

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

To be eligible to enter the Northern Outback Business Awards you will be required to meet the following conditions of entry

1. Conditions of Entry

- 1.1 Entry is free
- 1.2 Membership of Commerce North West is NOT a requirement for entry.
- 1.3 To enter the Northern Outback Business Awards (NOBA Awards) all applicants must read and understand the terms and conditions set out in this document (Terms and Conditions) and complete the on-line entry form for your chosen category.
- 1.4 Commerce North West reserves the right to alter or change these Terms and Conditions at any time at its discretion.
- 1.5 By entering, you agree to your business being profiled in the media. The winners may receive publicity through participating media organisations.
- 1.6 Applicants must enter online, via NorthernOutback.awardsplatform.com
- 1.7 Applicants can enter one or more of the listed categories. However, it is highly recommended that applicants enter a category where they can demonstrate a competitive edge.
- 1.8 The judges may, at their discretion, re-categorise an entry if it is felt appropriate. (See Award Categories for further details). The judges' decision is final.
- 1.9 The applicant's principal place of business must be within the North West QLD Region; the business must be a registered business; and they must have an ABN.
- 1.10 Franchises operating in the north west region must also reside in the North West Region.
- 1.11 Businesses can be incorporated, sole operator, partnership or not-for-profit entities that are located or do business predominantly in the North West Queensland area.
- 1.12 Entries must be submitted by **the advertised due date**. Late entries will not be accepted.

- 1.13 Your business contact details may be provided to the major sponsors, media sponsors and major supporters. The business information and financial information in your application will remain confidential and will only be available to the judging committee. Please refer to our Privacy Statement.
- 1.14 By lodging your entry, you agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

2. Entry Requirements

- 2.1 The qualifying period for the 2024 program is 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. All activities, achievements and innovations referred to within submissions must have occurred within this period.
- 2.2 All entries for consideration must be lodged online and include all the required information.
- 2.3 Businesses must provide honest and accurate answers to all questions. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- 2.4 Commerce North West reserves the right to declare any entry ineligible, if at any time during or after the term of the award process your entry form is found to be incomplete, deficient, false, or misleading in any way.

3. Key Dates

- 3.1 Refer to the Key Award Dates page on the Website for entry opening and closing dates.
- 3.2 Commerce North West reserves the right to extend or vary the entry period if required, before or after the NOBA Awards entry period commences.

4. Categories

- 4.1 The NOBA awards comprise of the following categories
 - 4.1.1 **Rising star of the Year**
 - 4.1.2 **Micro Business of the Year**
 - 4.1.3 **Small Business of the Year**
 - 4.1.4 **Large Business of the Year**
 - 4.1.5 **Community Organisation of the Year**
 - 4.1.6 **Workplace of choice**
 - 4.1.7 **Business of the Year**
 - 4.1.8 **Hall of Fame**
 - 4.1.9 **People's Choice**
 - 4.1.10 **Outstanding Individual Awards**
 - 4.1.10.1 **Customer Service Hero**
 - 4.1.10.2 **Leadership Hero**
 - 4.1.10.3 **Employee of the Year**
- 4.2 Past winners can re-enter the Northern Outback Business Awards, however, once a business is inducted into the Hall of Fame, they are not eligible to enter the Business Awards again in any category for 3 years. A winner will be inducted into the Hall of Fame after they have won a Northern Outback Business Award in any category for three consecutive years. Hall of Fame inductees are announced at the Gala Dinner in the year following their third consecutive win.
- 4.3 Commerce North West may, in its sole discretion (without prior notice) add or vary these award categories from time to time.

5. JUDGING

- 5.1 All entries are judged by a panel of subject matter experts, selected by Commerce North West from business and community leaders, which may also include previous Category Winners and Category Sponsors.
- 5.2 At its discretion, Commerce North West applies a weighting to each question, based on the complexity of that question in relation to all questions within a category.

- 5.3 Judges will allocate scores to each question asked, and these scores will be multiplied by an unseen weighting to reach an overall score for each entry.
- 5.4 There will only be one winner per category.
- 5.5 Where there are two or more entries with the same highest score, the judging panel will be reconvened for determination of the winner.
- 5.6 Judges are required to sign a confidentiality agreement and disclose any conflict of interest.
- 5.7 The Judging Panel's decision is final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.
- 5.8 In situations where there is only one entrant for a category in an Award, this entry will be judged on its merits.
- 5.9 Judges reserve the right to not award a winner for any category if submissions are not of a reasonable standard.

6. Announcing finalists and winners

- 6.1 All Finalists will be notified by phone, email, and published on the Website.
- 6.2 Winners will be announced at the gala event on the 2nd November 2024.