



Where your goals are ours Presents



MACLEAY VALLEY BUSINESS AWARDS

HANDBOOK



Macleay Valley
Business Chamber



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WWW.MACLEAYBUSINESSCHAMBER.COM.AU

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AWARDS PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Complete your entry form online at www.macleayvalleychamber.com.au

Nominations Open - 6th April 2022 - 9am

Gala tickets go on sale - 6th April 2022 - 9am

Nominations close - 18th May 2022 - 12pm

Public Voting and Self Promotion Opens - 24th May 2022 - 9am

Public Voting closes - 7th June 2022 - 5pm

GALA DINNER ON SATURDAY 18TH JUNE 2022

PLEASE NOTE: Dates may change. Please consult www.macleayvalleychamber.com.au for latest information.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BUSINESS SUCCESS AWARD CATEGORIES

The Macleay Valley Business Awards provides an exceptional opportunity to recognise and reward amazing businesses whose passion, determination and success inspire other businesses and business people.

The Macleay Valley Business Awards are about more than just winning. They are the perfect opportunity for entrants to take a fresh look at their operation and have it assessed by experts. The process of completing an award application helps you to review your performance and think about your future plans.

This Handbook outlines the award categories and explains how to apply. All entries are to be completed online at www.macleayvalleychamber.com.au

There are two distinct Award Levels available:

LOCAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

All Entrants MUST enter one of the Local Recognition Awards.

Entrants can enter only ONE Local Recognition Awards. A list of the types of businesses who are eligible for each category is included in this Handbook.

EXCELLENCE AWARDS ALIGNED TO THE NSW BUSINESS CHAMBER

Entrants are encouraged to enter one of the NSW Business Chamber Aligned Awards.

Businesses and organisations can enter into more than one category of the NSW Business Chamber Aligned Awards.



LOCAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

These awards will be judged by an independent panel of experts combined with a public voting score to determine the winner in each category.

EXCELLENCE IN TOURISM, ACCOMMODATION AND HOSPITALITY

This award recognises an individual or business who has exhibited dedication to develop the visitor economy in the Macleay Valley. It also recognises excellence in service, facilities and entertainment available to the local community and guests in our region.

EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH, BEAUTY AND WELLBEING

This Award recognises excellence in businesses providing “feel good” services and recognises the health intervention measures and facilities which help to improve quality of life, making a real difference to the wellbeing of our community.

EXCELLENCE IN RETAIL SERVICE

This award recognises businesses or organisations who can demonstrate excellence in their business planning and practices plus show continued development and innovation in their business.

EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 20 or Less Employees

This award recognises businesses with 20 or less employees, that possess specialist knowledge, skills & products that adhere to ethical standards and have been derived from a high level of education, training and experience.

EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 21 or More Employees

This award recognises businesses with 21 or more employees, that possess specialist knowledge, skills & products that adhere to ethical standards and have been derived from a high level of education, training and experience.

EXCELLENCE IN TRADES & INDUSTRY

This award recognises businesses that possess specialist trades, skills & products that adhere to ethical standards and have been derived from a trades certificate, training and experience.

EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE

This Award recognises an individual or business who has contributed to the development of all areas of agribusiness and value add food services across the Macleay Valley. It also recognises key achievements in the industry and honours key people who drive this sector.

NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

These awards will be judged by an independent panel of experts and the winner in each category will be nominated for the NSW Business Chamber Regional Awards.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

The Outstanding Employee Award recognises an inspirational employee who has demonstrated a passion for their role and a commitment to their workplace and the community.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG BUSINESS LEADER

The Outstanding Young Business Leader Award recognises an inspirational business leader aged 35 or under who has demonstrated a commitment to their workplace, industry and the community through leadership.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS LEADER

The Outstanding Business Leader Award recognises an inspirational business leader aged 36 years or over who has demonstrated a commitment to their workplace, industry and the community through leadership, whilst providing mentorship to others.

EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

The Employer of Choice Award recognises a business that has implemented strategies and initiatives to create stimulating and supportive workplace environments for its employees.

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

The Excellence in Innovation Award recognises a business that has implemented innovative solutions for new and existing business needs through the introduction or improvement of an idea, product, method, technology, process or application.

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

The Excellence in Sustainability Award recognises a business that has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable business practices and is working to reduce the impact of its operations on the environment.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

The Outstanding Community Organisation Award recognises an organisation that works to improve the social, cultural or environmental wellbeing of the community.

OUTSTANDING START-UP

The Outstanding Start-up Award recognises a start-up business that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the potential to achieve future success.

EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

This Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award recognises businesses that address the needs of a diverse community, including seniors, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and people with disability. An inclusive business facilitates the needs of all its employees and customers.

EXCELLENCE IN MICRO BUSINESS LESS THAN 5 EMPLOYEES

The Excellence in Micro Business Award recognises a business that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience.

EXCELLENCE IN SMALL BUSINESS 5 - 20 EMPLOYEES

The Excellence in Small Business Award recognises a business that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience.

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS MORE THAN 21 EMPLOYEES

The Excellence in Large Business Award recognises a business that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Eligibility for Entrants

To be eligible to submit an application you should be a Member of a local business chamber or the NSW Business Chamber or be prepared to join the Macleay Valley Business Chamber.

A business must enter ONE of the Local Recognition Award categories and is encourage to enter one or more of the NSW Business Chamber Aligned awards.

Members of the NSW Business Chamber Executive cannot enter into an individual award however, they can enter their business into one of the other categories.

Entries can be submitted online via www.macleayvalleychamber.com.au/mvba2022/

2. Eligibility for Voting in Local Recognition Awards

Any individual or business can vote for a Local Recognition Applicant.

There can be only one vote per IP address lodged. You can vote for all Entrants if you wish however you can only vote for a single entrant once.

3. Judging Process

A panel of independent experts will assess all entries to the Awards utilising a scoring system adopted by the NSW Business Chamber.

The judges will be recruited from outside the region.

All information supplied to the judging panel will remain confidential.

The decision of the judges will be final.

4. Confidentiality

All information supplied by an Entrant will remain confidential however each Entrant will be asked to supply a 100 word description of their business that be used for promotional purposes by the Chamber.

By entering the Awards, you agree to have this information used for promotional purposes.

5. Social Media

The Macleay Valley Business Chamber will undertake a major social media campaign to promote the Awards through Facebook, Instagram and online. By submitting an application you agree that Macleay Valley Business Chamber can use the 100-word biography of your business in our promotion of the event.

6. Communications

By submitting an Awards entry, an entrant understands and agrees that the Chamber or our Awards Sponsors may contact entrants in relation to the Awards process or promotions and that entrant contact information may be provided to other parties for this purpose.

HOW TO ENTER THE AWARDS

1) BUSINESS DETAILS

To be completed by all entrants including those entering into the individual categories.

1. Trading name:
2. Registered ABN:.....
3. How is your business structured (drop down box)
 Sole Trader Partnership Trust Company
4. Is your business classified as a not for profit? (drop down box)
 Yes No
5. Main Office Address:
6. Business trading commencement date:.....
7. Select from the ANZIC Industry list below the industry sector your business operates in (drop down box)
 - Administrative and Support Services
 - Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
 - Arts and Recreation Services
 - Construction
 - Education and Training
 - Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services
 - Financial and Insurance Services
 - Health Care and Social Assistance
 - Information, Media and Telecommunications
 - Manufacturing
 - Mining
 - Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
 - Public Administration and Safety
 - Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services
 - Retail Trade
 - Transport, Postal and Warehousing
 - Wholesale Trade
 - Other
8. Number of employees on payroll including contractors, casuals and labour hire staff (drop down box)
 - 1 to 4
 - 5 to 19
 - 20 to 49
 - 50 to 99
 - 100 to 199
 - 200+
9. Is your business primarily business to business or business to consumer (drop down box)
 - Business to Business
 - Business to Consumer

10. Please indicate the main reason/s you are entering into the Business Awards

- To raise the profile of my business
- To recognise my staff and our achievements
- To build business networks
- To reflect on the goals, strategies and vision that led to the success of your business and to use those insights to drive even greater success in the future.

