

Conditions of Entry

1. Who Can Enter

- 1.1 Only Eligible Businesses may enter the GBEA.
- 1.2 Any Entry submitted by a business that is not an Eligible Business will be disqualified.
- 1.3 The business must reside in Geelong & the Bellarine, Surf Coast, Queenscliff, Golden Plains area and be within 40 kilometres from the Geelong city centre: Warriki Nyal, 137 – 149 Mercer St, Geelong.

Please note: A business also refers to a franchise or organisation. It can apply to either a private and/or commercial business, and to a fully funded government organisation, including training/educational organisations and not for profit organisations. Departments are excluded from entering the awards, however, subsidiaries are eligible to enter.
- 1.4 Have a registered Australian Business Number (ABN).
- 1.5 Have been operating for at least 12 months prior to 31st May 2024.
- 1.6 If entering for the Emerging Business Category, have been operating between 12 to 36 months.
- 1.7 Entrants in the Emerging Business category will not be eligible to enter the Business of the Year category.
- 1.8 Previous individual category Award winners will not be eligible to enter an individual award category for three years following their win i.e. Business Leader of the Year in 2023 cannot enter in 2024, 2025 or 2026.
- 1.9 Individual category: Young Entrepreneur entrants must be within the age range of 16 years to 40 years as of the time of entries closing date.
- 1.10 Sponsors and Partners of the awards are allowed to enter, however must not enter the category that they sponsor or represent.
- 1.11 The business that a Judge represents or owns is not allowed to enter the awards.
- 1.12 Geelong Chamber of Commerce Board Members and their associated business are allowed to enter (as long as they are not a judge).
- 1.13 In the event that retiring judges wish (either individually or their business which they own all or part of and/or are employed at) to enter or re-enter the awards, they must sit out for a minimum of 1 year from their retirement from the judging panel.
- 1.14 Previous Business of the Year Award winners will not be eligible to enter a business category for the three years following their win i.e. Business of the Year winner in 2023 cannot enter in 2024, 2025 or 2026.

2. How to Enter

- 2.1 To enter the GBEA the Entrant must respond to all entry criteria via the online entry form which can be accessed via the GBEA website.
- 2.2 By submitting an entry, the Entrant acknowledges and agrees to be bound by these Conditions of Entry.
- 2.3 The Entrant may, in submitting their entry, elect to be considered for one or more of the Award Categories. The Judging Panel may consider the Entrant for other categories at their discretion.
- 2.4 Subject to clause, 2.5, an Entry must be submitted by the Entry Closing Date.
- 2.5 The Judging Panel may, at any time, in its sole discretion, change the Entry Closing Date.
- 2.6 The Entrant must comply with the word count (as listed on the GBEA website) of a maximum of 2500 words.
Once an entry is submitted, the entry is final. If the entry exceeds the word count then the business will be disqualified and unable to go any further in the Awards process.

3. Judging Panel

- 3.1 All *Entries* will be judged by the *Judging Panel*.
- 3.2 Each decision of the *Judging Panel* will be final and no further correspondence will be entered into.
- 3.3 The *Judging Panel* may, in its sole discretion, declare an entry ineligible to proceed further in the Judging Process; or an Entrant ineligible to be an Award Winner, if, at any time during the Judging Process, the Judging Panel forms the view that:
 - 3.3.1 The entry is incomplete, deficient, false or misleading in any way;
 - 3.3.2 The entry exceeds any word limit specified on the GBEA Website;
 - 3.3.3 The Entrant uses the name, logo or image of the GBEA or the Geelong Chamber of Commerce without the written approval;
 - 3.3.4 The Entrant is engaged in, has been engaged in, or may have been engaged in activities that are illegal, undesirable or might adversely impact on the reputation of the Geelong Chamber of Commerce, the GBEA or a Sponsor;
 - 3.3.5 An officer, agent, employee or associate of the Entrant is engaged in, has been engaged in, or may have been engaged in activities that are illegal, undesirable or might adversely impact on the reputation of the Geelong Chamber of Commerce, the GBEA or a Sponsor.

4. Chair of the Judging Panel

- 4.1 The Chair of the *Judging Panel* shall oversee the *Judging Process* and, where necessary, clarify criteria relating to the *Judging Process*.
- 4.2 The Chair of the *Judging Panel* is also a judge and is permitted to visit, score and ask questions like any other judge on the panel.
- 4.3 The Chair of the *Judging Panel* shall be entitled to vote during the Judging Process, but shall only have the casting vote in the Business of the Year category.

5. Judging Process

- 5.1 The *Judging Process* shall be conducted in accordance with the *Judging Rules*.
- 5.2 In addition to any judging criteria provided for in the *Judging Rules*, in determining the *Award Winners*, the *Judging Panel* shall take into account the following:
- 5.2.1 The Written Entries
 - 5.2.2 The Site Visits;
 - 5.2.3 Any external factors relating to each *Entrant* or any of their officers, employees, agents or associates, whether or not such external factors are brought to the attention of the *Judging Panel* through the application process.
- 5.3 Nothing in this clause shall prevent the Judging Panel from exercising its rights under clause 3.0 of these Conditions of Entry.

