

# PIDA

## AUSTRALASIAN PACKAGING INNOVATION & DESIGN AWARDS 2026

## SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

### SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING DESIGN CRITERIA



## APPLICATIONS CLOSE 27 FEBRUARY 2026

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AWARDS

# 2026 SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING DESIGN CRITERIA

The Sustainable Packaging Design Special Award is designed to recognise companies that have developed innovative packaging solutions that incorporate sustainability considerations. Elements include Social, Material, Source Reduction, Energy and Recovery.

The information provided by the candidates should demonstrate why their package should receive a Sustainable Packaging Design Special Award, using measurable and supportable information.

**Please consider nominating for other relevant categories at the same time for the same innovation within the 2026 PIDA Award Special Award Categories. e.g. Food, Beverage, Domestic & Household and Health, Beauty & Wellness. Each award category is judged independently, by different expert judges and based on specific criteria.**

## SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING DESIGN SPECIAL AWARD CRITERIA

The following criteria will be considered by the judges in assessing the applications. The judges understand that your packaging may not meet all of the criteria.

### 1. MATERIAL:

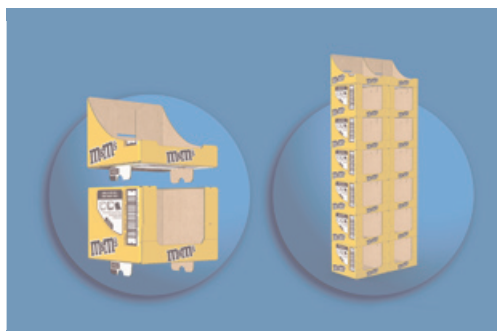
Efficient use of materials: reduce/reuse/recycle/replace/repurpose. Responsible raw materials sourcing, including materials from renewable resources and effective use of recycled post-consumer content. If you have included a Lifecycle Assessment (LCA) in the design of your product/package, please include details.

### 2. SOURCE REDUCTION:

Weight reduction when compared to the previous package or to general packs in its class. Reduction in the Pack to Product ratio compared with the previous format. (Please provide specific details of these source reductions)

### 3. ENERGY:

Innovative packaging solutions that have achieved energy reduction or optimisation during manufacture, processing, transportation, storage and product use. Embodied energy, processed energy and transport energy in LCA needs to be considered. (Please provide specific details)



## 4. RECOVERY (END-OF-LIFE):

Re-usability, recyclability, recoverability, compostability, post-consumer material recycling, ease of disposal. The promotion of responsible behaviour by consumers and effective communication on pack to the consumer for reducing waste, litter and recovery or disposal. Please ensure that you include all reference to your incorporation of the Australasian Recycling Label on-pack.

## 5. SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The industry has started to review how packaging can meet the founding principles of the 2025 National Packaging Targets but be design ready and recycle ready to meet the in-coming Mandated National Packaging Design Standards.

Please indicate within this criteria how your packaging is meeting the 2025 National Packaging Targets, the 10x sustainable packaging design principles and how the design is considering circularity of the pack and the material where possible.

Key areas of interest to the judges includes:

- All packaging to be reusable and or recyclable as per the current 2025 National Packaging Targets.
- Reduction of all unnecessary single use packaging.
- Avoidance and Reduction of all packaging (primary, secondary and tertiary).
- Emptiability of the pack and ensuring no product waste through intuitive packaging design.
- Reduction of the weight of packaging without impacting product protection or shelf life.
- The avoidance of chemicals of concern such as PFA's, BPA.
- Reduction of materials that are seen as contaminants to recycling systems in Australia & New Zealand.
- Increased use of recycled content material in the packaging where applicable.
- The move to mono material packaging.
- Plastics packaging to be recyclable through kerbside collection, alternate pathways such as the Soft Plastics Stewardship Australia/Curby or chemical/advanced recycling.
- The ability for the packaging to be recycled or reprocessed in Australia and/or New Zealand.
- Development of Closed Loop or a Product Stewardship program for packaging that is not suitable for any current recycling solutions.
- Implementation and expansion of models for reusable packaging (primary, secondary and tertiary).
- Improved use of the Australasian Recycling Labelling (ARL) program on all packaging.
- Improved use of off pack communication on the packaging's sustainability journey e.g.: via a 2D code/QR code through to a company website.