11. Please describe the single biggest challenge that your business will face in the next financial year.

.....

.....

.....

12. Please provide a 100-word biography for your business.

This biography will be used for promotional purposes.

.....

.....

.....

13. Website.....

14. Twitter

15. Instagram.....

16. LinkedIn

17. Facebook

2) CONTACT DETAILS

To be completed by all entrants

Entry Contact Details:

Name: Position:

Email:

Phone: Mobile:

Media Contact Details Tick box if same as above

Name: Position:

Email:

Phone: Mobile:



APPLICATION FOR LOCAL AWARDS

The Local Recognition Awards are NOT a NSW Business Chamber Aligned category. The winner of the local award will not go on to further Regional or State Awards.

Conditions of Entry

- Entrants must be located in the Macleay Valley.
- Entrants must complete their application online
- Entrants must answer every question
- Submissions should not exceed 250 words per question
- All answers remain confidential
- The Macleay Valley Business Chamber reserves the right to preclude any entry which may negatively impact on the reputation of the Business Awards and/or its members.

CORE QUESTIONS

All Entrants must answer each question & nominate the award category you wish to enter. Entrants can enter only ONE local recognition award.

1. Tell us about yourself and the history behind your business.
2. Explain the key strengths of your business and what makes you the best at what you do?
3. Describe how your business has grown, adapted or responded to the trading conditions of the past year.
4. What plans are in place to ensure that your business remains sustainable into the future? Identify two business goals for the next 12 months.
5. What new ideas, new products, new technologies or other innovations have you introduced into your business in the last 12 months?
6. How does your business identify its customers, market to their needs, gain feedback and improve products and services?
7. How does your business stay up to date with changes in the business environment and the broader trends in your industry?
8. How does your business actively support the community and/or business environment? Do you encourage your employees to be involved in community activities?



AWARD CATEGORIES

All entrants must select **ONE** award category in the Local Recognition Awards:

- EXCELLENCE IN TOURISM, ACCOMMODATION AND HOSPITALITY**
- EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH, BEAUTY AND WELLBEING**
- EXCELLENCE IN RETAIL SERVICE**
- EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**
20 or less employees
- EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**
21 or more employees
- EXCELLENCE IN TRADES & INDUSTRY**
- EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE**

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

There are 12 Award categories that are aligned with the NSW Business Chamber. The winner of each of the following categories will be nominated for the Regional or State Awards.

Entry to these awards is optional and all Entrants MUST have completed a Local Recognition Award.

Conditions of Entry

- Entrants must be located in the Macleay Valley.
- Entrants must complete their application online
- Entrants must answer every question
- All answers remain confidential
- The Macleay Valley Business Chamber reserves the right to preclude any entry which may negatively impact on the reputation of the Business Awards and/or its members.
- Entrant must not be NSW Business Chamber Staff Member, Regional Advisory Councillor, State Councillor or Board Member.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

- OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE**
- OUTSTANDING YOUNG BUSINESS LEADER 35 YEARS AND UNDER**
- OUTSTANDING BUSINESS LEADER 36 YEARS AND OVER**
- EMPLOYER OF CHOICE**
- EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION**
- EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY**
- OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ORGANISATION**
- OUTSTANDING START-UP**
- EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**
- EXCELLENCE IN MICRO BUSINESS LESS THAN 5 EMPLOYEES**
- EXCELLENCE IN SMALL BUSINESS BETWEEN 5-20 EMPLOYEES**
- EXCELLENCE IN LARGE BUSINESS 21 OR MORE EMPLOYEES**

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

The Outstanding Employee Award recognises an inspirational employee who has demonstrated a passion for their role and a commitment to their workplace and community.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their commitment over the past 12 months to their workplace, the community and to be an outstanding employee. To be eligible to enter this category, the individual must have been employed by their current employer for a minimum of 18 months.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ I have been employed by my current employer for at least 18 months at the time of entry.
- ✓ I am not an employee, Regional President, State Councillor or Board Member of NSW Business Chamber Limited.

