WRIQ

2026 INDUSTRY AWARDS

Entries close
Friday 7 August 2026

WRIQ is pleased to announce that entries for the **2026 Industry Awards** are now open

The WRIQ Industry Awards bring the industry together to recognise and celebrate those individuals and teams who have displayed a level of excellence throughout the year. Entries will be judged across eleven categories.

The WRIQ Industry Awards will be presented at a Gala Dinner on Friday 4th September 2026 in Brisbane. We are looking forward to another exciting year of Award entries that showcase excellence across Queensland's waste and resource recovery industry.

Entries for the awards close Friday 7 August 2026









Submission Instructions

Before you begin completing the online form, we recommend that you collate your submission material so that you can simply copy and paste/upload the respective content into the form. Please refer to the list provided with each category details for the information required.

To start your awards entry visit:

https://www.wriq.au/industry-awards

and click the entry form button under your awards category

Conditions of Entry

- Companies may nominate a maximum of one individual/team per sub-category
- Entrants must be WRIQ members (or in the case of a team category the industry partner must be a WRIQ member)
- One or more signed references from authoritative sources, such as the nominee's manager or company chief executive/general manager must accompany the nomination
- Entries must be accompanied by a high quality, electronic photograph that can be used for publicity purposes
- Nominations must be received by WRIQ no later than the closing date. However, late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Judges
- It is at the judge's discretion whether to award a winner for each category.
- All personnel, projects and initiatives nominated for an award must be based in Queensland.









Driver of the Year

This award recognises the outstanding performance of a professional truck driver, including driving skill, attitude and contribution to industry improvement

Eligibility

This award is open to any individual who works in the waste and resource recovery industry in Queensland as a truck driver. Nominees should have demonstrated a continued high level of performance, initiative and all-round attention to detail in the execution of their duties.

Selection Criteria

- A commendable driving record with a demonstrated focus on safety
- A high degree of pride in their personal presentation and their vehicle's presentation.
- A committed attitude towards their job, their customers and the industry as a whole
- A strong interest in furthering the professional image of the industry, as demonstrated by their actions and interests
- A dedication to the job through professional standards, client and supplier relationships, coaching, mentoring and training and demonstration of a safe workplace culture

Entry Form Fields

- Entry Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Nominee Details (name, position, organisation, phone, email, location)
- Please upload a high resolution photograph of the nominee (We recommend photos are minimum 500kb in size)
- Executive Summary outlining the main reason for the nomination (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Provide a brief biography/career history of the nominee (200 words)
- Describe activities and ideas of the nominee which illustrate initiative and innovation demonstrating improved practices (300 words)
- Describe activities which demonstrate commitment of the nominee to customer service and ensuring that work is completed to the highest possible standards (300 words)
- Describe the nominee's demonstrated attention to occupational health and safety and other regulatory responsibilities. (300 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload one or more letters of reference (e.g. from supervisor, customer etc). References should include evidence to verify an incident/injury free record and no driving violations) (max 2MB per file)

Trainee or Apprentice of the Year

This award is presented to an individual who is undertaking a traineeship or apprenticeship and has been outstanding in all aspects of their training

Eligibility

The individual must be enrolled in a training course that leads to a nationally recognised outcome or qualification and must be enrolled or have completed their training in the period 1 July – 30 June 2026.

Selection Criteria

- An energetic attitude towards their job and the industry as a whole
- A strong interest in enhancing the image of the industry, as demonstrated by their actions and interests
- Be considered to have significant potential for further development in their chosen career path or similar work environment
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to workplace culture and safety

Entry Form Fields

- Entry Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Nominee Details (name, position, organisation, phone, email, location)
- Please upload a high resolution photograph of the nominee (We recommend photos are minimum 500kb in size)
- Apprenticeship type/skill/vocation
- Commencement date
- Date of completion
- Academic achievement or competency level
- Executive Summary outlining the main reason for the nomination (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Provide a brief biography/academic history of the nominee (200 words)
- Describe activities and ideas of the nominee which illustrate initiative and innovation demonstrating improved practices (300 words)
- Describe the level of training competency achieving using a project as an example (300 words)
- Describe the nominee's demonstrated contribution to the workplace team, commitment to customer service and quality and attention to occupational health and safety and other regulatory responsibilities. (300 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload one or more letters of reference (e.g. from supervisor, customer etc) along with an academic transcript. References should include evidence to verify an incident/injury free record)

Plant/Equipment Operator of the Year

This award recognises excellent performance, initiative and all-round attention to detail of a plant/equipment operator

Eligibility

This award is open to any individual who works in the waste and resource recovery industry in Queensland as a plant or equipment operator (excluding trucks). Nominees should have demonstrated a continued high level of performance, initiative and all-round attention to detail in the execution of their duties.

