

# BUSINESS AWARDS GUIDELINES



2026



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# TIMELINE

**10<sup>th</sup> March**

**Awards Launch Event**

**11<sup>th</sup> March**

**Award Submissions Open**

**30<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> April**

**Area 1 People's Choice Voting**

**5<sup>th</sup> April**

**Award Submissions Close**

**6<sup>th</sup> April - 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**Area 2 People's Choice Voting**

**13<sup>th</sup> April - 19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Area 3 People's Choice Voting**

**19<sup>th</sup> May**

**Awards Evening**



# AWARD

# CATEGORIES



## **INDUSTRY AWARDS**

These industry award categories recognise excellence across a wide range of sectors, celebrating businesses that demonstrate innovation, impact, and community value within their respective fields. As self-nomination categories, businesses may nominate themselves in only one category that best aligns with their primary operations and industry focus.

### **Excellence in Agribusiness, Farming & Primary Production**

This award recognises businesses involved in agriculture, primary production and agribusiness, including farming, grazing, horticulture, cropping, aquaculture, produce and fibre production and related supply-chain services.

### **Excellence in the Care Economy**

This award recognises businesses and organisations delivering care, wellbeing, and support services to people and animals across our region. This includes childcare, aged care, disability services, allied and non-allied health providers, community care, and social support services.

### **Excellence in the Creative Industries**

This award recognises artists, makers and creative businesses working in visual arts, performing arts, design, media, craft, writing and other creative practices.

## **Excellence in Industry & Manufacturing**

This award recognises businesses involved in manufacturing, processing, fabrication and industrial production, including advanced manufacturing, food and beverage production, and supporting industrial services.

## **Excellence in Personal Services**

This award recognises businesses delivering services directly to individuals, including beauty, fitness, hairdressing and lifestyle services.

## **Excellence in Professional Services**

This award recognises businesses offering specialist knowledge-based services such as accounting, legal, financial, consulting, marketing, IT, real estate and similar professions.

## **Excellence in Retail**

This award recognises businesses primarily engaged in the sale of goods directly to consumers, including bricks-and-mortar stores, online retailers and hybrid models.

## **Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality**

This award recognises businesses contributing to the visitor economy, including accommodation providers, cafés, restaurants, bars, attractions, tour operators and event-based hospitality.

## **Excellence in Trade, Maintenance & Facility Services**

This award recognises businesses providing skilled trade, construction, maintenance and facility services, including building, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, engineering, cleaning and related specialist services across residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

## **Excellence in Transport, Freight & Logistics**

This award recognises businesses involved in the movement and delivery of people or goods. This includes passenger transport providers, freight and logistics operators, and courier services.



## **IMPACT AWARDS**

These awards honour businesses that go above and beyond, making an impact in areas that transcend industry boundaries. These categories highlight values that drive meaningful change and progress. Businesses can self-nominate for multiple awards, with each entry assessed against unique judging criteria tailored to the specific award focus.

### **Breakthrough Business Award**

This award celebrates new and emerging businesses established in 2024 or 2025 that demonstrate innovation, entrepreneurship, and/or ambition. It recognises start-ups and young businesses that are building strong foundations, seizing market opportunities, and contributing to the vibrancy of the local economy.

### **Diversity & Inclusion Leadership Award**

This award recognises businesses that actively foster inclusive workplaces, leadership and/or customer experiences. This award celebrates organisations that champion diversity across their workforce, remove barriers to participation, and create environments where people feel respected, supported, and valued.

### **Outstanding First Nations Business**

This award recognises First Nations owned businesses that demonstrate strong business practice, cultural leadership, and contribution to the local economy. The award celebrates enterprises that create economic opportunity while respecting and promoting culture, connection to Country and community.

### **Sustainability Leadership Award**

This award celebrates businesses that demonstrate strong environmental responsibility and leadership in sustainability. It recognises initiatives that reduce environmental impact, improve resource efficiency, and contribute to a more sustainable future for the region.