ADDITIONAL T&C'S

In addition to the general T&Cs the following apply to this category:

- Should the entrant leave the organisation before the Regional or State Gala event, they will not be eligible to receive an award.

QUESTIONS

Entrants full name:

Current job title:

Name of the organisation or business you work for:

Commencement of employment date:

1. Provide a brief profile, including your current role and scope of responsibilities. *Maximum word count: 200*
2. Outline your employment background, including measurable career achievements and key milestones. *Maximum word count: 300*
3. Provide an overview of your five-year goals and how you are working towards achieving them. *Maximum word count: 300*
4. Detail the specific activities and initiatives you have undertaken that have demonstrated a passion for your role and a commitment to your workplace and the community. *Maximum word count: 400*
5. Outline the reasons why you are an outstanding employee. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

OUTSTANDING YOUNG BUSINESS LEADER

The Outstanding Young Business Leader Award recognises an inspirational business leader aged 35 or under who has demonstrated a commitment to their workplace, industry and the community through leadership.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their commitment over the past 12 months to creating a smarter and more inclusive future and to being an outstanding business leader. To be eligible to enter this category, the individual must have held a management position within their organisation for a minimum of 18 months at the time of entry.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ I am aged 35 years or under at the time of entry.
- ✓ I am not an employee, Regional President, State Councillor or Board Member of NSW Business Chamber Limited.

QUESTIONS

Entrants full name:

Current job title:

Date of birth:

Name of your organisation or business:

1. Provide a brief profile, including your current role and scope of responsibilities. *Maximum word count: 200*
2. Detail the specific activities and initiatives you have undertaken to reshape your workplace, industry or community to create a smarter and more inclusive future, with examples of how you have used your leadership skills. *Maximum word count: 400*
3. Describe the key challenges you have faced as a young business leader and how you overcame them. *Maximum word count: 300*
4. Provide an overview of your five-year goals and strategies for future business growth, detailing how you are working towards achieving them. *Maximum word count: 300*
5. Outline the reasons why you are an outstanding young business leader. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS LEADER

The Outstanding Business Leader Award recognises an inspirational business leader aged 36 years or over who has demonstrated a commitment to their workplace, industry and the community through leadership, whilst providing mentorship to others.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their commitment over the past 12 months to creating a smarter and more inclusive future and to being an outstanding mentor and business leader. To be eligible to enter this category, the individual must have held senior management or executive level position within their organisation for a minimum of 18 months at the time of entry.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ I am aged 36 or over years at the time of entry.
- ✓ I am not an employee, Regional President, State Councillor or Board Member of NSW Business Chamber Limited.

QUESTIONS

Entrants full name:

Current job title:

Date of birth:

Name of your organisation or business:

1. Provide a brief profile, including your current role and scope of responsibilities. *Maximum word count: 200*
1. Detail the specific activities and initiatives you have undertaken to reshape your workplace, industry or community to create a smarter and more inclusive future, with examples of how you have used your leadership skills. *Maximum word count: 400*
1. Describe the key challenges you have faced as a business leader and how you overcame them. *Maximum word count: 300*
1. Provide an overview of your five-year goals and strategies for future business growth, detailing how you are working towards achieving them. *Maximum word count: 300*
1. Outline the reasons why you are an outstanding business leader, including the ways in which you provide mentorship to others. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

