Industrial Construction Award – \$50 Million to \$100 Million** – Hindmarsh Construction Australia, Australian War Memorial Bean Building Extension and Central Energy Plant
35. **National Commercial/Industrial Construction Award – over \$100 Million** – Lendlease Construction, Australian War Memorial ANZAC Hall and ANZAC Atrium Redevelopment
36. **National Civil/Infrastructure Award under \$25 Million** – Complex Co., Acton Waterfront Civil and Temporary Landscape Project
37. **National Civil/Infrastructure Award over \$25 Million** – Woden Contractors, Jacka 2 Stage 1C
38. **National Specialist Contractor of the Year Award** – ACT Steelworks
39. **National Apprentice of the Year** – Jay Botterill, Crafted Design & Build
40. **National Young Builder of the Year** – Mark Cole, Freedom Built
41. **National Residential Master Builder of the Year** – GEN5 Constructions
42. **National Construction Master Builder of the Year** – Lendlease Construction

The 2026 Master Builders Australia National Excellence in Building and Construction Awards will be held in Brisbane on 27 November 2026.

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