

**SUPERLOCAL
AWARDS**

Ko Tātou
LGNZ.

SuperLocal Awards

Ngā Tohu
Toa ā Rohe

Key information >

Recognising strong local leadership >

Local government does essential work every day but most of it happens without recognition. The SuperLocal Awards exist to change that. Presented at the LGNZ annual conference, they recognise councils and elected members who are delivering results, through strong leadership, effective collaboration, smart problem-solving, genuine community engagement and sound environmental practice.

Application process and key dates

Submit an entry that shows what your council has delivered, why it matters and how it's made a difference in your community.

Applications are submitted online. Key dates are below:

- + Entries close on 31 July at 5pm
- + Winners announced at the Fulton Hogan SuperLocal Awards evening on 15 October



This award recognises a council initiative that has solved a problem in a new way. The initiative may involve new approaches or ways of working or significant cost savings. Big or small, the idea must show a clear shift from business as usual and deliver better outcomes for the community.

CRITERIA

For the SuperIdea, Tū Auaha Award, you must demonstrate the following:

- + **Innovation and creativity:** The groundbreaking nature of your solution, and how you've used innovative ways to solve a long-standing problem.
- + **Efficiency and cost savings:** The idea has resulted in operational efficiency or significant cost savings to your community.
- + **Community relevance and engagement:** The idea aligns with your community's specific needs and wants, and/or has involved your community in the creation or implementation of the idea.
- + **Scalability and replicability:** The idea has potential to be used or adapted by others (e.g. councils or communities), emphasising its versatility and the broader impact it could have.
- + **Sustainability and longevity:** Evidence of the idea's enduring, long-term value, ensuring it can continue to benefit the community over time.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Written submission of up to 1,000 words addressing each criterion with specific examples.
2. A 60–90 second video from colleagues, community members or stakeholders. Must be filmed on a phone in landscape format. Professionally produced content is not permitted.
3. Two to four supporting documents i.e. engagement materials, participation data, feedback records, or evidence of resulting policy or programme changes. These should be provided in either .pdf, .png or .jpeg format.
4. Two PR summaries: one of 150 words or less, one of 500 words or less. These may be used in press releases or other communications if the application is shortlisted or wins.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- + The applicant must be a current LGNZ member organisation at the time of application and at the awards ceremony.
- + The applicant must not have been prosecuted, fined, or have charges pending for any environmental, social or commercial law violation in New Zealand, Australia or overseas in the past three years.

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WHO CAN APPLY?
WHO ARE WE NOMINATING?

A MAYOR OR CHAIR
AN INDIVIDUAL

SuperHuman Tū Kaha

Mayors and Chairs nominate this award, recognising an elected member who has really delivered for their community. The award is for those who lead by bringing people with them and by building trust with council, community and partners alike. Their impact shows up in the decisions made, the progress delivered and the confidence others place in them.

CRITERIA

To nominate someone for the SuperHuman, Tū Kaha Award, you must demonstrate they are:

- + **A connector and facilitator:** Brings people together and helps council move forward through strong partnerships and practical collaboration.
- + **An innovative thinker:** Demonstrates a track record of creative problem-solving and innovative thinking that challenges the status quo and makes a positive impact.
- + **An active deliverer:** Has proven ability to transform ideas into reality efficiently and effectively, making sure intent is followed up with action.
- + **A strong community voice:** Actively listens to and elevates community voices, especially those who aren't often heard from, and ensures these local voices help shape council work and decisions.
- + **An expectation exceeder:** This person consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty, showing dedication and commitment to their role, team and community.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. In 1,000 words or less, nominations should be submitted with detailed examples for each criterion, including specific projects, initiatives or examples that demonstrate the nominee's work.
2. Provide a 60-90 second video from colleagues, community members and/or stakeholders who support the application and why. Video content must be filmed on a phone and provided in landscape format. To level the playing field, professionally produced content is not permitted.
3. Up to four pieces of additional supporting evidence such as engagement materials, participation data, feedback mechanisms, and examples of resulting policy or programme adjustments may be submitted to enrich the application. These should be in either .pdf, .png or .jpeg format.
4. Provide two PR summaries. One should be 150 words or less, and the second 500 words or less. The PR summaries may be used if the nominee is a shortlisted finalist or winner and may be used in press release(s), promotional or marketing activities.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- + To be eligible to enter, the individual must be nominated by either a Mayor or Chair of a current LGNZ member organisation.
- + Membership with LGNZ must be current at both the time of application and at the awards ceremony.
- + The nominated individual must be an elected member.
- + The nominated individual, their current employer or employer at time of application through to the completion of the Awards process, may not have been prosecuted, fined, or have charges or fines pending, for a violation of any environmental, social, or commercial law in Australia, New Zealand or overseas in the past three years.

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WHO CAN APPLY?
WHAT ARE WE NOMINATING?

AN LGNZ MEMBER COUNCIL PLUS PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS
A PROJECT OR PARTNERSHIP

Fulton Hogan SuperCollab Tū Kotahi

This award celebrates partnership that has delivered outcomes no single organisation could have achieved alone. It includes collaboration with the public. The work crosses organisational boundaries, councils, iwi, community groups, businesses or other agencies.