The Employer of Choice Award recognises a business that has implemented strategies and initiatives to create stimulating and supportive workplace environments for its employees.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their achievements over the past 12 months across the key areas of employee recruitment, engagement and retention. Category criteria are based on initiatives that have had a positive impact on both employees and the business.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ The business has been trading for a continuous period of two years or more and is not bankrupt or trading insolvent at the time of entry.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the initiatives you have undertaken to develop a positive workplace culture within your business? *Maximum word count: 300*
2. Describe how your business adopts inclusive practices and recognises the needs of a diverse workforce, including examples. *Maximum word count: 400*
3. Excluding business growth or expansion, what percentage of staff turnover has there been in your business in the previous 12 months and what are the reasons for this turnover? *Maximum word count: 300*
4. How does your business empower its workforce to develop their skills, contribute to a positive workplace culture and deepen their engagement with the business and the community? *Maximum word count: 300*
5. Detail measurable evidence outlining how these initiatives make you an employer of choice. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

The Excellence in Innovation Award recognises a business that has implemented innovative solutions for new and existing business needs through the introduction or improvement of an idea, product, method, technology, process or application.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their achievements over the past 12 months across the key area of innovation.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ The business has been trading for a continuous period of two or more years and is not bankrupt or trading insolvent at the time of entry.

QUESTIONS

1. Outline the innovation implemented in your business and how it has addressed a new or existing business need. *Maximum word count: 200*
2. Describe why the innovation is unique within your industry and how it differentiates your business from its competitors. *Maximum word count: 300*
3. Describe how the innovation was received by the market, your workforce and external stakeholders. *Maximum word count: 300*
4. Demonstrate how the innovation has or is likely to have a positive impact on your business, such as in your industry or community. *Maximum word count: 400*
5. Provide measurable evidence of how the innovation has improved business operations, driven growth and contributed to the success of your business. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

The Excellence in Sustainability Award recognises a business that has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable business practices and is working to reduce the impact of its operations on the environment.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their achievements over the past 12 months across the key area of environmental sustainability. Category criteria are based on initiatives and projects executed within the business not related to its core offering.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ The business has been trading for a continuous period of two years or more and is not bankrupt or trading insolvent at the time of entry.
- ✓ Sustainability cannot be your core business

QUESTIONS

1. Outline your business sustainability goals and objectives including measurable targets.
Maximum word count: 200
2. Outline the initiatives you have implemented to achieve sustainable practices within your business. *Maximum word count: 300*
3. Describe your sustainability achievements over the past 12 months including environmental outcomes. *Maximum word count: 300*
4. Describe how you involve your workforce and external stakeholders in your sustainability initiatives. *Maximum word count: 400*
5. Detail measurable evidence explaining how your business sustainability practices have improved business operations, driven growth and contributed to the success of your business.
Maximum word count: 400

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

The Outstanding Community Organisation Award recognises an organisation that works to improve the social, cultural or environmental wellbeing of the community.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their commitment over the past 12 months to being an outstanding community organisation. This category is open to social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations that have been trading for a period of over 24 months.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ The organisation has been trading for a continuous period of two or more years and is not bankrupt or trading insolvent at the time of entry.
- ✓ The organisation has not entered the categories of Outstanding Start-up, Excellence in Micro Business, Excellence in Small Business or Excellence in Business.

QUESTIONS

1. Explain the social purpose of your organisation and how it contributes to the social, cultural or environmental wellbeing of the community. *Maximum word count: 300*
2. Provide an overview of your organisation, including the product or service you deliver within the community. *Maximum word count: 200*
3. Provide an overview of the key features of your business development strategy and projected outcomes for the future. *Maximum word count: 300*
4. Demonstrate how your organisation contributes to the local economy in your region. *Maximum word count: 400*
5. Outline the key challenges your organisation has faced over the past 12 months and explain how you have managed the impact of these challenges. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

OUTSTANDING START-UP

The Outstanding Start-up Award recognises a start-up business that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the potential to achieve future success.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their commitment over the past 12 months to being an outstanding start-up. This category is open to new businesses trading for a period of less than 24 months.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ This business has been trading for a period of less than two years and is not bankrupt or trading insolvent at the time of entry.
- ✓ This business has not been purchased or acquired and is not part of a franchise.
- ✓ The business has not entered the categories of Outstanding Community Organisation, Excellence in Micro Business, Excellence in Small Business or Excellence in Business.

