

## **Darling Downs Food and Fibre Awards**

### ***Eligibility and Requirements***

*The Darling Downs Food and Fibre Awards celebrate the region's agribusiness excellence, recognising businesses that demonstrate leadership in biosecurity, innovation, and export growth while contributing to a sustainable and prosperous industry. These awards aim to highlight businesses that showcase resilience, responsible production, and global competitiveness.*

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. **Regional Presence** – The business must operate within the Darling Downs region and **demonstrate that at least 50% of its business operations reside or take place within** the Western Downs Regional Council area.
2. **Industry Focus** – The applicant must be **actively engaged in the Food and Fibre sector**, contributing to the regional economy **through production, processing, or value-adding**.
3. **Commitment to Sustainability** – Businesses must demonstrate a **long-term commitment to the sustainability and resilience** of the industry, incorporating responsible environmental and production practices.

#### **Selection Requirements:**

Eligible businesses must showcase viability across the following key areas:

- **Current Market Presence** – Demonstrate active participation in local, national, or international markets, highlighting customer engagement and brand recognition.
- **Financial Capability** – Provide evidence of financial stability and growth, supporting the business's long-term viability.
- **Production Capacity & Sustainability** – Showcase the ability to meet market demand while integrating sustainable farming, processing, or operational practices that reduce environmental impact.
- **Good Corporate Governance** – Uphold strong governance, compliance, and ethical business practices that align with industry standards.
- **Commitment to the Future** – Highlight how the business is contributing to the ongoing success, resilience, and sustainability of the Darling Downs Food and Fibre industry through innovation, biosecurity measures, or export growth.

The Darling Downs Food and Fibre Awards aim to inspire industry leadership, encourage best practices, and reinforce the region's reputation as a powerhouse of sustainable agribusiness and global trade.