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TIMBER
QUEENSLAND

The Colin MacKenzie Award for Technical Excellence in Timber Application and Use



Purpose

An annual award to honour the legacy of Colin MacKenzie (1949–2025), an influential pioneer in Australian timber engineering, design, and application, by establishing a national award that celebrates outstanding technical achievement and leadership in timber use across Australia's building and construction sectors.

Background

Colin MacKenzie's career spanned over four decades, during which he:

- Advanced Australian Standards (AS 1684, AS 1720.1) and NCC compliance for timber structures.
- Championed durability design, cyclone-resistant construction, and timber grading/testing programs.
- Authored influential technical publications and mentored generations of professionals.
- Represented Australia internationally on ISO TC 165 Timber Structures Committee. His work shaped timber engineering nationally and globally, earning him recognition by being awarded the *Stanley A. Clarke Medal*.

Award Objectives

- Recognise **technical excellence and innovation and industry-impacting application** in timber engineering, design, and application.
- Promote **leadership and collaboration** in advancing timber standards and sustainable practices.
- Inspire future professionals by **showcasing achievements** that reflect Colin's vision for timber as a high-performance and compliant, fit-for-purpose construction material.

Scope

- National award, presented annually to commence 2026 - 2027.
- Open to individuals or small teams (not companies) including engineers, architects, building designers, builders and researchers delivering timber solutions in Australia.
- Project window: completed or substantially completed in the last 24 months.
- Compliance: Entries must demonstrate conformance with the National Construction Code (NCC) (Performance or DTS pathways) and relevant Australian Standards (e.g., AS 1684 for residential timber framing; AS 1720.1 for timber structures design methods)

Judging Panel & Criteria

The award will be judged by a national panel of suitable experts and industry representatives.

The award will be assessed across six pillars

1. Technical Merit (25%)

Engineering rigour, compliance with NCC and relevant Australian Standards, and constructable detailing that delivers reliable performance. Include evidence of practical buildability and resolution of key technical risks.

2. Innovation (15%)

Describe innovative approaches in timber use that deliver clear functional or commercial advantage. Demonstrate measurable benefits such as cost efficiency, speed of construction, improved performance, or buildability.

3. Education & Collaboration (15%)

Detail contributions to knowledge sharing, collaboration, mentoring, or industry capability. Evidence may include formal or informal activities and should be proportionate to project scale and role.

4. Impact, Industry Value & Implementability (25%)

Explain how the achievement advances timber use and benefits the industry. Include: ease of implementation, compatibility with existing construction practices, barriers to uptake, value relative to cost or effort, productivity gains, and scalability or replicability across projects.

5. Sustainability & Responsible Procurement (5%)

Demonstrate lifecycle considerations or responsible sourcing where relevant to the project scope.

6. Alignment with Colin's Legacy (10%)

Reflect how the nominee embodies Colin's values, including leadership, vision, commitment to education, and advancing timber as a high-performance material.

Entry Guidelines

- **Nomination type:** Peer or organisational nomination only
- **Eligibility:** Individuals or small teams who have made a significant technical contribution to timber engineering, design, or application in Australia within the last 24 months.
- **Submission format:** One PDF dossier plus supporting evidence files (drawings, certificates, photos).
- **Confidentiality:** All submissions treated as confidential; IP permissions required for publication of winner's profile.

Entry Guide

Section A: Nominee Details

- Full name(s), organisation(s), role(s).
 - Contact information.
 - Brief biography (max 250 words).
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Section B: Achievement Summary

- Project or initiative name.
 - Completion date or period of achievement.
 - Short description (max 150 words).
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Section C: Evidence Against Judging Pillars

Provide clear, concise responses under each pillar. Responses should focus on **demonstrated outcomes, practical application, and industry relevance**, supported by appropriate evidence (e.g. drawings, calculations, project data, or testimonials). *Where a criterion is not applicable to the project, applicants should clearly state “Not Applicable” and provide a brief explanation.*

1. Technical Merit (25%)

Describe engineering rigour, compliance with NCC and relevant Australian Standards (e.g. AS 1684, AS 1720.1), and constructable, clearly resolved detailing that delivers reliable performance in practice.

Include:

- Key design calculations or verification reports
- Drawings or models demonstrating detailing quality
- Evidence of achieving required performance (e.g. structural, fire, acoustic)
- Explanation of how key technical risks were addressed and resolved

Length: 1.5 – 2 pages (400–600 words)

2. Innovation (15%)

Describe innovative approaches in timber use that deliver clear functional or commercial advantage.

Include:

- Novel material use, connection systems, or hybrid solutions
- Integration of advanced technologies (e.g. CNC, DfMA, digital modelling)
- Measurable benefits, such as:
 - Cost efficiency
 - Speed of construction
 - Improved performance or buildability

Length: 1 page (250–400 words)

3. Education & Collaboration (15%)

Detail contributions to knowledge sharing, collaboration, mentoring, or industry capability.

Include:

- Industry training or CPD involvement (formal or informal)
- Contributions to technical guidance, publications, or standards
- Evidence of teamwork and stakeholder engagement

Responses should be proportionate to the project scale and the nominee's role.

Length: 0.75 – 1 page (200–350 words)

4. Impact, Industry Value & Implementability (25%)

Explain how the achievement advances timber use and delivers practical benefit to the industry.

Include:

- Ease of implementation and clarity of the solution
- Compatibility with existing construction practices
- Barriers to uptake and how they were addressed
- Value relative to cost or effort
- Productivity gains (e.g. time, labour, prefabrication)
- Evidence of scalability or replicability across projects or markets

Length: 1.5 – 2 pages (400–600 words)

5. Sustainability & Responsible Procurement (5%)

Demonstrate lifecycle considerations or responsible sourcing where relevant to the project scope.

If applicable, include:

- Chain-of-custody certification (e.g. Responsible Wood / PEFC)
- LCA or carbon impact data
- Green Star or similar documentation

Applicants may indicate where this criterion is not applicable; in such cases, it will not disadvantage the score.

Length: 0.25 – 0.5 page (100–200 words)

6. Alignment with Colin's Legacy (10%)

Reflect how the nominee embodies Colin MacKenzie's values:

- Vision and leadership
- Commitment to education and industry advancement
- Dedication to timber as a high-performance, fit-for-purpose material

Length: 0.5 page (150–250 words)