QUESTIONS

1. Provide an overview of your start-up business including the product or service delivered to the market, how you identified it as a market need and who your target customer is. *Maximum word count: 200*
2. Provide an overview of the key features of your business development strategy and projected outcomes for the future. *Maximum word count: 300*
3. Describe why your product or service offering is unique within your industry and differentiates your business from competitors. *Maximum word count: 300*
4. Detail the measurable growth and key milestones you have achieved since launching your business. *Maximum word count: 400*
5. Describe the key challenges your business has faced as a start-up and how you overcame them. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

This Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award recognises businesses that address the needs of a diverse community, including seniors, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and people with disability. An inclusive business facilitates the needs of all its employees and customers.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their commitment over the past 12 months to address the needs of a diverse community. This category is open to businesses that have been trading for a continuous period of two or more years.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ The organisation has been trading for a continuous period of two or more years and is not bankrupt or trading insolvent at the time of entry.

QUESTIONS

1. Outline your current staff level and diversity – including employees with disability, older people (over 55), women, young people (18-24 years), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from CALD backgrounds. *Maximum word count: 200*
2. Identify and describe your positive and/or proactive inclusive practices within the business that go beyond regulatory compliance. *Maximum word count: 350*
3. Describe your HR and employment hiring practices that demonstrate your commitment to being an inclusive employer. *Maximum word count: 350*
4. Identify and describe how your business has created an accessible and inclusive environment that is welcoming for customers with a disability, seniors and people from CALD backgrounds. *Maximum word count: 400*
5. Explain why your business embarked on being more accessible and inclusive and describe what further actions you will take in the future to become more accessible and inclusive to employees and customers. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN MICRO BUSINESS

The Excellence in Micro Business Award recognises a business that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their achievements over the past 12 months across the key area of business excellence. This category is open to businesses with less than 5 employees at the time of entry, who have been trading for a period of over 24 months.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ This business has been trading for a continuous period of two years or more and is not bankrupt or trading insolvent at the time of entry.
- ✓ This business has less than 5 employees on the payroll in Australia at the time of entry.
- ✓ This business has not entered the categories of Outstanding Community Organisation, Outstanding Start-up, Excellence in Small Business or Excellence in Business.

QUESTIONS

1. Detail what your business goals and key milestones were for the previous 12 months and how you achieved all or part of them. *Maximum word count: 300*
2. Provide an overview of the key features of your business plan including goals, strategies and projected outcomes for the future. *Maximum word count: 300*
3. Describe why your product or service offering is unique within your industry and how it differentiates your business from its competitors. *Maximum word count: 400*
4. Demonstrate how your business contributes to the local economy in your region. *Maximum word count: 400*
5. Outline the key challenges your business has faced over the past 12 months and explain how you have managed the impact of these challenges on your workforce and external stakeholders, as well as the impact they have had on your strategic direction. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN SMALL BUSINESS

The Excellence in Small Business Award recognises a business that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their achievements over the past 12 months across the key area of business excellence. This category is open to businesses with 5 to 20 employees at the time of entry, who have been trading for a period of over 24 months.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ This business has been trading for a continuous period of two years or more and is not bankrupt or trading insolvent at the time of entry.
- ✓ This business has 5 to 20 employees on the payroll in Australia at the time of entry.
- ✓ This business has not entered the categories of Outstanding Community Organisation, Outstanding Start-up, Excellence in Micro Business or Excellence in Business.

