



GRANITE BELT BUSINESS
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS 2026

NOMINATE TODAY



stanthorpe & granite belt
chamber of commerce



Granite Belt
WINE & TOURISM



Contents

Nomination Guidance	2
Entry Fee.....	2
Eligibility Criteria.....	2
Supporting Documentation Required.....	2
Category List.....	2
Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality	2
Excellence in Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	2
Excellence in Retail	3
Excellence in Industry	3
Excellence in Professional Services	3
New Business.....	3
Emerging Leader Award.....	3
People’s Choice Award	3
Outstanding Business Award	3
Key Notes	3
Submission Content.....	4
Part 1 – About the Business (10 points).....	4
Part 2 – How You Do It (30 points)	4
Part 3 – Your Impact (30 points).....	5
Part 4 – Excellence & Achievement (30 points).....	5
Outstanding Business Award	5
Special Categories Criteria	6
Submission Details.....	6

Nomination Guidance

Entry Fee

- \$100 – Members (includes one ticket to the Awards Gala)
- \$125 – Non-members (includes one ticket to the Awards Gala)

Upon receipt of a completed nomination, an invoice will be issued.

Nominations are considered fully accepted once payment of the invoice has been received.

Eligibility Criteria

To maintain integrity and ensure regional focus:

- Business must have a physical address within the Stanthorpe & Granite Belt region.
- Must hold an ABN.
- For the New Business category: ABN registered within the past 2 years.
- Nominations can be submitted by business owners or a third-party.
- Entrants can apply for up to two categories plus automatic People's Choice inclusion.

Supporting Documentation Required

Entrants must supply:

- ✓ Up to 5 high-resolution images (for judging/media use); including one of the Business Owners
- ✓ One referee statement or letter of support (customer, supplier, or community member).
- ✓ Optional supporting documents: testimonials, awards, or media features.

Use the dot points for each question to help focus your answers on the key details, your response should describe and demonstrate answers to these questions.

Category List

Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality

Recognises outstanding operators who deliver exceptional visitor experiences through quality, service, and innovation.

Includes: Accommodation, Eateries & Cafés, Wineries & Breweries, Tours, & Attractions.

Excellence in Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries

Celebrates the region's growers, producers, and agribusinesses who demonstrate innovation, sustainability, and leadership in the agricultural sector.

Includes: Growers, Livestock Producers, Value-Added Producers, Ag Technology & Supply Chain Partners.

Excellence in Retail

For businesses that stand out through exceptional customer service, operational excellence, and contribution to the local economy.

Includes: Retailers and direct to customer producers

Excellence in Industry

For businesses that stand out through exceptional product quality, operational excellence, and contribution to the local economy.

Includes: Trades, Transport Services, Manufacturers, Construction, Development

Excellence in Professional Services

Acknowledges exceptional organisations and individuals in professional services, including solicitors, accountants, brokers, financial services etc.

Excellence in Community Wellbeing

Acknowledges exceptional organisations and individuals in the Health, Education and Training, Wellbeing and Not-for-Profit Organisations.

New Business

For enterprises operating less than 2 years (based on ABN registration date) that demonstrate innovation, strong market potential, and community connection.

Emerging Leader Award

Honours individuals under 25 demonstrating leadership potential, initiative, and commitment to excellence within their workplace or industry.

People's Choice Award

A public-voted award recognising the business or individual most admired by customers and the community for exceptional service, reputation, or impact.

Outstanding Business Award

The pinnacle award selected from among the category winners, celebrating overall excellence, innovation, and contribution to the Granite Belt's business community.

Key Notes

- Entrants may nominate for up to two categories, excluding People's Choice.

Submission Content

In preparing your submission, please respond to the following questions:

Part 1 – About the Business (10 points)

Q1. Describe your business (max 300 words)

- What you do?
- What problem, market gap or customer need you are seeking to address through your business or products?
- What key goals and strategies you are using to address this problem?
- What drives success in your business?
- What the key risks are and how you manage these?
- What opportunities you see for your business in the future?

Part 2 – How You Do It (30 points)

Q2. Products, Services & Marketing (max 300 words)

- What are your main products/services?
- Who are your target markets?
- What makes you unique?
- How do you market and promote your business to reach your target customers and communicate what you do?

Q3. Customer Service & Relationships (max 300 words)

- How do you develop and enhance your relationships with your customers?
- How do you use customer feedback to shape how you grow your business or products/ services?
- How do you measure customer satisfaction and consistency?
- How do you cater for customers with specific needs?

Q4. Business Culture and Professional Development (max 300 words)

- How do you motivate your team and create a positive workplace culture?
- How do you recognise staff achievements and keep your team engaged and supported?
- If you are a sole business owner how do you maintain motivation, recognize achievements and stay engaged?

Q5. Innovation & Improvement (max 300 words)

- What innovations, adaptations, or improvements have you introduced to grow your business or enhance your products and services?
- How have you developed or used new technology, systems, or ideas to improve your operations or customer experience?
- How do you use data, insights, or customer feedback to drive positive change and continuous improvement?

Part 3 – Your Impact (30 points)

Q6. Economic Impact (max 300 words)

- How does your business contribute to local employment and the economic growth of the Stanthorpe and Granite Belt region?
- What local suppliers, partnerships, or collaborations do you engage with to support the regional economy?
- How does your business attract or contribute to investment and economic development within the region?

Q7. Social & Community Impact (max 300 words)

- How does your business contribute to the wellbeing, inclusion, or quality of life within the Granite Belt community?
- In what ways do you support or engage with local community groups, events, or initiatives?
- How does your business demonstrate social responsibility, such as mentorship, accessibility, or giving back to the community?

Q8. Environmental Impact (max 300 words)

- What actions has your business taken to reduce its environmental footprint (e.g. energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, or sustainable sourcing)?
- How do you incorporate sustainability into your daily operations or long-term planning?
- How do you communicate your environmental values or initiatives to your customers and community?
- How do you measure the success of your environmental impact?

Part 4 – Excellence & Achievement (30 points)

Q9. What sets you apart? (max 300 words)

- Why are you exceptional in your field?
- What makes you stand out in your industry?
- List any awards, grants, or achievements you have had in the last 2 years that you are proud of.

Outstanding Business Award

All Category Winners are automatically entered into the Outstanding Business Award.

Q10. Why should you be considered for Outstanding Business Award? (max 300 words)

- What is it about your business that demonstrates how your striving for excellence makes a meaningful contribution to the region?
- How will you use this award to mentor and champion others in the Granite Belt region over the coming years?

Special Categories Criteria

Emerging Leader Award:

- What achievements and leadership qualities does the nominee demonstrate in their role?
- How have they contributed to their workplace, industry, or the broader community?
- What potential do you see for their future growth and leadership within the industry?

Submission Details

Nominations close: Friday 29 May 2026 – 5 pm.

Submit online via JotForm or email: BEAwards@stanthorpecoc.au

Images and attachments may be sent separately if file size exceeds limits.

Please note: an entry fee applies. An invoice will be issued upon receipt of nomination. Entry is confirmed once payment is received.