2026 PMINZ Awards: Universal Submission Guide

This guide consolidates the key requirements for all PMINZ 2026 Award categories into a single reference document to assist submitters.

Contents

1. Standard Requirements for All Categories

Eligibility and General Rules:

- **Completion Window:** Projects must have been completed/substantially delivered, and PMOs must have demonstrated value, between 01 September 2024 and 06 March 2026.
- **Methodology:** Any standard project management framework (e.g., PMI, PRINCE2, Agile, Hybrid) is acceptable.
- **Self-Nomination:** Permitted for all categories, but requires an official verification letter from the Project Sponsor or a Senior Executive (as specified per category).
- **Nomination Format:**
  - A single, completed nomination form via online submission.

     o   Maximum length for the core nomination is listed as the word limit for each section (see online nomination forms).

All categories must demonstrate:

- Evidence-based outcomes and impacts
- Stakeholder validation and satisfaction
- Professional standards application
- Innovation and lessons learned
- PMI Culture Values embodiment

Submission:

- **Link to submit online nominations;**
  https://awards.judgify.me/PMINZAwards26
- **Deadline:** Friday, 06 March 2026, 11:59 PM NZDT.

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2. Category-Specific Requirements and Evidence

All submissions are judged against the **PMINZ Four-Pillar Excellence Model**, with a focus on category-specific themes and the integration of PMI Culture Values:

- **Make It Easy:** Simplifying complexity, removing barriers

- **Aim Higher:** Pushing boundaries, pursuing excellence

- **Be Welcoming:** Inclusive practices, diverse perspectives

- **Embrace Curiosity:** Learning orientation, innovative thinking

- **Together We Can:** Collaboration, collective achievement

Make It Easy	Aim Higher	Be Welcoming	Embrace Curiosity	Together We Can
We are easy to deal with.	We set the standard in top quality work to create the greatest impact for the PMI community.	We create genuine belonging for all, because our differences make us stronger.	We are always seeking ways to better serve the PMI community.	We build deep, trusting relationships that help us work towards our mission together.
When things slow us down, we find a better way.	We lead the way by thinking long-term and acting in the short-term.	We act with humanity, showing care, empathy and respect for others' needs.	We see challenges as opportunities to innovate, and take them.	We use our shared purpose to unite us as a community and drive us forward to create impact.
We prioritize the impact that matters most and take the most direct route to it.	We fearlessly take ownership of what we do, knowing every action counts.	We assume good intent and seek to understand, not judge.	We feel able to fail fast in order to get it right.	We act in alignment with our global goals, while being empowered to deliver locally.

3. Sustainability in Project Management Award

The PMINZ Sustainability in Project Management Award recognises excellence in the practice of sustainable project management.

This award focuses on how the project was managed, rather than what it produced, and highlights teams who embed sustainability principles into governance, planning, execution, and decision-making.

- **Primary Focus:** Integration of the **P5 Standard (People, Planet, Prosperity, Process, Product)** into core project management processes.

- **Mandatory Documentation:**

    o Sponsor Verification Letter.
    o Sustainability Management Plan (or equivalent).
    o P5 Impact Analysis (or similar assessment).

    o Short video

- **Examples of Supporting Evidence:**

    o P5 Performance Metrics and Dashboards.
    o Stakeholder engagement summaries.
    o KPI performance dashboards/metrics, post-project or benefits realisation outputs.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND WEIGHTING

Pillar	Weight	What we are looking for
1. Value and Outcomes- • Regenerative and Innovative Practice • Sustainability Impact Management	30%	Measurable sustainability value across **all five P5 dimensions**; balanced outcomes for People, Planet, Prosperity, Process, and Product.
2. Execution and Innovation – • Purpose and Ethical Leadership • Systems Thinking and Stewardship • Performance and Governance Integration	30%	**P5 principles embedded in PM governance**; evidence-based approaches; innovative application of sustainable PM practices.
3. Stakeholder and Team – • Stakeholder and Community Engagement • Equity, Inclusion and Worker Well-being	25%	Ethical leadership, inclusive engagement, Māori and community partnership, team capability development in sustainable PM.
4. Impact and Legacy – • Change, Resilience and Learning • Regenerative Impact and Knowledge Transfer	15%	Regenerative outcomes, knowledge transfer, sustainable PM practice advancement.

