

**PREMIER'S AWARDS  
ENERGY & MINING**

**15** *Years*  
**CELEBRATION**

2026  
**NOMINATION  
GUIDELINES**



Government of  
South Australia

”  
**PREMIER'S AWARDS  
ENERGY & MINING**  
”



Hosted by the  
**Department for Energy and Mining**

**5 November 2026  
Adelaide Town Hall**

[energymining.sa.gov.au/PremiersAwards](http://energymining.sa.gov.au/PremiersAwards)



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## Nominations are open for the 2026 Premier's Awards in Energy and Mining

**We are looking for companies, individuals, and projects that have achieved innovative outcomes, demonstrated leading practices, or shown notable leadership in the energy and mining sectors over the last twelve months.**

### WHY NOMINATE?

Sharing your achievements with government, industry, and the community raises awareness of your project and exemplifies corporate social responsibility and innovation.

Entering the Awards allows you to:

- show the impact of your programs and projects
- gain recognition for initiatives that promote diversity and community support
- enhance media and company visibility
- showcase your company as an attractive employer or business partner

Winners and finalists will be promoted by the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) via social media, our website, and videos. Award winners are permitted to use supplied marketing materials provided by the department for their own forms of promotion.

### KEY DATES

18 June – Nominations open

27 July – Nominations close

September and October – Judging process

31 August – Finalists announced

21–23 September – Interview sessions  
(See page 22 for more information)

5 November – Awards Dinner, Adelaide Town Hall

**Any questions:**

Meegan Stewart

DEM.PremiersAwards@sa.gov.au

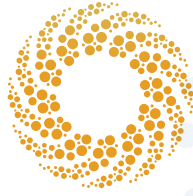
**More information:**

[www.energymining.sa.gov.au/premiersawards](http://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/premiersawards)

**Ready to nominate:**

[www.energyandmining.awardsplatform.com](http://www.energyandmining.awardsplatform.com)





# NOMINATION CATEGORIES

## Categories matrix

	ENERGY	RESOURCES
Community and collaboration	✓	✓
Environment	✓	✓
Productivity improvement	✓	✓
Health and safety, inclusion and wellbeing	✓	✓
Young achiever		✓
Young Indigenous achiever		✓

**Note:** If you are an Equipment, Technology and Services (ETS) company please nominate in the sector in which your project or program most closely aligns.

## Which sector?

Below are definitions of energy and resources as we have defined them for the Premier's Awards in Energy and Mining. Please review these carefully to ensure you select the most appropriate sector for your nomination.

### Energy

Applicants in the energy categories should be involved in activities related to:

- **Energy exploration and production:** Projects, companies involved in energy exploration, extraction and processing of energy.
- **Energy generation:** Projects, companies involved in energy generation and efficiency.
- **Energy delivery:** Projects, companies involved transporting energy to consumers.
- **Energy products and services:** Projects, companies involved in delivery of energy products or services to consumers.
- **Energy efficiency:** Innovations and programs aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption.
- **Energy storage:** Development and implementation of energy storage solutions, such as batteries and other technologies.
- **Carbon management and low-emissions technologies:** Initiatives involving geological carbon storage, Direct Air Capture (DAC), and Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS).

## Resources

Applicants in the resources categories should be involved in activities related to:

- **Resource exploration and drilling:** Activities associated with the exploration and evaluation of mineral resources, including drilling programs and subsurface investigations.
- **Resource Extraction and production:** Mining and quarrying extraction activities, including open cut and underground operations, well development, and associated production processes.
- **Resource processing and value adding:** Primary and secondary processing of minerals and resources, including beneficiation, refining, and in-situ recovery methods, supporting value optimisation and downstream opportunities.
- **Resource management:** Projects that focus on sustainable practices in resource extraction and utilisation.

## Sector awards

Nomination for these awards can be made in the Energy and Resources categories, creating eight awards in total.

### **Community and collaboration**

Acknowledging outstanding excellence or innovation in community engagement, resulting in positive outcomes, or collaborating effectively with others to realise a vision that brings opportunity and transformational change.

### **Environment**

Acknowledging outstanding achievement in delivering positive environmental results.