## 6. SOCIAL:

Benefit to Society. Environmental aspects of the package or action by the company, not covered by the other 5 criteria.

# 2026 SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING DESIGN CRITERIA



## AUSTRALIAN AND/OR NEW ZEALAND PACKAGING DESIGN & INNOVATION

All entrants must confirm that the design submitted has been either developed either in, or for, Australia and/or New Zealand. (The innovation must be new on-shelf in the last 18 months) NB: Should you wish to enter the same product in multiple categories the first entry will cost \$550 + GST with additional category entries costing \$250 + GST per entry.

## JUDGING

The PIDA Award judges are leading experts in the field and have long-standing expertise in this field. All entrants understand that the judges will hold the final decision on the winner and no correspondence will be entered into on the subject of their decision. Finalists will be announced before the 2026 PIDA Awards ceremony, which will be held on the Tuesday 28 July, Aviary, Crown Complex, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

## SAMPLE PRODUCT-PACKAGING SYSTEM/FORMAT

**It is a mandatory requirement that all entries submitted must include 3x physical samples of the packaging; including any Before and After samples.** All entrants understand that once the sample has been submitted that they become the property of the Australasian Institute of Packaging Inc. The samples will not be returned to the entrant unless the entrant incurs all costs associated with the return delivery.

**Samples to be delivered to: 2026 PIDA Awards, 19 Jumbuck Street, Jindalee, Queensland, 4074, Australia. If entries reflect design innovation change to an existing product/package it is essential to provide judges with samples of both formats. Images at minimum are required for Before and After re-designs.**

**Frozen, Chilled and Short shelf life samples – should be clearly identified to indicate this and forwarded in protective packaging and conditions. Arrangement to the AIP Australasian Office should be made for the best timing for these packs to be sent so judges will view the product in optimal conditions.**

## PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Should your submission include any proprietary information on your packaging design systems please ensure that you mark that section with 'private and confidential' so that the judges understand that the information provided is for the sole purpose of evaluating the submission.

## PROMOTIONS & MARKETING

The AIP and the WPO reserves the right to publish details of the winners of the PIDA Awards on websites, trade magazines, at tradeshow and on-line media outlets, nationally and internationally, to acknowledge the winners and raise the profile of the award program. The AIP will showcase the samples after the awards in multiple exhibitions.

## WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Winners will be announced at the 2026 Australasian Packaging Innovation & Design Awards ceremony on the Tuesday 28 July, Aviary, Crown Complex, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

## SUBMISSIONS \*UPDATED

**All nominations for awards must be submitted via the online platform <https://pida.awardsplatform.com> Once you have created a user account in the competition platform, simply fill in the submission form. There is a limit of words for each section. You can also link to external web pages with additional information or a video about your submission. Please upload up to five high resolution images to not only help the judges but to also be used in any marketing material for the awards program. Please include images of ARL on-pack. The judges also encourage all entrants to submit video talking about the criteria and showing the packaging in real-time. Please answer the criteria on the video and upload to your own YouTube or Vimeo platform. In addition, the judges require 3x samples of the pack design including any before and after sample packs, if available. With the on-line platform you can save your entry and finish it later. Don't forget to complete all sections of the form by the 27 February 2026.**

## RECOGNITION:

1. A trophy will be awarded to the Gold Winner. Silver & Bronze will receive a plaque and High Commendations will receive a Certificate.
2. All winners will be recognised within the AIP Newsletter, website and communication channels, as well as within the wider packaging and processing industry trade magazines and websites.
3. All winners will receive a PIDA Award winner logo for use within their marketing material and promotions.
4. All Gold, Silver, Bronze and High Commendation winners will be eligible to enter in to THE SAME category within the WorldStar Packaging Awards in October 2026. Entries to the WorldStar Packaging Awards enable international recognition and opportunities for the nominees. The WorldStar Packaging Awards will incur a cost to enter by the nominee.