4. Technology Project of the Year

The Technology Project of the Year Award recognises excellence in project management within the fast-paced technology sector. This award celebrates projects that not only deliver robust technical solutions but also drive digital transformation, enhance user experience, and create significant business value through innovative and well-managed execution.

- **Primary Focus:** Harnessing technology for transformative change, exceptional user value, and technical excellence.

- **Mandatory Documentation:**

    o Sponsor Verification Letter.

    o Short video

- **Examples of Supporting Evidence:**

    o Post-Implementation Review and Benefits Report.
    o User Acceptance Testing (UAT) Results and Sign-off.
    o Architecture/Technology Innovation Case Study.
    o User Satisfaction and Adoption Metrics.

- **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND WEIGHTING**

Pillar	Weight	What we are looking for
1. Delivery Excellence	30%	On-time, on-budget delivery of scope; Management of technical complexity and quality; Performance, security, and reliability of solution.
2. Innovation and Practice	30%	Innovative use of technology/digital practices; Emerging tech integration; Modern methodologies (Agile, DevOps); PMI values ("Embrace Curiosity", "Make It Easy").
3. People and Stakeholders	25%	User and stakeholder engagement and satisfaction; Cross-functional team collaboration; Change management and user adoption; Inclusive practices ("Be Welcoming", "Together We Can").
4. Impact and Legacy	15%	Business value and ROI; Improved UX and efficiency; Sustainable digital capability and architectural legacy.

5. Public Sector Project of the Year

The Public Sector Project of the Year Award recognises excellence in project management within New Zealand's public sector. This award celebrates projects that demonstrate exceptional delivery of public value, effective navigation of complex stakeholder environments, and meaningful outcomes for communities.

- **Primary Focus:** Delivering outstanding public value, navigating public sector complexity with transparency, and serving citizen needs.

- **Mandatory Documentation:**

    o Sponsor Verification Letter.

    o Short video

- **Examples of Supporting Evidence:**

    o Benefits Realisation Report.
    o Community Feedback Summary.
    o Post-Implementation Review.

- **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND WEIGHTING**

Pillar	Weight	What we are looking for
1. Value and Outcomes	30%	Public value delivered, success criteria met (cost/schedule/quality), sponsor validation
2. Execution and Innovation	30%	Navigating public sector complexity, innovative approaches, PMI values in action
3. Stakeholder and Team	25%	Meaningful engagement with communities, such as Māori stakeholders/ethnic groups/people with disabilities, transparency, collaboration, team leadership
4. Impact and Legacy	15%	Lasting public value, sustainable outcomes, knowledge sharing

6. Project Professional of the Year

The Professional of the Year Award recognises and celebrates an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership, mastery, and impact in the field of project, programme, or portfolio management. This award honours professionals who have not only delivered exceptional results but have also significantly advanced the practice, empowered their teams, and contributed to the broader profession.

- **Primary Focus:** Significant achievement or sustained exceptional performance by an individual project professional.

- **Mandatory Documentation:**

    o Sponsor/Client Verification Letter on company letterhead.

    o Short video

- **Examples of Supporting Evidence:**

    o CV and details of professional certifications.
    o Performance reviews or commendations.
    o Examples of leadership and innovation.

- **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND WEIGHTING**

Pillar	Weight	What we are looking for
1. Value and Outcomes	30%	Scale and significance of achievements; Tangible business or customer value created; Delivery of exceptional results.
2. Execution and Innovation	30%	Mastery of PM standards; Innovative application of tools/methods; Demonstration of PMI values in practice.
3. Stakeholder and Team	25%	Leadership impact and influence; Team empowerment and talent development; Exceptional stakeholder engagement.
4. Impact and Legacy	15%	Contribution to the PM profession; Knowledge sharing and mentoring; Promotion of sustainable and ethical practices.

