



THE BALLINA SHIRE BUSINESS AWARDS 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can enter the Ballina Business Awards?

Entry is open to any business based in the Ballina Shire LGA that holds a valid ABN, subject to the entry criteria for each individual award. If you are not a member of Business NSW or any of our subsidiaries, you will become a free member during the registration process.

Is there an entry fee to enter the Ballina Business Awards?

There is no fee for a business to submit their entry.

Can I enter more than one category?

Yes, you can enter as many categories as you like provided your business fits within the category criteria.

How and when will finalists be announced?

Finalists will be announced on the Ballina Chamber of Commerce web site on Monday 7 July. An email will also be sent announcing finalists for the August Awards Presentation event.

How will I know if my submission has been received?

Once an entry is submitted an auto confirmation email will be sent. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please check your junk inbox or contact businessawards@businessnsw.com

Is my submission confidential?

All submissions are confidential and are handled in line with the [NSWBC Privacy Policy](#) and [Business Awards Program Terms & Conditions](#).

If I have previously entered the Ballina Business Awards program, can I enter again?

Yes. Previous winners are eligible to enter the same category in the subsequent year that they have won, up to a maximum of three consecutive years. If the same organisation or person wins the same category at the awards three years in a row, they will be placed in the Hall of Fame for that category. The organisation or person who is placed in the Hall of Fame will then be excluded from entry into that category for the next two consecutive years.

What is the judging process?

Each category is judged by a panel of up to three judges that are selected from subject matter experts, Business Award program partners or Business NSW and My Business executive management. Each entry is judged individually with all three judges scores averaged to achieve the final score.

Our business has been nominated for the Ballina Business Awards. What do we do now?

Congratulations! Your nomination demonstrates that your nominator believes you are worthy of recognition. Being nominated does not automatically qualify you for entry into the awards. You'll need to put in a submission to be in the running. It's entirely up to you to decide whether you wish to enter.

Can we nominate our own business?

We encourage you to nominate your own business for the awards. While third-party nominations are welcomed, self-nomination is quite normal for business awards. After all, who knows better than you and your team how much recognition you truly deserve?

Can members of the Ballina Chamber of Commerce enter?

Yes. Membership or lack of membership in a Chamber of Commerce or other community groups does not prevent or promote nominees' prospects for an award. Any business operating in the Ballina Shire LGA can enter the Ballina Business Awards.

How long does it take to put an entry together?

The awards process requires planning, writing and reviewing your submission, which does require an investment of time. The amount of time varies between businesses and individuals. However, to ensure the highest standards of credibility, a degree of effort is required in your submission.

There is no requirement to design and format your submission, it is simply uploaded as text into the [Business NSW portal](#).

Can I get an extension on the submission deadline?

No. The closing date is Thursday June 5. The submission deadline is final and will not be extended. After the closing date and time passes, the system will automatically stop any further submissions.

How are judges appointed to each category panel?

Our panel of category judges are carefully chosen for their credentials, successful career history and industry expertise. All judges are required to sign non-disclosure agreements and maintain complete confidentiality. Judges are also required to abstain from assessing any submissions where a conflict of interest may arise.



The criteria questions have been carefully crafted to ensure that all submissions can be assessed and evaluated in accordance with industry best practice.

All judges serve on a volunteer basis with no compensation, except for an invitation to participate in the Gala Awards Presentation Event.

If I am successful at the Ballina Business Awards, can I update my application before the Regional and State competitions?

No. The application made to enter the local business awards is the same application that will be judged at Regional and State level.

Can Sponsors enter?

Yes. All businesses trading within the Ballina Shire LGA and individuals employed by those businesses are eligible to enter.

For more information contact our Executive Officer Jon Dickson:

info@ballinachamber.com.au or 0466 639 635

or

Business NSW

For any enquiries, please email businessawards@businessnsw.com or call 03 5222 954

