

BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR



PURPOSE AND RECOGNITION

This award recognises a woman holding a senior position who has contributed to the success of their organisation through proactive leadership, excellent decision-making and positively influencing organisational development.

The winner of this award will be given the opportunity to attend the Company Directors Course via the Australian Institute of Company Directors fully funded by NAWIC and Richard Crookes Construction.

ELIGIBILITY

Any woman who is a senior manager, director, owner or partner of an organisation within the construction or related industries in New South Wales is eligible for this award. The individual must play a substantial role as a leader and decision-maker within the organisation.

Nominations for this award may be made by the individual themselves or by a third party, provided that the nominee has provided their consent.

NOMINATION ATTACHMENTS

1. Nominee biography (access template [here](#))
2. Letter of endorsement to support nomination (from CEO/Managing Director/Manager/Supervisor)
3. Letter confirming the nominee's employment
4. Brief summary of the nominee's organisation (including trading history, structure and operations)
5. High quality, professional headshot of the nominee (portrait orientation)
6. An image of the nominee 'in action' (onsite, in the office, with their team etc.)

BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR



SUBMISSIONS QUESTIONS & WORD COUNT

1. Describe the contributions and initiatives that the nominee has made to the organisation (max. 300 words)
2. Explain what made these contributions particularly innovative or significant (max. 300 words)
3. Provide details of challenges that were overcome by the nominee in implementing these initiatives (max. 300 words)
4. Provide a summary of the impact/legacy achieved by the nominee in relation to the organisation's performance (max. 350 words)
5. Detail how the nominee has been a role model for other women in the industry (max. 350 words)



2023 WINNER | CATE COWLISHAW, HDR

Regional Managing Principal and Vice President of design practice HDR, Cate Cowlshaw is a passionate and proactive advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion. Under Cate's leadership, HDR has increased its parental leave provisions and achieved 50/50 gender balance across its leadership teams, while delivering strong financial results and strengthening client relationships. Cate's influence extends beyond HDR, and she chairs the Australian Institute of Architects NSW Gender Equity Taskforce.



2022 WINNER | LIZ WESTGARTH, HASSELL

As Global Head of Design at Hassell, Liz Westgarth has spearheaded two transformational strategies: one to achieve gender balance across the business by 2028 and another to ensure all Hassell's design projects are net zero emissions by 2030. With Liz as champion, Hassell has hit the 30% mark for women in leadership positions and is on track to achieve its net zero target.