



SCENIC RIM

# 2025 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS



SUBMISSION KIT

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BUSINESSEXCELLENCEAWARDS

**SCENIC RIM**



REGIONAL COUNCIL

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the traditional country of the Mununjali, Wangerriburra, Migunberri and Ugarapul Peoples of the Scenic Rim. We recognise that the Scenic Rim continues to have connections to cultural, spiritual, environmental, and economic importance and respect connection to Country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, acknowledging the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples play in shaping the future of our Region.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

THE 2025 SCENIC RIM BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS ARE A PROUD CELEBRATION OF THE REGION'S ENTREPRENEURIAL STRENGTH AND SPIRIT.

Small and medium sized businesses are the lifeblood of the Scenic Rim region. They play a vital role in strengthening our regional economy and when local businesses thrive, our region thrives.

The latest economic data for the Scenic Rim indicated steady growth in the Gross Regional Product (GRP) over the past two decades, currently sitting at \$2.49 billion annually, up 2.3 per cent from 2024. With a population of more than 46,000, the Scenic Rim has seen steady growth in local jobs 17,251 (reported June 2025, up by 5.1 per cent from 2024) and an increase in the number of employed residents by 3.2 per cent from 2024 figures.

The local economy is critically supported by the 4,950 local businesses that call our region home, delivering goods and services to our communities and beyond. It is their commitment and dedication that continues to drive the region forward.

The Scenic Rim Business Excellence Awards recognise the value of local businesses to our region and showcases their efforts to the wider community.

I urge all members of our business community to acknowledge excellence by entering the awards. I look forward to honouring their contributions at the Awards Gala on Friday 20 March and celebrating their success with you on the night.



Cr Tom Sharp



# ABOUT THE SCENIC RIM BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

THE SCENIC RIM BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS CELEBRATE THE OUTSTANDING BUSINESSES THAT DRIVE THE STRENGTH, DIVERSITY, AND VITALITY OF OUR REGION.

These awards are designed to showcase, promote, and connect local businesses by recognising excellence in innovation, productivity, customer service, and community impact.

Whether you are a start-up, a growing small-to-medium enterprise, or a well-established organisation, these awards honour the hard work, resilience, and achievements of businesses across

all industries—regardless of economic conditions. They also shine a light on the aspirations, values, and vision that power your continued success.

Proudly hosted by Scenic Rim Regional Council, the annual Awards Gala Dinner is a highlight on the local business calendar—an inspiring evening to celebrate success, share stories, and connect with the wider Scenic Rim business community.

## AWARDS TIMELINE

ITEM	DATE
Submissions open	3 September 2025 Visit <a href="https://scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards">scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards</a>
Attend an Awards writing workshop	Register for workshops in October. Visit <a href="https://scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards">scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards</a>
Submission deadline	14 November 2025 Submissions close 5.00pm
Judging (Judging online and photography visit)	14 November – 12 December 2025
Awards Gala Dinner tickets on sale	November 2025 – February 2026
Awards Gala Dinner – The Boonah Cultural Centre	20 March 2026





## WHY ENTER?

ENTERING THE SCENIC RIM BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS IS MORE THAN A CHANCE TO WIN—IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Recognise and reward your team's achievements.
  - Reflect on your business's growth, strengths, and goals.
  - Build brand awareness and gain regional exposure.
  - Participate in business development opportunities, including workshops
  - Be featured through Scenic Rim Regional Council marketing channels.
- Celebrate local business success and connect with like-minded leaders across the region.
  - Receive professional photography of your business
  - Be promoted through Scenic Rim Regional Council marketing channels and local media.



# AWARD CATEGORIES

SELECT THE CATEGORY THAT BEST REPRESENTS YOUR BUSINESS. CHOOSING THE RIGHT CATEGORY IS IMPORTANT—IT SHOULD SHOWCASE YOUR CORE STRENGTHS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND IMPACT.

As part of your 2025 award submission, you will be required to provide images, examples, and evidence to support your responses.

You can review the questions and judging criteria for the category you are considering before you begin your application at [scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards](https://scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards)

Businesses may submit an entry in one category only, with exception to Trainee/Apprentice of the Year Award.

## EXCELLENCE IN TOURISM

This award recognises a tourism business, event, or experience that actively promotes the Scenic Rim, attracts and engages visitors, and enhances the region's reputation as a premier tourism destination.

## EXCELLENCE IN ACCOMMODATION

Honouring providers of exceptional guest experiences that reflect the warmth, quality, and distinctiveness of Scenic Rim hospitality.