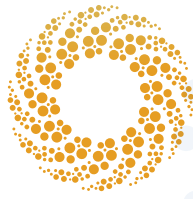
### **Productivity improvement**

Acknowledging a project or product that has enhanced efficiency, productivity, or competitiveness.

### **Health and safety, inclusion and wellbeing**

Recognising demonstrated excellence in the development and/or implementation of an innovative solution to an identified work health and safety issue, including including mental health, inclusion and wellbeing of mental health, inclusion and wellbeing.





## Individual awards

### Young achiever

#### (30 years of age or younger)

Acknowledging the outstanding achievements and impact of individuals aged 30 years or younger in South Australia's energy or resources sector.

### Young Indigenous achiever

#### (30 years of age or younger)

Acknowledging the outstanding achievements and impact of Indigenous individuals aged 30 years or younger in South Australia's energy or resources sector.

# ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for the 2026 Premier's Awards, companies, organisations or individuals must meet the following criteria.

- Operate or work in any of the following sectors:
  - electricity (generation, transmission, distribution, retail, energy products and services)
  - mining
  - petroleum
  - quarrying
  - resource exploration
  - engineering, technology and services (ETS) servicing the above industries
  - low Carbon Fuels
  - geothermal
- The company, organisation or individual must operate, have offices, or be headquartered in South Australia.
- Projects, products or people previously awarded as winners or commendations will not be considered for another award in the same category. Finalists may reapply.
- Young Achiever nominees must be 30 years of age or under at some point between 1 January 2026 and 31 December 2026.

# SELECTION PROCESS

DEM will administer and manage the awards process.

The judging panel will be made up of representatives from DEM along with those appointed by DEM from government and industry sectors. Each application will be assessed against the selection criteria and judged on individual merit, not as a competition between applicants. The size and resources of the company or organisation will be considered when assessing the merit of each application.

Small projects and/or companies are encouraged to apply. The judging panel will make recommendations on the winning applicants to the Premier, and the Premier's decision is final.

## Submitting your nomination

All nominations must be submitted via the [online portal](#).

1. Review the guidelines, including all eligibility and award criteria and ensure you are nominating in the correct category. Judges reserve the right to, with the applicant's permission, move nominations to a different award if they feel it better fits within that category.
2. Register on the portal, confirming your email address via the link sent to your email to proceed with your application.
3. If you do not receive a confirmation email with a link allowing you to commence your application within 24 hours, first check your spam or junk email folder before contacting [DEM.PremiersAwards@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEM.PremiersAwards@sa.gov.au)
4. Ensure you address all selection criteria with as much detail as possible, within the maximum word limit stated. The points listed under each criteria are for guidance and are not mandatory for your application.
5. Submit your application by 11:59 pm Monday 27 July 2026. Once you have submitted your application you cannot make any further changes. You will receive an email confirmation upon receipt of your nomination.





## Attachments

### Required attachments

A high-resolution company or organisation logo is required when submitting your online application.

For individual awards there are a number of additional attachments required, see pages 18 and 20 for full details.

### Optional attachments

You may wish to include any of the following optional support material, in addition to addressing the assessment criteria on your nomination.

All entries will be considered regardless of the inclusion of optional materials. However, they do assist judges in understanding your nomination and the context of your project or program.

You can attach a maximum of five (5) entry attachments. Attachments can include:

- photos of people, sites or activities relevant to the project
- video footage relevant to the project or program
- testimonials to demonstrate the value or positive contribution

Provide each attachment at a 100% ratio, with one document per page.



## COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION

Two awards are available in this category, one in **Energy** and one in **Resources**.

**Acknowledging outstanding excellence or innovation in community engagement, resulting in positive outcomes, or collaborating effectively with others to realise a vision that brings opportunity and transformational change.**

This award may involve collaborating with community groups or commercial entities to establish partnerships, enhance research and development, or conduct technology trials, all aimed at achieving positive outcomes for the energy and mining sector or the South Australian community.