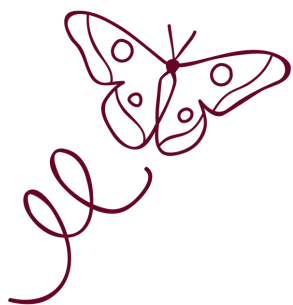
## **OUTSTANDING YOUNG TALENT AWARD - INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

This award is only open to nominations made by another individual and recognises an employee, apprentice or trainee aged 30 years or younger on 31 December, 2025, who demonstrates excellence in their role and the potential for leadership in their organisation or their industry.

## **QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD**

This award celebrates a business that not only excels in its own field, but also contributes positively to the strength, reputation and success of the broader local business community. It is a small but meaningful way of recognising an exceptional business while also highlighting the collective impact of businesses supporting and inspiring one another across the region.

All winners of the Industry and Impact Awards will automatically progress to the Business of the Year Award, which will be selected and presented by the Mayor.



## PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

The People's Choice Award gives the community the chance to recognise and celebrate the best customer service at the business they love across Queanbeyan-Palerang. This award is voted for by the public.

Voting will be open for one week, one area at a time. Each person can cast one vote per week for each area, regardless of where they live.

- Area 1: Braidwood, Araluen, Majors Creek, Nerriga
- Area 2: Bungendore, Wamboin, Bywong, Hoskinstown, Captains Flat, Carwoola
- Area 3: All Queanbeyan suburbs, Karabar, Googong, Jerrabomberra, Burra

Businesses are encouraged to get behind the People's Choice Award and encourage their customers and supporters to vote.

The organisers will nominate businesses located outside the listed localities to an appropriate voting area to ensure inclusion in the People's Choice Awards should it be required.



# SUBMISSION TIPS

## **Read the criteria carefully**

Read the criteria carefully. Make sure you understand what each category is asking. Tailor your responses to address the questions fully.

## **Start early**

Give yourself plenty of time to prepare. Leaving it until the last minute can mean important details are overlooked.

## **Be specific**

Highlight what you've achieved and what sets your business apart. Use facts, figures or measurable results wherever possible; growth in customers, staff, revenue and/or efficiency all count.

## **Tell your story**

Explain the why and how behind the business's achievements. Judges want to see what makes your business stand out.

## **Use the power of images**

You can upload up to two images per question. Choose visuals that clearly show your businesses achievements, impact or success, a strong image can speak louder than words.

## **Answer every question**

Don't skip sections. Complete, clear answers make it easier for judges to understand your business's achievements.

## **Keep it clear**

Avoid jargon or overly technical language. Make your submission easy to read.

## **Check your work**

Review your entry for errors before submitting; a clean, polished submission always makes a better impression.



# JUDGING & ELIGIBILITY



## JUDGING PROCESS

- All applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the business eligibility criteria below;
- An independent panel of judges is assigned to each category. Judges are experienced professionals, mostly from outside the region, with expertise in economic development, small business, and the visitor economy. Judges are not eligible to enter the awards.
- Each application is assessed by two judges. If a tie occurs, a third judge is brought in to help reach a final decision.
- All category winners are confirmed by the judging panel before results are announced.

## BUSINESS ELIGIBILITY

A business must meet at least two of these requirements:

1. A registered business address within the QPRC local government area.
2. A storefront, outlet, branch, factory or depot within the QPRC local government area.
3. At least 50% of the workforce resides in the QPRC local government area.
4. At least 50% of clients are located within the QPRC local government area.

# CONTACTS



## QPRC'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING TEAM

For enquiries regarding the 2026 Queanbeyan-Palerang Business Awards, please email us at [economicdevelopment@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economicdevelopment@qprc.nsw.gov.au) or scan the QR code and visit the website below.

Alternatively, please get in touch with one of the following Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council team members:

**Madeline Newton** - Economic Development Officer  
[madeline.newton@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:madeline.newton@qprc.nsw.gov.au)

**Linda Ovelgonne** - Business Engagement and Place Activation Officer  
[linda.ovelgonne@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:linda.ovelgonne@qprc.nsw.gov.au)

**Emmeline Chidley** - Team Leader, Marketing  
[emmeline.chidley@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emmeline.chidley@qprc.nsw.gov.au)

**Ryan Deebank** - Coordinator, Economic Development & Marketing  
[ryan.deebank@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ryan.deebank@qprc.nsw.gov.au)



Celebrate the  
businesses  
that make our  
region thrive.



SCAN ME

<https://ttqp.info/businessawards>