CRITERIA

For the SuperCollab, Tū Kotahi Award, you must demonstrate the following:

- + **Meaningful collaboration:** The creation or strengthening of a relationship that has resulted in a beneficial outcome for the community. This may be with the public; between two or more councils; or between a council and one or more groups or organisations such as an iwi/hapū, community group, not-for-profit organisation, a central government agency or a commercial enterprise.
- + **Exponential impact:** The partnership or collaboration produced results greater than the sum of its parts, with each partner achieving significantly more together than they could have individually.
- + **Tangible community benefit:** Significant positive impacts on the community resulting from the partnership, including social, economic, environmental or cultural improvements.
- + **Effective communication and cooperation:** The partnership prioritised transparent and equitable communication, decision-making and conflict resolution, ensuring a productive and cooperative relationship.
- + **Sustainability and longevity:** The partnership's outcomes are sustainable over the long term and highlight the lasting benefits it will bring to the community.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Written submission of up to 1,000 words addressing each criterion with specific examples.
2. A 60–90 second video from colleagues, community members or stakeholders. Must be filmed on a phone in landscape format. Professionally produced content is not permitted.
3. Two to four supporting documents i.e. engagement materials, participation data, feedback records, or evidence of resulting policy or programme changes. These should be provided in either .pdf, .png or .jpeg format.
4. Two PR summaries: one of 150 words or less, one of 500 words or less. These may be used in press releases or other communications if the application is shortlisted or wins.
5. Applications must be submitted under a project or partnership name. One person should be nominated as the key contact. All partners or collaborators named in the application must have consented to the submission.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- + The applicant must be a current LGNZ member organisation at the time of application and at the awards ceremony.
- + The partners or collaborators named in the application must not have been prosecuted, fined, or have charges or fines pending for a violation of any environmental, social or commercial law in New Zealand, Australia or overseas in the past three years. This applies from the time of application through to the completion of the awards process.

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WHO CAN APPLY?
WHAT ARE WE NOMINATING?

AN LGNZ MEMBER COUNCIL
A PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

SuperSteward

Tū Tiaki

This award recognises work that improves the environment in a measurable way. It could be restoring natural areas, reducing waste, lowering emissions or protecting local ecosystems. The work is planned, delivered and tracked over time with clear evidence of progress.

CRITERIA

For the SuperSteward, Tū Tiaki Award, you must demonstrate at least three of the following:

- + **Evidence of environmental improvement:** Evident improvements to the natural environment through enhancement, protection or restoration.
- + **A focus on positive outcomes:** Clearly identified the environmental outcome/s you want to achieve and have a clear plan for realising them.
- + **Localised focus:** Local or regional solutions that are tailored to your unique environment, and your specific community's wants and needs.
- + **Considered execution:** Used resources in sustainable and culturally appropriate ways to deliver the project.
- + **Long-term impact:** Focus on continuous improvement that will ensure your initiative has a long-lasting positive impact.
- + **Community awareness:** Raises community awareness of environmental challenges, and/or creates opportunities for communities to get involved in addressing them.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Written submission of up to 1,000 words addressing each criterion with specific examples.
2. A 60–90 second video from colleagues, community members or stakeholders. Must be filmed on a phone in landscape format. Professionally produced content is not permitted.
3. Two to four supporting documents i.e. engagement materials, participation data, feedback records, or evidence of resulting policy or programme changes. These should be provided in either .pdf, .png or .jpeg format.
4. Two PR summaries: one of 150 words or less, one of 500 words or less. These may be used in press releases or other communications if the application is shortlisted or wins.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- + The applicant must be a current LGNZ member organisation at the time of application and at the awards ceremony.
- + The applicant must not have been prosecuted, fined, or have charges pending for any environmental, social or commercial law violation in New Zealand, Australia or overseas in the past three years.

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Application process

Submit your application before the deadline of 31 July 2026 at 5pm. Requests for extensions beyond this deadline will not be considered.

All entries will be assessed for eligibility and completion. Disqualified entries will be notified accordingly.

Winners will be announced at the Fulton Hogan SuperLocal Awards evening on 15 October 2026.

Obligations of finalists

A representative from each winning award will be required to make a short acceptance speech at the awards ceremony. Acceptance speeches should be no longer than one minute.

Terms & conditions

Incomplete entries will be disqualified.

By submitting an entry, applicants agree to the terms and conditions.

Entries remain the property of LGNZ and are not returned.

Judges' decisions are final.

LGNZ accepts no responsibility for entries that are not received, delayed, incomplete or are lost due to a technical problem.

LGNZ reserves the right to withdraw a category and cancel the award if an insufficient number of entries has been received, the quality of entries does not meet the criteria, or the entries are deemed inappropriate for any reason.

LGNZ shall be entitled to use all material supplied as part of the entry (including, but not limited to, images, video recordings, written content and any other supporting documentation) as necessary in any media and in any form to promote or market the entries or awards programme.

Video content must be filmed on a phone and provided in landscape format. To level the playing field, professionally produced content is not permitted.

Videos may be edited using editing software (but keep it simple).

Previous finalists are welcome to resubmit an entry in the same or different category but winners from previous years may not submit the same entry or project in any category.

Projects can only be submitted in one category.

SUPERLOCAL AWARDS

Ko Tātou
LGNZ.