6. Announcing the Finalists and Award Winners

- 6.1 Finalists will learn which category they are a finalist in upon announcement at the GBEA presentation event.
Category winners will also be announced at this time. The present event which shall be held within one month of the completion of the Judging Process.

7. Personal Information

7.1 By entering the *GBEA*, the *Entrant* warrants that:

7.1.1 They have the authority to disclose *Personal Information* about their employees, agents, officers and referees;

7.1.2 They have obtained the consent of their employees, agents, officers and referees for the *Judging Panel* to:

7.1.2.1 Collect and use *Personal Information* about each of them during the course the *Judging Process*; and

7.1.2.2 Disclose, for any purpose whatsoever, that *Personal Information* to the *Chamber*, and third parties engaged to provide services in connection with the *GBEA*.

7.1.3 It has notified its employees, agents, officers and referees that:

7.1.3.1 They can withdraw the consent given in clause 7.1.2 by contacting the *Chamber* on email gbea@geelongchamber.com.au

8. Business Information

8.1 By entering the *GBEA*, the *Entrant*:

8.1.1 Consents to the *Chamber* contacting them to provide comments about the *GBEA* and to obtain *Business Information*; and

8.1.2 Grants to the *Chamber* a free of charge, worldwide, royalty free, perpetual, exclusive and irrevocable licence to use the *Entrant's Business Information* for future promotional and marketing purposes.

9. GBEA & Geelong Chamber of Commerce Logos

9.1 The *Entrant* is not entitled to use the name, logo, or any images of the *GBEA* or Geelong Chamber of Commerce without the express written approval.

10. Promotion and Sponsorship

10.1 The *Entrant* undertakes that, should they be declared a *Category Award Winner*, they will:

10.1.1 Make *Key Representatives* of their business available for promotional appearances following the *GBEA Presentation Dinner*; and

- 10.1.2 If requested, verbally endorse the GBEA, particular GBEA Sponsors and the Geelong Chamber of Commerce.

11. Hall of Fame

- 11.1 The Judging Panel may, in its sole discretion, declare that an Eligible Business be entered into the GBEA Hall of Fame.
- 11.2 To be determined an Eligible Business, a business must be declared an Award Winner in any Award category 3 times within a 7 year period. The eligibility period commenced in 2015. Meeting eligibility does not guarantee entry to Hall of Fame.

12. Indemnity

- 12.1 The *Entrant* shall at all times indemnify, keep indemnified, defend and hold harmless all *Indemnified Persons* from and against any loss (including reasonable legal costs and expenses) or liability incurred by the *Indemnified Persons* arising from any *Claim* against any of the *Indemnified Persons* where such loss or liability arose out of, in connection with:
- 12.1.1 Any breach of these *Conditions of Entry* by the *Entrant*;
- 12.1.2 The use by the *Indemnified Persons* of any *Personal Information, Business Information* or other information supplied by the *Entrant* for the purposes of the *GBEA*.

13. Definitions

- 13.1 Award Categories means the various GBEA award categories.
- 13.2 Award Winner means any Entrant that is declared a winner of an Award Category;
- 13.3 Business Information means Intellectual Property of the Entrant and information, whether in hardcopy, electronic or any other form, related to the business operations of the Entrant;
- 13.4 Chamber means the Geelong Chamber of Commerce;
- 13.5 Claim means any claim, demand, suit, action or proceeding;
- 13.6 Award Categories means the following Award Categories:
- 13.6.1 Any category specified on the GBEA Website
- 13.7 Eligible Business means any business that has an ABN, has been operating in the Geelong Region for at least 12 months and is solvent at the time of the submission of their Entry.
- 13.8 Entrant means an Eligible Business that enters the GBEA.
- 13.9 Entry means a written entry submitted in accordance with these Conditions of Entry.
- 13.10 Entry Closing Date means the date specified on the GBEA Website by which Entries can be submitted, or any such other date specified by the Judging Panel in accordance with clause 0.
- 13.11 GBEA Presentation Dinner means the event held to announce the Award Winners.
- 13.12 GBEA means the Geelong Business Excellence Awards.
- 13.13 GBEA Website means The Geelong Business Excellence Awards website www.gbea.com.au
- 13.14 Geelong Region means the Greater Geelong region, including Geelong, Surfcoast, Bellarine Peninsula, Queenscliff, Bannockburn and Lara.
- 13.15 Indemnified Persons means GBEA, the Chamber, Sponsors and each of their officers, employees, agents and associates.
- 13.16 Intellectual Property means all rights resulting from intellectual activity, including copyright, inventions, patent rights, trademarks, design rights, circuit layouts and all rights and interests of a like nature.
- 13.17 Judging Panel means the panel of business and community leaders from the Geelong Region appointed to undertake the Judging Process.
- 13.18 Judging Process means the process described in clause 5.
- 13.19 Judging Rules means the rules regulating the Judging Process, as amended from time to time.
- 13.20 Key Representatives means the employees or officers of the Entrant that are nominated by the Entrant to represent their business.
- 13.21 Personal Information has the meaning prescribed to it in the Privacy Act 1988 (Vic).
- 13.22 Site Visit means a visit to an Entrant's principal place of business by members of the Judging Panel.
- 13.23 Sponsor means a GBEA Sponsor.