



Papers are now invited for the 2026 Brooking Prize

The Society is delighted to announce the following prize offering for 2026:

Brooking Prize – A\$5,000

Brooking Student Prize – A\$2,000

High Commendation – A\$1,000 (General), A\$500 (Student)

Commendation – A\$500 (General), A\$250 (Student)

All entrants awarded a prize or commendation will, in addition, be granted complimentary membership of the Society for one year.

The Brooking Prize winner is invited to present their paper at the Society's 2027 National Conference. Complimentary conference registration together with a travel and accommodation allowance (if the conference is not held in the winner's home city) of \$1,000.00 will also be provided by the Society.

The Society of Construction Law Australia offers the Brooking Prize annually for the best essay submitted in the field of construction law. It is named after The Hon Robert Brooking AO KC in recognition of his Honour's pioneering contribution to the study and practice of construction law in Australia.

The inaugural Brooking Prize was awarded in 2010. Information about the 2010-25 prizes is available at <https://www.scl.org.au/what-we-do/brooking-prize>.

Candidates may select any subject matter concerning the theory or practice of construction law or its application in the industry.

The Society encourages entries from all disciplines and levels of experience. Entries within the General and Student Divisions will be judged separately.

The Judging Panel will allocate marks as follows:

- 40% - 'Originality of thought or approach and contribution to the study or practice of construction law or its application in the industry'. Topics which bridge the legal to the commercial and technical aspects of construction are particularly encouraged.
- 50% - 'Quality and scholarly rigour of analysis, explanation and discussion of chosen topic'.
- 10% - 'Clarity of presentation, grammar, spelling, punctuation and any referencing'. Entries should conform to a recognized academic style guide – for example, the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* available via <https://law.unimelb.edu.au/mulr#aglc>.

Note: Entries *must* be original. This means that papers submitted for the Brooking Prize cannot have been:

- published or submitted for publication in any form prior to the conclusion of the judging process; or
- submitted for judging prior to that date for any essay prize (whether or not the judging has been undertaken for such prize and whether the paper has received any award in relation to that prize),

nor can papers be substantially similar to any paper which has been published or submitted in this way.

By submitting an entry, the entrant grants the Society of Construction Law Australia a non-exclusive, royalty-free and perpetual licence to reproduce, publish, communicate, adapt and modify the entry, in whole or in part, including on the Society's website and in Society publications, for the purposes of administering and promoting the Brooking Prize and the Society's activities and consents to reasonable editorial or formatting changes to the entry for those purposes. The entrant warrants that the entry is the entrant's original work and does not infringe the rights of any third party. The entrant retains copyright in the entry and may submit for publication or publish the entry elsewhere provided the judging process is complete and provided any subsequent publication acknowledges its original submission to the Society of Construction Law Australia in connection with the Brooking Prize.

Entries are to be:

- Not more than 6,000 words in total (including all footnotes, headings and other references). The judging panel's usual practice is to disregard the text of the paper to the extent it exceeds 6,000 words. The word count must be stated at the end of the paper.
- Identifiable by essay title only: ***It is important that the author's name, company name or any other identifier does not appear anywhere on the paper itself! Also, please ensure the author name is removed from the File Info on the WORD file submitted.***
- Submitted online (https://www.scl.org.au/webform/brooking_prize_submission/). All fields on the submission form must be completed and include:
 - the title of entry, author's name, mobile telephone number, postal address and email address;
 - confirmation that the author accepts the terms set out in this invitation;
 - an indication of whether the essay is submitted in the General or Student Division (*entrants in the Student Division must be currently-enrolled students as at the competition's submission deadline date and provide the name of their institution and student number; the same entry may be entered in both divisions, but only one prize or commendation may be awarded per entry*).

The Society retains absolute discretion as to whether to award a prize in any category and, where a prize is awarded in a category, whether to award it to more than one entry (in which case the advertised prize would be shared equally). The Society's decisions in relation to award of Prizes and commendations is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Joint entries (no more than two authors) will be accepted but joint authors are to share any prize awarded.

Entrants to the Brooking Prize are expected to comply with recognised standards and principles of academic integrity in their writing. These include the avoidance of plagiarism and academic misconduct in their various forms (for an example of these, see <https://academicintegrity.unimelb.edu.au/forms-of-plagiarism>). All papers submitted for judging in the Prize will be analysed via checking software such as Turnitin (see www.turnitin.com). If the Chair of the judging panel is reasonably satisfied, using that software or otherwise, that there has been a

substantial contravention of recognised standards or principles of academic integrity, they will take any action they consider appropriate (in their absolute discretion) in relation to the judging of the paper, which may include rejection of the paper from the judging process or instructions to the judging panel as to the manner in which they judge the paper.

Entries must be submitted in WORD format and received by 4.00pm Sydney time on **Friday 25 September 2026**, by online submission

(https://www.scl.org.au/webform/brooking_prize_submission/). *Late entries will not be forwarded to the judges.*

These rules are to be posted on www.scl.org.au and may be altered at any time by the Society.

Please direct any queries to the Chair of the Judging Panel, [Dr Jeremy Coggins](#)