Examples of nominations may include:

- employment programs for local contractors or community organisations
- activities that enable regional and remote communities to access events
- mentoring Indigenous businesses and offering contract opportunities
- engaging socially and economically disadvantaged people
- programs to lower energy costs for consumers
- helping customers control their energy use with personalised solutions, such as energy efficiency
- using customer energy data to provide better value
- collaborating with new partners to improve business processes
- developing research partnerships to discover new success methods

### Previous winners

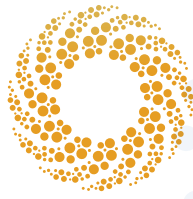
Winner 2025: Energy

Apex Energy Australia – Oodnadatta Renewable Power Station

Winner 2025: Resources

Resources and Engineering Skills Alliance –  
Career Transition Service, Whyalla





## COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION

### Project or program summary

#### Elevator pitch (150 words)

- Give a quick summary of the project, goals and outcome. This may be used to promote your project online, in print or at the event.

#### Your project (750 words)

- Describe the project, including its goals and objective.
- Who, and what levels, within the company are involved in the project.

### Selection criteria

#### Criterion 1 – A true partnership (1,000 words)

- Show that the project was a true partnership, especially with respect to community initiatives. Show that all parties were consulted and had input into the project. Provide as much evidence as possible.

#### Criterion 2 – Outcomes (1,000 words)

- Show the outcomes of the project against its original goals and objectives, providing as much evidence as possible.
- If the project changed from its original goals and objectives, explain why.
- Useful evidence may include social and economic benefits gained by the community and company, community feedback, trial or research results, published results, or by commercialisation, economic or environmental benefit.

#### Criterion 3 – The future (500 words)

- Will your project continue into the future, or will this be a short-term alliance? Provide details on the reasoning for either answer.
- What impact will the project have into the future? What benefits will the collaboration have beyond the life of the project?
- Explain how outcomes can or will be used in future projects by you or other companies across the sector.



# ENVIRONMENT

Two awards are available in this category, one in **Energy** and one in **Resources**.

## Acknowledging outstanding achievement in delivering positive environmental results.

Examples of nominations may include:

- rehabilitation projects
- environmental engineering
- decommissioning or design
- pollution prevention
- scientific research
- training or education
- energy conservation
- resource conservation or intensity reduction
- waste minimisation

### Previous winners

Winner 2025: Energy

RAA Charge – South Australia's EV charging network

Winner 2025: Energy

Santos – Moomba Carbon Capture and Storage Project

Winner 2025: Resources

BHP – Arid Recovery and BHP Partnership

## Project or program summary

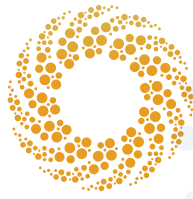
### Elevator pitch (150 words)

- Give a quick summary of the project, goals and outcome. This may be used to promote your project online, in print or at the event.

### Your project (750 words)

- Describe the project, including its goals and objective.
- Who, and what levels, within the company are involved in the project.





## ENVIRONMENT

### Selection criteria

#### Criterion 1 – The problem and your solution (1,000 words)

- Describe the environmental problem you encountered, including how this came to your attention and highlighting why there was a need to address this problem in your organisation.
- Describe your process for developing a solution to the problem, including support from any outside organisations.

#### Criterion 2 – Outcomes (1,000 words)

- Show the outcomes of the project against its original goals and objectives, providing as much evidence as possible.
- If the project changed from its original goals and objectives, explain why.
- Useful evidence may include research results, published journal articles, new techniques or equipment developed, or survey results.

#### Criterion 3 – The future (500 words)

- Will your project continue in the future, or was it for a fixed term only?
- What impact will the project have into the future?
- What environmental insights or benefits can the project provide for the sector?
- Explain how outcomes can/will be used in future projects by you or other companies across the sector.



# PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

Two awards are available in this category, one in **Energy** and one in **Resources**.

