



TARANAKI CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE BUSINESS
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2026 ENTRANTS INFORMATION

Why should you enter?



*Whitaker Civil Engineering
2025 Supreme Winner*

WHO CAN ENTER THE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS?

All Taranaki businesses are welcome to enter the TSB Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards provided they have been in business for 12 months or more.

You do not have to be a member of the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce to enter.

WHAT CATEGORY DO I ENTER?

To be eligible for the Supreme Award, entrants must enter both Categories A and B. Entrants may also choose to enter Category C.

Entrants may only enter one Award in Category A and B and can choose to enter up to two Awards in Category C.

Entrants can choose to enter Category C only but will not be eligible for the Supreme Award.

Based on the judging criteria in Categories A and B, it is recommended that entrants in these categories will have been in business for a minimum of three years.

Please note: For Purpose organisations and New and Emerging Businesses cannot enter Category A.

HOW DO I ENTER THE AWARDS?

1. Go to www.taranakibusinessawards.co.nz
2. Please read Important Information, Eligibility, Terms and Conditions of Entry and FAQ's.
3. Complete the online entry form and submit. (Helpful Hint: Doing this earlier rather than waiting until near the closing date will give you more time to complete the next part of the process as detailed below).
4. Within 48 hours you will receive an email from the Judging Facilitator with confirmation of your entry and a Business Information form requiring detailed information from you. This information will be supplied to your Judges prior to your interview and helps to provide an overview of your business.
5. Please ensure you return the completed Business Information form to the Judging Facilitator by 5.00pm Monday 31 August.

WHEN DO ENTRIES CLOSE?

Entries open at 9.00am on Monday 20 July and close at 5.00pm on Friday 28 August 2026.

IS THERE A COST TO ENTER THE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS?

There is no cost to enter the Awards. However entrants **must purchase** at least two tickets to the Awards Gala Evening and payment is required by Monday 31 August to confirm your entry. Tickets are non-refundable. The Awards Evening is on Saturday 14 November 2026 at the Plymouth International. Tickets are \$180+GST each or a table of 10 is \$1700.00+GST.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

You will be contacted by your judges who will arrange an interview/s. Entrants must be prepared to be available for judging interviews between Monday 7 September and Friday 9 October.

Please note: There is a different panel of judges for each category. If you enter the maximum number of four categories, then you will have four separate interviews.

WHAT WILL THE JUDGES REQUIRE FROM YOU?

Please have the following information available for the judges to view during the interview:

1. Your Business Plan
2. Your Strategic Plan
3. Financial reports or a supporting business viability/profitability statement from your external professional accountant is required for Categories A and B. This is also required for the New and Emerging Business and For Purpose Excellence Awards in Category C.
4. Any other information relevant to your entry.

WHAT HAPPENS FOLLOWING THE JUDGING PROCESS?

The results will be announced at the Awards Gala Evening.

All entrants will receive written feedback from the judges following the Awards Presentations. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Following the completion of the Awards all entry and judging information will be destroyed to ensure confidentiality.

If you require further information please contact:

Michelle Brennan – judgingfacilitator@taranakichamber.co.nz

CATEGORIES

SUPREME BUSINESS AWARD

Judged from Category A and B winners.

This award is for the business displaying overall Business Excellence.

Award Prize: \$1000 Air New Zealand Travel Voucher. Cash prize of \$1000

CATEGORY A

(enter only ONE Award in this section)

LARGE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognises all-round business excellence in businesses with over 26 full-time equivalent staff OR a turnover of over \$5million.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$1000

MEDIUM BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognises all-round business excellence in businesses that have a staffing level of between 6-25 full-time equivalent, OR turnover up to \$5million.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$1000

SMALL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognises all-round business excellence in businesses with up to 5 full-time staff OR a turnover of under \$1million.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$1000

CATEGORY B

(enter only ONE Award in this section)

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING OR TRADES EXCELLENCE AWARD

Open to any business whose core business is in the manufacturing, engineering or trades sector.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$1000

SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Open to any business whose principal activity is the provision of services or consulting to other businesses or the consumer.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$1000

TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Open to those businesses whose principal activity is in digital or other technologies or whose investment in technology has significantly contributed to the organisation's success.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$1000

CATEGORY C

(Enter up to 'TWO ONLY' awards in Category C)

BRAND AND MARKETING EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award is open to businesses that display excellence and innovation in branding, marketing and design.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$500

BUSINESS CONTINUITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognises businesses that are committed to minimising potential impact from disasters, through continuity planning and practice.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$500

EMPLOYER OF CHOICE EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award is open to businesses who are investing in their people and who recognise that the success of an organisation is built on its people.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$500

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognises businesses that are demonstrating an ongoing commitment to zero waste and a sustainable New Zealand.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$500

FOR PURPOSE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Open to organisations that demonstrate helping our society in a tangible way. For purpose entrants can be Associations, Foundations, Charities or Trusts.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$1000

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award is presented to businesses that are demonstrating ongoing commitment to Health and Safety, integrated throughout business operations.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$500

CATEGORY C (continued)

HOSPITALITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award is open to businesses whose principal activity is the provision of food and beverage.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$500

INNOVATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Open to businesses that demonstrate creative, entrepreneurial or innovative practices, products and services that are making a significant contribution to the organisation's success and productivity.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$500

NEW AND EMERGING BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award is open to new business start-ups that have been operating for more than 12 months from 1 July 2026 but less than three years. Entrants for this award are not eligible to enter Category A Awards. Previous winners are not eligible to re-enter this award.

Award Prize: Cash prize of \$1000

VISITOR EXPERIENCE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Open to those businesses whose principal activity is the provision of services to domestic and international visitors. This includes events, attractions, tourism operators and accommodation providers.

Award Prize: \$500 Air New Zealand Travel Voucher

ELIGIBILITY

- Any sole proprietor, partnership, incorporated society, or limited liability company, with its principal place of business operation based and trading in the Taranaki rateable region, is eligible to enter.
- Excluded are those businesses or organisations owned by employees of Taranaki Chamber of Commerce. Owners or employees of any sponsor of the Awards may enter the Awards but not the category that the business sponsors.
- Entrants must have been trading for 12 months or more as at 1 July 2026.
- Government funded enterprises will not be eligible to receive the TSB Supreme Award.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- All guidelines and deadlines for all areas of the entry process must be adhered to.
- All entrants agree to being interviewed by judging teams at their premises or a venue and time advised by their judges.
- If entering Category A or B, New and Emerging Business or For Purpose in Category C, entrants will be required to provide a Business Plan, Strategic Plan, Financial Reports or Business Viability/ Profitability Statement from their external professional accountant.
- All other entrants in Category C will be required to provide supporting documentation for their particular Award.
- Entrants and judges will be required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement at the time of interview. All documentation and information is treated in strictest confidence.
- Repeat judging visits may be required in some cases.
- All finalists for the Supreme Award will be considered from Categories A and B only.
- The judges will provide written feedback.
- All entrants agree to co-operate with the respective category sponsor and/or promotional partners for publicity purposes. All entrants are to ensure only the official branding of the TSB Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards is used for any publicity purposes.
- All entrants must provide true and accurate information and disclose any liabilities such as business and/or tax related and/or current pending litigation which would compromise the judges' analysis of the business, and/or adversely affect the integrity and reputation of the TSB Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.
- All entrants **must purchase** a minimum of two tickets to attend the Gala Awards Evening and payment must be made by Monday 31 August.
- No finalists or winners will be announced prior to this.
- Judges have the right to disqualify any entrant not complying with the conditions of entry.
- Judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

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