Selection Criteria

- An exemplary operating record with a demonstrated focus on safety
- A professional attitude towards their job and the industry as a whole
- A strong interest in furthering the professional image of the industry, as demonstrated by their actions and interests
- A dedication to the job through professional standards, client and supplier relationships, coaching, mentoring and training and demonstration of a safe workplace culture

Entry Form Fields

- Entry Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Nominee Details (name, position, organisation, phone, email, location)
- Please upload a high resolution photograph of the nominee (We recommend photos are minimum 500kb in size)
- Executive Summary outlining the main reason for the nomination (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Provide a brief biography/career history of the nominee (200 words)
- Describe activities and ideas of the nominee which illustrate initiative and innovation demonstrating improved practices (300 words)
- Describe activities which demonstrate commitment of the nominee to ensuring that work is completed to the highest possible standards (300 words)
- Describe the nominee's demonstrated attention to occupational health and safety and other regulatory responsibilities. (300 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload one or more letters of reference (e.g. from supervisor, customer etc). References should include evidence to verify an incident/injury free record and no driving violations) (max 2MB per file)

Maintenance Employee of the Year

This award celebrates the knowledge and expertise of the individuals who work behind the scenes in the industry's plant, equipment and vehicle workshops

Eligibility

This award is open to any individual who works in the waste and resource recovery industry in Queensland as a workshop manager/supervisor, mechanic or provide support within the maintenance field for plant, equipment and vehicles. Nominees should have demonstrated a continued high level of performance, initiative and all-round attention to detail in the execution of their duties.

Selection Criteria

- Please provide details demonstrating the nominee's high level of skill and aptitude demonstrated by - impeccable maintenance application, maintenance records and technical ability, relevant qualifications, innovative projects, safety and environmental initiatives that have produced tangible benefits for the employer company
- A dedication to the job through professional standards, client and supplier relationships, coaching, mentoring and training and demonstration of a safe workplace culture

Entry Form Fields

- Entry Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Nominee Details (name, position, organisation, phone, email, location)
- Please upload a high resolution photograph of the nominee (We recommend photos are minimum 500kb in size)
- Executive Summary outlining the main reason for the nomination (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Provide a brief biography/career history of the nominee (200 words)
- Describe activities and ideas of the nominee which illustrate initiative and innovation demonstrating improved practices (300 words)
- Describe activities which demonstrate commitment of the nominee to ensuring that work is completed to the highest possible standards (300 words)
- Describe the nominee's demonstrated attention to occupational health and safety and other regulatory responsibilities. (300 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload one or more letters of reference (e.g. from supervisor, customer etc). References should include evidence to verify an incident/injury free record) (max 2MB per file)

Recycling Employee of the Year

This award recognises excellent performance, initiative and all-round attention to detail of an employee within a recycling facility.

Eligibility

This award is open to any individual who works in a recycling/resource recovery facility in Queensland). Nominees should have demonstrated a continued high level of performance, initiative and all-round attention to detail in the execution of their duties.

Selection Criteria

- An exemplary operating record with a demonstrated focus on safety
- A professional attitude towards their job and the industry as a whole
- A strong interest in furthering the professional image of the industry, as demonstrated by their actions and interests
- A dedication to the job through professional standards, client and supplier relationships, coaching, mentoring and training and demonstration of a safe workplace culture

Entry Form Fields

- Entry Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Nominee Details (name, position, organisation, phone, email, location)
- Please upload a high resolution photograph of the nominee (We recommend photos are minimum 500kb in size)
- Executive Summary outlining the main reason for the nomination (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Provide a brief biography/career history of the nominee (200 words)
- Describe activities and ideas of the nominee which illustrate initiative and innovation demonstrating improved practices (300 words)
- Describe activities which demonstrate commitment of the nominee to ensuring that work is completed to the highest possible standards (300 words)
- Describe the nominee's demonstrated attention to occupational health and safety and other regulatory responsibilities. (300 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload one or more letters of reference (e.g. from supervisor, customer etc). References should include evidence to verify an incident/injury free record) (max 2MB per file)

Industry Professional of the Year

This award recognises those who support the waste and resource recovery industry. Nominees may work in HR, accounts, safety, environment, quality, sales, weighbridge operations or administration.

Eligibility

This award is open to any individual who works in the waste and resource recovery industry in Queensland in an administration role. Nominees should have demonstrated a continued high level of performance, initiative and all-round attention to detail in the execution of their duties.