## EXCELLENCE IN HOSPITALITY - FOOD, BEVERAGE, AND DINING

Recognises hospitality venues that contribute to the Scenic Rim's growing culinary reputation, showcasing local flavours and exceptional service.

## EXCELLENCE IN RETAIL

Celebrates outstanding retail businesses that deliver exceptional customer service, product quality, presentation, and connection to the local community.



## EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSTRUCTION

Recognises outstanding businesses in agriculture, trade, construction, and logistics that contribute to economic growth and operational excellence.

## EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Honours businesses that improve the health and wellbeing of individuals or the Scenic Rim community—through services, workplace culture, or community impact.

## EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Celebrates contributions to education, training, and lifelong learning across the region and highlights new, unique or innovative approaches and specific programs.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION AWARD

Recognises a project, or business that is driving innovation or leading the way in sustainable practices that benefit the Scenic Rim. It celebrates forward-thinking approaches that reduce environmental impact, solve problems creatively, and support a more sustainable future for the region.

## MOST OUTSTANDING NEW BUSINESS

Celebrates new businesses that have launched between July 2023 and March 2025, showing promise, innovation, and a sturdy foundation for long-term success.

## TRAINEE/APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Recognises an outstanding individual currently undertaking formal training who shows exceptional promise, skill development, and commitment.

## BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to the most outstanding overall winner across all categories. This prestigious accolade honours a business that demonstrates all-round excellence, visionary leadership, and significant contribution to the region's economic and community wellbeing.

No separate application is required—all category winners are automatically considered.





# HOW TO ENTER

TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY,  
VISIT [SCENICRIM.QLD.GOV.AU/BUSINESSEXCELLENCEAWARDS](https://scenicrim.qld.gov.au/businessexcellenceawards)

## STEPS TO ENTER



Note: Your submission must be uploaded to the SmartyGrants platform by 5.00pm, 14 November 2025.

## DATES TO REMEMBER





## HELPFUL TIPS BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Visit [scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards](https://scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards) to review and select the appropriate award category for your business.
- Register for a free awards workshop to prepare your awards submission. - These sessions are not compulsory, but will give valuable advice to support your entry and develop skills to support grant writing for your business in the future.
- Draft your responses in a Word document first. This allows you to edit, review word count, and avoid losing progress.
- Save all supporting attachments (e.g. images, letters) in one folder—ideally on your desktop—for easy access during upload.

## START YOUR SUBMISSION

- Create your login on the SmartyGrants platform, enter your business details, and select the award category that best reflects your business.

- When you are ready to submit, copy and paste your answers into the appropriate question fields on the SmartyGrants form. Be sure to follow the format for your selected category.

## BE PREPARED

- Do not leave it to the last minute—give yourself time to upload your responses and attachments well before the deadline of Friday 14 November 2025..

**Submit your award submission before 5:00 PM on Friday 14 November 2025.**

Visit [scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards](https://scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards) for all the awards entry details, including: award categories and questions, links to register for a entry writing workshop, and access to SmartyGrants.



# ELIGIBILITY

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE 2025 SCENIC RIM BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS, APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- The business, organisation, or individual must operate from a physical address located within the Scenic Rim Regional Council local government area.
- The business must have been actively trading for at least 12 months as of July 2025, unless otherwise stated (e.g. in "Most Outstanding New Business" or "Trainee/Apprentice of the Year" categories).
- All entrants must be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations.





# CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

## BY ENTERING THE 2025 SCENIC RIM BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS, YOU AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- All entrants must operate from a physical address located within the Scenic Rim Regional Council local government area.
- Entry answers must reflect operational and financial performance for the qualifying period between July 2023 and June 2025.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant/business to select the correct category and submit their entry by the closing date.
- Each application must address the specific judging criteria outlined for the category questions and include relevant supporting evidence where asked.
- Businesses may submit an entry in only one (1) category, with exception to Apprentice of the Year (note: the Business of the Year Award is awarded to the most outstanding overall winner from all categories).
- Each question has a maximum 500-word limit, there are four questions in each category with criteria on how to answer. Total word count for award submission should not exceed 2000 words.
- All award submissions will be treated as commercial-in-confidence.
- Council is not responsible for entries lost or misdirected via method of submission.
- Council reserves the right to cancel, combine, or withhold award categories at its discretion.
- Entries must be factual, original, and reflective of the entrant's own business activities and achievements.
- All entries must be received by the published closing date. Late or incomplete submissions may not be considered.
- Participants will be contacted for follow-up interviews or promotional activities as part of the judging and award process.
- Participants agree to be photographed and interviewed by Council for awards coverage and future promotional use.
- By entering, participants agree to have their business name, images, and achievements used in Council promotions and media.
- Entrants must comply with all relevant local, Queensland, and federal laws and regulations.
- The judging panel's decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.