**Acknowledging a project or program that has enhanced efficiency, productivity, or competitiveness through implemented or near-commercialised innovation.**

To be eligible, nominations must:

- demonstrate a clear pathway to commercialisation, or already be commercially deployed
- be at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 9 or above (i.e. proven, system operational in a real-world environment)

Examples of nominations may include:

- new engineering methods or technologies
- new equipment or software
- data management systems
- revised business processes, including automation
- training programs
- energy efficiency
- data-driven mining and energy decisions
- exploration under cover
- advanced extraction
- mining automation and robotics
- artificial intelligence and advanced analytics

## Previous winners

Winner 2025: Energy

SA Power Networks – Market Active Solar

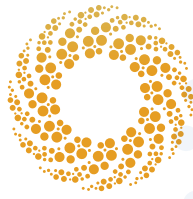
Winner 2025: Resources

BHP – Carrapateena Hydrofloat

Winner 2025: Resources

Wilco Technologies – Trajectaflex Resin Firing System





## PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

### Project or program summary

#### Elevator pitch (150 words)

- Give a quick summary of the project, goals and outcome. This may be used to promote your project online, in print or at the event.

#### Your project (750 words)

- Describe the project, including its goals and objective.
- Who, and what levels, within the company are involved in the project.
- Clearly outline the stage of deployment and commercialisation pathway, including current implementation or market adoption.

### Selection criteria

#### Criterion 1 – The problem and your solution (1,000 words)

- Describe the previous standard or approach your project was looking to improve, highlight how the need for improvement came to your attention and what benefits you envisioned for your and other organisations.
- Describe your process for developing the project and improvement, including support from any outside organisations.
- Demonstrate how the solution has progressed beyond research and development into real-world application (TRL 9 or equivalent). Outline the commercialisation pathway, including:
  - deployment within operations and/or
  - uptake by customers, partners, or the broader market.

#### Criterion 2 – Outcomes (1,000 words)

- Show the outcomes of the project against its original goals and objectives, providing as much evidence as possible.
- If the project changed from its original goals and objectives, explain why.
- Useful evidence may include outputs and outcomes achieved by the project/program, research results, survey data, details of new product or services developed etc.
- Show how the project/program will create economic output and tangible benefits for industry and end users.
- Provide evidence of operational use, performance in a real-world environment, and/or commercial impact.

#### Criterion 3 – The future (500 words)

- What impact will the project have into the future?
- Explain how the project will continue to deliver productivity, efficiency, or competitiveness gains over time.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY, INCLUSION AND WELLBEING

Two awards are available in this category, one in **Energy** and one in **Resources**.

**Acknowledging effective development and implementation of innovative solutions to identified work health and safety issues, including mental health, inclusion, and wellbeing.**

Examples of nominations may include:

- product solution, design or engineering innovation
- training programs
- awareness-raising activities or other control measures that reduce the risk of work-related injury and disease, improve wellbeing, actively supporting work-life balance or flexible working arrangements
- initiatives to increase organisational diversity
- supporting the employment of local and/or Aboriginal peoples
- approaches that improve gender pay equity and representation
- training programs to increase participation and retention of people from diverse backgrounds

### Previous winners

Winner 2025: Energy

Beach Energy – BeWell: Your Wellness, Your Way

Winner 2025: Resources

BHP – Workplace Diversity Program





## HEALTH AND SAFETY, INCLUSION AND WELLBEING

### Project or program summary

#### Elevator pitch (150 words)

- Give a quick summary of the project, goals and outcome. This may be used to promote your project online, in print or at the event.

#### Your project (750 words)

- Describe the project, including its goals and objective.
- Who, and what levels, within the company are involved in the project.

### Selection criteria

#### Criterion 1 – The problem and your solution (1,000 words)

- Describe how, why, when, and by whom the problem was identified within your organisation.
- Show how your organisation worked with staff and other relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure the project was relevant to the people it was intended to support.
- Describe the solution and the process by which it was developed, include any trials and refinements that ensured it worked for your teams.

#### Criterion 2 – Outcomes (1,000 words)

- Show the outcomes of the project against its original goals and objectives, providing as much evidence as possible.
- If the project changed from its original goals and objectives, explain why.
- Useful evidence may include absentee data, retention rates, health and safety data, survey data etc.
- Show how the project has impacted the overall operation of your organisation.

#### Criterion 3 – The future (500 words)

- What impact will the project have into the future?
- What insights or benefits can the project provide for the sector?
- Explain how outcomes can or will be used in future projects by you or other companies across the sector.



