

APPLICANT INFORMATION



HOBSONSBAY CITY
COUNCIL





Hobsons Bay City Council invites businesses to nominate for the 2025 Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards.

The Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards celebrate the efforts and achievements of our local business sector, recognising their invaluable contributions to the community and the economy within Hobsons Bay.

KEY DATES

Entries open	Monday 2 June 2025
Entries close	Sunday 13 July 2025
Finalists announced	Friday 15 August 2025
Judging	September 2025
Business Excellence Awards Gala	Thursday 23 October 2025, 6pm to 11pm

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to enter the 2025 Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards businesses must be registered within Hobsons Bay with a valid ABN and hold all appropriate permits and licences relevant to their industry. Not for profit businesses and social enterprises are welcome to apply to any of the award categories.

HOW TO ENTER

Businesses can enter the awards by following the links provided on the official Business Excellence Awards website.

There are two nomination options:

1. Business entries are submitted via [SmartyGrants](#)
2. Public nominations for the Excellence in Customer Experience award are submitted through a separate [online form](#).

Before starting your application, we recommend reviewing the Category Descriptions and Application Tips document to help you choose the most appropriate category (or categories) for your business.

Entries can be submitted by the business owner or a staff member. In the case of public nominations for the Excellence in Customer Experience award, Hobsons Bay City Council will contact the nominated business directly to advise them of the nomination and assist with the application process.



HOW TO ENTER (CONT.)

To submit your application

1. Complete all required sections in the [SmartyGrants form](#).
2. Review your responses carefully.
3. Click the 'Submit' button on the final page to ensure your application is successfully lodged.

Please note: You will receive a confirmation email once your application has been submitted

AWARD CATEGORIES

For more information on the award categories please read the [Category Descriptions and Application Tips](#).

- **Creating a social change or diversity award**
- **Excellence in customer experience**
- **Excellence in sustainability practices**
- **Excellence in innovation**
- **New/start-up business (up to 2 years old)**
- **Home based business**

JUDGING

Entries are assessed by external judges who are experts in the category field.
Judging to determine winners will include an in-person business visit and interview.

PRIZES

The winners from each category will receive:

- A Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Award winner trophy
- A voucher of \$1000 for a professional service of choice provided by a Hobsons Bay Business
- A business visit and photo opportunity with the Mayor and/or councillor with images and story to be featured in the Star Weekly* - *pending availability
- Promotion as an award winner through Hobsons Bay City Council social media, and Hobsons Bay Business newsletter and social media

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Winners will be announced at the Business Excellence Awards Gala on Thursday 23 October, at the Williamstown Town Hall. The evening will be celebrated in person at the Business Excellence Awards Gala situated at the Williamstown Town Hall.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Applications will only be accepted through the online application process.
- Only completed applications will be considered.
- All information provided in the application form must be a true and accurate reflection of your business activities.
- If you are selected as an awards finalist or winner you automatically authorise the organiser (Hobsons Bay City Council) to promote your business.
- Applicants can apply for a maximum of two award categories.
- All relevant information must be disclosed including legal proceedings or prosecutions involving the business or its directors and/or staff irrespective of whether a conviction has been recorded including but are not limited to criminal matters and local laws prosecution, breach of OH&S legislation and health act prosecutions, building and planning matters, animal welfare, WorkCover and EPA prosecutions or legal action involving the business and Council.
- Applications will not be accepted from sponsors of the Hobsons Bay Business Awards, members of the Hobsons Bay Business Awards judging panel, councillors or employees of Hobsons Bay City Council.
- Business entering the 2025 Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards must not be facing bankruptcy or cause an event which would create embarrassment to the Company nor reflect adversely on the Awards.

PRIVACY

The information collected will be used by Council's Economic Development department for administrative, judging, promotional and contact purposes. Council is committed to ensuring the information provided is managed and remains confidential in accordance with *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions in relation to the 2025 Business Excellence Awards or your entry please do not hesitate to call Council's Economic Development unit on **1300 179 944** or email **business@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**