# JUDGING COMPONENTS AND SCORING BREAKDOWN

## THE WRITTEN SUBMISSION WILL BE ASSESSED BY AN INDEPENDENT JUDGING PANEL COMPRISING EXPERIENCED BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS.

Judges will undertake a comprehensive evaluation of each submission, selecting finalists based on demonstrated performance against the award criteria.

As part of the judging process, the panel will:

- Review all written submissions.
- Conduct online digital checks, including social media, website and online reviews.
- Conduct phone interviews with entrants.

COMPONENT	DETAILS	POINTS
1. Written Entry	Submitted via SmartyGrants. Assessed against the judging criteria for your selected category.	80
2. Digital Review	Judges will review your website, social media presence and online reviews. You will be contacted to confirm and/or clarify information at a time suitable to you.	20

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Successful nominees will be receive a professional photography session that captures their business operations..

Photographs captured may be used by Scenic Rim Council for marketing and media purposes.

Businesses will be provided with copies for use in their own marketing and promotional activities.

Photographs will be taken during the judging timeframe and after the award submission has been completed.

Photographs do not contribute to the assessable elements for the awards.





## WRITTEN ENTRY (80 POINTS)

TO COMPLETE YOUR WRITTEN ENTRY VIA SMARTYGRANTS, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO RESPOND TO A SET OF FOUR CATEGORY-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, EACH WITH A WORD LIMIT OF 500 WORDS.

View the questions for your selected category at [scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards](https://scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards)

Your responses should highlight how your business has demonstrated excellence during the qualifying period between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025.

Supporting attachments—such as images, documents, letters of support, or examples—are strongly encouraged and will contribute to your final score by providing evidence of your achievements.

### PHONE INTERVIEW

As part of the submission process, judges will contact you for a brief interview (either online or by phone).

This will provide an opportunity to:

- Confirm and clarify any submitted information
- Answer questions about your business journey and experience during the qualifying period July 2023 to June 2025
- Showcase the people and passion behind your business

You will be contacted in advance to schedule a suitable time for the interview.



# DIGITAL REVIEW (20 POINTS)

IN ADDITION TO YOUR WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO SMARTYGRANTS, ALL ELIGIBLE ENTRIES IN THE 2025 SCENIC RIM BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS WILL UNDERGO A DIGITAL REVIEW. THIS PROCESS ENSURES A WELL-ROUNDED ASSESSMENT OF YOUR BUSINESS AND PROVIDE VALUABLE CONTENT FOR AWARD PROMOTION.

The Digital Review accounts for 20 points (out of a possible 100 points) of the overall score.

## DIGITAL REVIEW

Online presence is an important consumer touch point and plays a significant factor to overall business success.

Judges will conduct desktop research and a structured online review of each nominated business.

This review may include:

- Review of the business's website
- Assessment of social media presence (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)
- Analysis of online reviews and reputation, such as Google Reviews, Facebook ratings or Industry-specific platforms.

Additional Notes:

- Businesses are not required to take action during this stage; however, they are strongly encouraged to ensure their website, social media, and online listings are accurate, current, and reflective of their business performance during the eligibility period (July 2023 – June 2025).
- All judging will be conducted confidentially and independently, in accordance with the integrity and fairness principles of the Scenic Rim Business Excellence Awards.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

### QUESTIONS?

Find out more at: [scenicrim.qld.gov.au/  
BusinessExcellenceAwards](https://scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards)

If you have any questions about nominations or the submission process, please email:

[business@scenicrim.qld.gov.au](mailto:business@scenicrim.qld.gov.au)

Call **07 5540 5111** — ask for the Economic Development Team who are responsible for the 2025 Business Excellence Awards.

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### NEED HELP WITH YOUR SUBMISSION?

Council is offering free business development sessions to assist with the award writing process.

Visit [scenicrim.qld.gov.au/  
BusinessExcellenceAwards](https://scenicrim.qld.gov.au/BusinessExcellenceAwards) to book this value-adding session.

Take advantage of this support to strengthen your entry and showcase your business at its best.



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