7. PMO of the Year

The PMO of the Year Award recognises a Project Management Office that has transitioned from a traditional administrative function to a strategic partner, demonstrating tangible value and excellence. This award celebrates PMOs that drive improved project outcomes, foster capability, innovate in their practices, and leave a lasting legacy of improved project maturity within their organisation.

- **Primary Focus:** Demonstrating strategic value, leadership, and innovation in advancing project management capability across the organisation.

- **Mandatory Documentation:**

  - **Executive Sponsor** Verification Letter (e.g., from CEO, COO).

  - Short video

- **Examples of Supporting Evidence:**

  - PMO Value / Benefits Realisation Report.
  - Portfolio Performance Dashboard / Report.
  - Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey Results.
  - PMO Service Catalogue / Framework.

- **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND WEIGHTING**

Pillar	Weight	What we are looking for
1. Delivery Excellence	30%	Improved project performance (cost, time, benefits); Effective PPM governance and reporting; Quality of PMO services.
2. Innovation and Practice	30%	Innovative PPM tools, processes, or services; Advancement of professional standards; Problem-solving; PMI values ("Make It Easy", "Embrace Curiosity").
3. People and Stakeholders	25%	Stakeholder engagement and satisfaction; PMO leadership and influence; Capability development and mentorship; Collaborative culture ("Be Welcoming", "Together We Can").
4. Impact and Legacy	15%	Strategic value to the organization; Sustainable PPM maturity and capability; Knowledge sharing and profession advancement.

8. Construction Project of the Year

The Construction Project of the Year Award recognises a construction project that has demonstrated exceptional excellence in project management, overcoming the unique complexities of the built environment to deliver outstanding value, innovation, and a lasting positive legacy for the community and the profession.

- **Primary Focus:** Excellence in managing the unique complexities of the built environment to deliver outstanding value, innovation, and a positive legacy.

- **Mandatory Documentation:**

  o Sponsor Verification Letter (must confirm safety performance).

  o Short video

- **Examples of Supporting Evidence:**

  o Project Completion Report.
  o Safety Performance Report.
  o Innovation Case Study.
  o Community Engagement Summary.

- **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND WEIGHTING**

Pillar	Weight	What we are looking for
1. Delivery Excellence	30%	Achievement of objectives (scope, cost, schedule, quality); Management of physical, logistical, and regulatory complexity; Safety performance; Risk management.
2. Innovation and Practice	30%	Innovative approaches to design, construction methods, or technology; Application and advancement of PM standards; Effective use of modern tools (e.g., BIM, DfMA).
3. People and Stakeholders	25%	Exceptional stakeholder engagement (community, end-users, iwi); Team leadership, culture, and capability development; Supply chain and contractor collaboration.
4. Impact and Legacy	15%	Creating lasting community value; Environmental stewardship, social and sustainable outcomes; Advancement of construction PM capability; Knowledge sharing.

JUDGING SCALE (All Categories)

Exceptional (90-100%): Sets new standards, exemplary evidence
Strong (75-89%): Exceeds expectations, comprehensive evidence
Satisfactory (60-74%): Meets expectations, adequate evidence
Developing (0-59%): Below expectations, insufficient evidence

KEY PRINCIPLES (All Categories)

- **Evidence-Based** - Demonstrate claims with data and artifacts
- **Impact-Focused** - Emphasise value over process
- **Modern Practice** - Show contemporary approaches
- **Professional Excellence** - Demonstrate advanced capability
- **Honest Reflection** - Include challenges and learning

Final Checklist for All Submissions

Before submitting, ensure your nomination package has:

- All questions in the electronic nomination form answered within word limits.
- The mandatory Verification Letter is ready and will be attached.
- Supporting documents are attached to the electronic nomination form.

For confidential information or submission issues, contact:
awards@pmi.nz

Project Management Institute New Zealand (PMINZ)
Championing Excellence in Project Management