

New award for 2019 NZ Minerals Forum

Georgia Quirke-Luping - Thu, 25 Oct 2018

Entries are now open for the 2019 Minerals Sector Awards.

In addition to the three award categories at the inaugural Minerals Forum in Queenstown in May, 2019 will see a new award of Community Initiative.

The deadline for [submissions](#) is April 4.

This year the event organiser, Freeman, observed a theme of community engagement appearing through the entries.

"We thought a new award category would recognise the importance of communities in the minerals sector," Events Organiser Eliza Murray says.

The Community Initiative award aims to showcase work by entrants that have been demonstrably beneficial to both the organisation and their community. It is open to New Zealand mine and quarry owners, including past and present operators and explorers.

The other award categories are: Health and Safety Initiative (sponsored by MinEx), Innovation, and Environmental Management.

Visit the Minerals Forum Awards [page](#) for more information on how to enter. Winners will be announced at the Gough CAT Gala Dinner on the 28th of May, at the Edgar Centre in Dunedin.

Two new judges for the 2019 panel

The judging panel for the awards has also been announced. This year, there are two additions to the previous panel: Heather McKay, consents and compliance manager for the West Coast Regional Council, and Alan Broome, chair of CRL Energy.

The panel will be led by *Inside Resources* editor, Bernie Napp.

Dean Fergusson, New Zealand Branch chair of AusIMM, and Sheryl Roa, principal advisor to the Waikato Regional Council, round out the 2019 panel.

2018 saw worthy award winners

This year [OceanaGold Waihi](#) won the Innovation Award for gaining of community acceptance of blasting at its underground workings. Waihi residents were provided early warning of blasting, to prevent startling people.

[Road Metals](#) won the Health and Safety Initiative Award for its appointment of a dedicated health and safety manager. The company also has full involvement from company leadership, and demonstrated, marked improvement in workplace health and safety performance.

[Greenbriar Ohai Coal](#) won the Environmental Management Award for extinguishing an underground fire at Ohai coal mine in Southland. They also implemented diverse environmental mitigation measures, particularly in respect of biodiversity and freshwater.