# YOUNG ACHIEVER

## 30 years of age or younger

### **Acknowledging the outstanding achievements and impact of individuals aged 30 years or younger in South Australia's energy or resources sector.**

Those nominated in this category should display leadership in their working and personal lives. Judges are looking for those who excel in their roles in many different ways.

- Contributing to the sustainability, community and economic development of the sector and state.
- Advancing of technological, engagement, legal, scientific, environmental, operational or other innovations with the potential for local, national and global impact.
- Communicating the reputation of the sector and working collaboratively to achieve outcomes.

### **Previous winners**

Winner 2025

Elise Naumann

Winner 2024

Samantha Squires

### **Nominee details**

#### **About the young achiever (150 words)**

- Give an overview of why the nominee should be our young achiever for 2026. This may be used for promotional purposes, in print or at the event.

#### **Current role description and responsibilities (200 words)**

- Provide the nominee's current role description and responsibilities and an overview of your employer's organisation.





## YOUNG ACHIEVER

### Selection criteria

#### Criterion 1 – You outside of work (1,000 words)

- What personal qualities make you stand out from your peers, and how do these help you in your current role?
- What is important to you outside your workplace? How do these impact you in your life?

#### Criterion 2 – You at work (1,500 words)

- Describe your career journey. Include your technical background and interest.
- What work do you enjoy and what has led you to this point in your career?
- What are your career achievements, highlights and goals?
- What are your business skills? These can be technical, leadership, creative etc. How have these impacted your work, and why are they important to you?
- How does the work you do impact on the broader sector?

#### Criterion 3 – Your future (1,000 words)

- What are your career or academic goals for the next five years, and how do you hope to achieve them?
- How do you want to create a positive change in the sector in the future?
- What are your long-term goals? When you retire, what do you want people to remember about your impact on the energy and resources sector?

### Attachments

- Include a supporting statement from someone familiar with the nominee's work who can offer insight into their achievements and impact relevant to this award. (400 words)
- Provide a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae (maximum two pages) including key achievements, these can be in the workplace or the community.
- Upload a two-minute video (recorded on a phone is fine) of the nominee which shows why they should receive this award. It should include how they show leadership in their field and contribute to the ongoing sustainability, community and/or economic development of the energy and resources sector.
- Provide proof of age (copy of driver's licence, proof of age card or passport). Nominees must be aged 30 years or under at some point between 1 January and 31 December 2026.



# YOUNG INDIGENOUS ACHIEVER

## 30 years of age or younger

### **Acknowledging the outstanding achievements and impact of Indigenous individuals aged 30 years or younger in South Australia's energy or resources sector.**

Those nominated in this category should display leadership in their working and personal lives. Judges are looking for those who excel in their roles in many different ways.

- Contributing to the sustainability, community and economic development of the sector and state.
- Advancing of technological, engagement, legal, scientific, environmental, operational or other innovations with the potential for local, national and global impact.
- Communicating the reputation of the sector and working collaboratively to achieve outcomes.

### **Previous winners**

Winner 2025  
Harley Bodger

Winner 2024  
Shaniqwa Stuart

### **Nominee details**

#### **About the young achiever (150 words)**

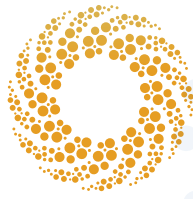
- Give an overview of why the nominee should be our young achiever for 2026. This may be used for promotional purposes, in print or at the event.

#### **Current role description and responsibilities**

(200 words)

- Provide the nominee's current role description and responsibilities and an overview of your employer's organisation.





## YOUNG INDIGENOUS ACHIEVER

### Selection criteria

#### Criterion 1 – You outside of work (1,000 words)

- What personal qualities make you stand out from your peers, and how do these help you in your current role?
- What is important to you outside your workplace? How does this impact you in your life?

#### Criterion 2 – You at work (1,500 words)

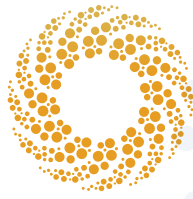
- Describe your career journey. Include your technical background and interest.
- What work do you enjoy and what has led you to this point in your career?
- What are your career achievements, highlights and goals?
- What are your business skills? These can be technical, leadership, creative etc. How have these impacted your work, and why are they important to you?
- How does the work you do impact on the broader sector?