QUESTIONS

1. Detail what your business goals and key milestones were for the previous 12 months and how you achieved all or part of them. *Maximum word count: 300*
2. Provide an overview of the key features of your business plan including goals, strategies and projected outcomes for the future. *Maximum word count: 300*
3. Describe why your product or service offering is unique within your industry and differentiates your business from competitors. *Maximum word count: 400*
4. Demonstrate how your business contributes to the local economy in your region. *Maximum word count: 400*
5. Outline the key challenges your business has faced over the past 12 months and explain how you have managed the impact of these challenges on your workforce and external stakeholders, as well as the impact they have had on your strategic direction. *Maximum word count: 400*

APPLICATION FOR NSW CHAMBER ALIGNED AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN LARGE BUSINESS

The Excellence in Large Business Award recognises a business that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to demonstrate their achievements over the past 12 months across the key area of business excellence. This category is open to businesses with 21 or more employees at the time of entry, who have been trading for a period of over 24 months.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECK BOX

- ✓ This business has been trading for a continuous period of two years or more and is not bankrupt or trading insolvent at the time of entry.
- ✓ This business has 21 or more employees on the payroll in Australia at the time of entry.
- ✓ This business has not entered the categories of Outstanding Community Organisation, Outstanding Start-up, Excellence in Micro Business or Excellence in Small Business.

QUESTIONS

1. Detail what your business goals and key milestones were for the previous 12 months and how you achieved all or part of them. *Maximum word count: 300*
2. Provide an overview of the key features of your business plan including goals, strategies and projected outcomes for the future. *Maximum word count: 300*
3. Describe why your product or service offering is unique within your industry and differentiates your business from competitors. *Maximum word count: 400*
4. Demonstrate how your business contributes to the local economy in your region. *Maximum word count: 400*
5. Outline the key challenges your business has faced over the past 12 months and explain how you have managed the impact of these challenges on your workforce and external stakeholders, as well as the impact they have had on your strategic direction. *Maximum word count: 400*

If you are uncertain as to which category your business is best suited, please consult this guide. If you are still uncertain then please contact Macleay Valley Business Chamber President Gary Scott on 0447 554 587.

AWARDS CATEGORIES – LOCAL BUSINESS RECOGNITION	
TOURISM, ACCOMMODATION & HOSPITALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotels, Motels, Farm Stays, BnB, Caravan Parks Pubs, Clubs, Conference Centres Restaurants, Cafes, Catering Services, Food Vans & Vendors Museums, Galleries, Tourist Attractions, Themed Entertainments
TRADES & INDUSTRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction Trades and Services, Trade Suppliers, Nurseries, Garden & Landscape Suppliers Automotive Sales, Auto Repairers & Servicing, Parts & Accessories, Hire & Leasing Engineering Services, manufacturers, Food & Beverage Processing Mining Services Cleaning Services, Air conditioning services
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 20 Employees • More than 20 Employees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial: Banks, Credit Unions, Lending & Financial Services Lawyers, Solicitors, Conveyancers, Insurance Agencies IT Services, Communications Services, Graphic Designers, Marketing Services, Interior Designers, Photography Studios, Media Services Property: Real Estate Agents, Managing Agencies, Property Valuers Education: Pre-schools, Schools & Colleges, Training Institutions, RTOs, Driving Instructors, Flight Schools Community & Social: Employment Services, Family Support Services, Disability Support Services, Respite Care, Aged Care, Business Advisory, Home Care Architects, Surveyors, Travel Agents, Car Hire
HEALTH, BEAUTY & WELL BEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Practices, Dentistry, Pharmacies Personal Training, Gym & fitness Studios, Instructors – Yoga, Pilates, Dance Hairdressers, Salons, Spas, Barbers Naturopaths, Nutritionists Veterinarians, Pet Grooming & Services
RETAIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail shops: clothing, jewellery, household, food, sport & recreation, computer & telephone supplies, Takeaways Online sales, market sellers, artists & craft sellers Franchises, Large Retail Chains, Bulky or Electrical Goods
EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural producers: dairy, beef, poultry, seafood, beverages Food processing, value add production