

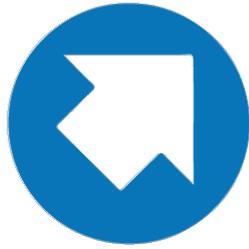
HUNTER REGION BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS



AWARD CATEGORIES

1	Hospitality & Tourism	Restaurants, Cafes, Bars, Takeaway food, Accommodation, Tourism activities, Galleries, Visitor information centres, Cellar doors.
2	Online Business	Web designers, IT services, E-commerce and related online services.
3	Personal Services	Hairdressers/ Barbers, Beauticians, Tattooists, Domestic Cleaners, Life coaches, Make-Up Artists, Nail Technicians etc.
4	Professional Services	Solicitors, Business consultants, Engineers, Insurance providers, Media, Architects etc.
5	Health Services	Fitness providers, Therapists, Natural health, Healthcare providers, Pharmacies, and Medical services.
6	Trades & Industry	Electricians, Plumbers, Mechanics, Landscapers, Builders, Interior decorators, Manufacturing, Commercial Cleaners etc.
7	Financial & Real Estate Services	Accountants, Bookkeepers, Financial institution, Real Estates, Mortgage brokers, and Insurance brokers.
8	Not-For-Profit Businesses	Community services, Business chambers and Organisations
9	Home Based Business	Business owners whose principle address is their home
10	General Business	All other businesses
11	New Start Business	Under two years (Note: other applications may be lodged into other categories)
12	Access & Inclusion	Businesses championing disability access and inclusion in the community
13	Customer Service	Individual award
14	Customer Service	Whole Business award
15	Young Entrepreneur of the Year	Individual award (Aged under 30)
16	Business Woman of the Year	Individual award
17	Business Leader of the Year	Individual award
18	Business of the Year	Chosen from winning businesses

Not sure where to enter? The Businesses described within each Category are suggestions only. If you have a business that you don't know where you should enter, give the Hunter Region Business Hub a call on 02 4936 2557



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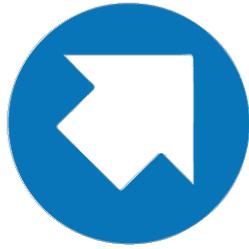


ENTRY CONDITIONS

The Hunter Region Business Hub treats all entries as commercial in confidence.

1. The business will be based in the Hunter Region.
2. Participants can enter one category between categories 1-10, plus category 11 New Start Business if applicable. You may also enter any or all of categories 12-17. Multiple applications may be made between categories 12-17 (as applicable to each entrant), **but** separate applications need to be made per entry. The judges reserve the right to transfer any entry to a more appropriate category.
3. Not answering any section/question or an incomplete entry will result in points being deducted and/or the entry being disqualified.
4. All businesses will be eligible to win "Business of the Year" which is drawn from the existing categories. There is no Entry form for this category.
5. Previous winners of major categories are not eligible to enter for 2 years after their previous win. Winners of individual categories are not eligible to enter if they have won twice or more over the past 3 years.
6. The deadline for entries is midnight, 30th March 2026, with no exceptions.
7. A panel of individual judges will assess each application, which may include visits and telephone calls to finalist businesses for final judging. Entrants may be visited in person, online or telephoned by a "mystery shopper".
8. The ultimate winners will be decided by a combination of points awarded by all judges from the written entries and the "mystery shopper".
9. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. However, we are happy to give feedback from judges' notes, if available.

1. The Business profile must be completed and certified by ticking the relevant terms and conditions box and dating.
2. The questions are compulsory and must be answered on the official entry form in the spaces provided. Word counts will need to be adhered to. Appendix in support of applications are welcomed and can be uploaded/attached to your application in the relevant areas. There is a 2MB limit on attachments.
3. Digital images and logos should be provided with each entry for use on the Awards night and can be uploaded in the relevant area.
4. All entries are lodged online, Here: <http://hrbea.com.au/>



HUNTER REGION BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS THE HUB



GENERAL & JUDGING CRITERIA

Please answer all the questions. Ensure that your answers are relevant to the Category you have entered.

Note – if a question is not answered you may be penalised.

Questions 1 to 3 will assist the judges in gaining an overview of your business.

Final judging of your business will be via a visit to your business. If your business is unable to be visited, please provide details of three referees.

SCORING

Question	Topic	Maximum Points
1	Your core business activities	2
2	Other supplementary activities	3
3	Outline of owners/principles and reason for starting the business	5
4	Indicate employment growth	5
5	Most satisfaction from your business	5
6	Business objectives	10
7	Target market & Unique Selling Point	20
8	Innovation and improvement	20
9	Achievements/successes	15
10	Greatest challenge and lessons learnt	10
11	Current main strength and weakness	10
12	Service example	10
13	Why you should win	5
14	Visual – branding and business image, website, social media etc.	30
15	Digital Footprint	35
	TOTAL	185