#### Criterion 3 – Your future (1,000 words)

- What are your career or academic goals for the next five years, and how do you hope to achieve them?
- How do you want to create a positive change in the sector in the future?
- What are your long-term goals? When you retire, what do you want people to remember about your impact on the energy and resources sector?

### Attachments

- Include a supporting statement from someone familiar with the nominee's work who can offer insight into their achievements and impact relevant to this award. (400 words)
- Provide a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae (maximum two pages) including key achievements, these can be in the workplace or the community.
- Upload a two-minute video (recorded on a phone is fine) of the nominee which shows why they should receive this award. It should include how they show leadership in their field and contribute to the ongoing sustainability, community and/or economic development of the energy and resources sector.
- Provide proof of age (copy of driver's licence, proof of age card or passport). Nominees must be aged 30 years or under at some point between 1 January and 31 December 2026.



# CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

By entering the 2026 Premier's Awards in Energy and Mining, you agree to the following conditions:

- You must meet the specific eligibility requirements of the relevant category.
- You must address the selection criteria of the applicable category.
- All details submitted within a nomination must be factually correct.
- You may be asked to provide further documentation or evidence to support your claims.
- All nominations must be within the stated maximum word limits.
- You must submit your nomination by the closing date at 11:59 pm on 27 July 2026
- Nominations must be submitted through the online awards portal.

All nominees should:

- Comply with workplace health, privacy, safety and industrial relations legislation.
- Be available to attend an interview session where photographs/video footage will be created for use at the Awards presentation dinner or for other marketing purposes. These will be held on 21 to 23 September 2026.
- If selected as a finalist nominees should aim to attend the awards presentation dinner on Thursday 5 November 2026.

All nominees understand and agree that:

- When a nomination does not meet the eligibility requirements of the award category, it will not be considered by the judging panel.
- Decisions of the judging panel are final.
- All nominations will remain commercial in confidence, access will be granted to DEM administration officers and the relevant judging panel members.
- DEM will seek the approval of the winning nominee before publishing any commercially sensitive details of the project or program.
- DEM reserves the right to use all or part of any material generated (photographs, film footage, application submissions) for the purpose of publication online, in print or other broadcast media, and for use in publicity, promotional materials or campaigns.

# TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION

How do you create a standout entry that will ensure the judges understand your business and your project? Here are a few tips to get you started.

1. **Start today.** Nominations close 11:59 pm Monday 27 July. Make sure you have plenty of time to complete each criterion, so your nomination is submitted by this date. A considered nomination will show you at your best.
2. **Tell your story.** Make sure you address all selection criteria for the award. Consider the points you want to raise and draft an outline of what you want to cover under each criterion.

For example:

- what have you done?
  - how have you achieved it?
  - what practical examples or evidence do you have to support it?
  - do you have any other relevant achievements?
  - what gives you the edge over other nominees?
3. **Pay attention to the word limit.** Keep your answers concise. Focus on giving practical examples and evidence to support your statements.
  4. **Language.** Keep your language simple, clear and concise. Use plain English and don't overuse capitals, italics, underlined or bold text. Don't use slang, jargon or too many acronyms.
  5. **Proofread.** Ask a colleague for their honest and constructive feedback on the first draft of the full application, including spelling and grammatical errors.
  6. **Select strong supporting documents.**  
Make sure any attachments are high quality.
  7. **Avoid repetition.** Check your application to make sure you've answered the questions without repeating the same information. Don't cut and paste from other answers.





**PREMIER'S AWARDS  
ENERGY & MINING**



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#### **Privacy note**

Only authorised directorate and appointed panel members have access to nominee's information. The directorate may give information to other relevant bodies, sponsors and media. Personal information will not be disclosed to any other party without the nominee's consent, unless authorised or required by law. All panel members sign confidentiality and conflict of interest statements.

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

As guests here on Kaurna land, the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) acknowledges everything this department does impacts on Aboriginal country, the sea, the sky, its people, and the spiritual and cultural connections which have existed since the first sunrise.

Our responsibility is to share our collective knowledge, recognise a difficult history, respect the relationships made over time, and create a stronger future.

We are ready to walk, learn and work together.tt