Selection Criteria

- An enthusiastic attitude towards their job, their customers and the industry as a whole
- A strong interest in furthering the image of the industry, as demonstrated by their actions and interests
- Demonstrated clear business improvement within their role
- A dedication to the job through professional standards, client and supplier relationships, coaching, mentoring and training and demonstration of a safe workplace culture
- Demonstrated improvement to safety culture, quality and business systems

Entry Form Fields

- Entry Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Nominee Details (name, position, organisation, phone, email, location)
- Please upload a high resolution photograph of the nominee (We recommend photos are minimum 500kb in size)
- Executive Summary outlining the main reason for the nomination (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Provide a brief biography/career history of the nominee (200 words)
- Describe activities and ideas of the nominee which illustrate initiative and innovation demonstrating improved practices (300 words)
- Describe activities which demonstrate commitment of the nominee to customer service and ensuring that work is completed to the highest possible standards (300 words)
- Describe the nominee's demonstrated attention to occupational health and safety and other regulatory responsibilities. (300 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload one or more letters of reference (e.g. from supervisor, customer etc). (max 2MB per file)

Lithium Battery Fire Hero of the Year

This award recognises an individual who has demonstrated safe and effective intervention in controlling and/or preventing a lithium battery fire to safeguard a facility, vehicle, or workers.

Eligibility

This award is open to any individual who works in the waste and resource recovery industry in Queensland. Nominees must have demonstrated outstanding judgement, initiative, and a strong commitment to safety in responding to a lithium battery fire incident or high-risk event.

Selection Criteria

- An exemplary operating record with a demonstrated focus on safety
- A professional attitude towards their job and the industry as a whole, including the ability to remain calm and act decisively under pressure
- Demonstrated initiative, quick thinking and safe intervention in controlling and/or preventing a lithium battery fire to protect people, facilities, vehicles or equipment
- A dedication to the job through professional standards, coaching, mentoring and training, and the promotion of a safe workplace culture and improved lithium battery safety awareness

Entry Form Fields

- Entry Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Nominee Details (name, position, organisation, phone, email, location)
- Please upload a high resolution photograph of the nominee (We recommend photos are minimum 500kb in size)
- Executive Summary outlining the main reason for the nomination (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Provide a brief biography/career history of the nominee (200 words)
- Describe a specific incident where the nominee's quick thinking and commitment to safety helped prevent a lithium battery fire from escalating (300 words)
- Describe the impact/outcome of the nominee's actions in relation to the incident described above (300 words)
- Describe the nominee's demonstrated attention to overall occupational health and safety and other regulatory responsibilities. (300 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload one or more letters of reference (e.g. from supervisor, customer etc) (max 2MB per file)

Industry Collaboration of the Year

This award recognises councils, industry and partnership teams that have successfully implemented innovative initiatives, policies or programs advancing resource recovery (including organics processing) in Queensland. It celebrates collaboration between councils, industry, generators and end users to deliver shared outcomes. Examples include, but are not limited to, increased recycling participation, new collection systems, targeted awareness campaigns, and innovative use of resources or materials.

Eligibility

- Open to local government and industry, including council–industry partnerships, industry–end user, and industry–generator collaborations.
- The nominated program must be an ongoing initiative and meet all regulatory standards.

Selection Criteria

- Describe facilities, methodologies or programs, and provide data to quantify the impact and success of their work.
- Provide evidence of the levels of recycling/diversion achieved
- Demonstrated focus on quality, volumes and communications.
- Development of new programs, facilities or equipment that will lead to safer or more efficient operations.
- Entries must demonstrate how partnership and collaboration with another entity, or the general public, resulted in a meaningful and quantifiable sustainability outcome or breakthrough.
- A dedication to professional standards, client and supplier relationships, coaching, mentoring and training and promoting a healthy and safe workplace culture

Entry Form Fields

- Primary Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Activity or project name or title (max 60 characters including spaces)
- Location (town/region)
- Activity/Project Summary (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Please list the project stakeholders/partners
- Describe the project facilities, methodologies or programs (up to 500 words)
- What outcomes/benefits did the project achieve (please include data) (up to 500 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload up to 4 high resolution photographs or images. Please include both landscape and portrait options (max 2MB per file)

Environmental Innovation of the Year

This award seeks to spotlight innovations that are driving positive change in waste management, recycling and circular economy practices

Eligibility

- Open to industry and local government; industry and end-users, industry and generators or other partnerships
- The nominated innovation must be an ongoing initiative and meet all regulatory standards

Selection Criteria

- Describe the innovative technologies, methodologies, or programs implemented
- Provide data to quantify the impact and success achieved through the initiatives.
- Present evidence of scalability and replicability of the innovation in other settings or regions.
- Highlight any partnerships or collaborations with other entities or the general public that have enhanced the impact of the innovation.
- Provide testimonials or case studies from stakeholders or beneficiaries to illustrate the impact of the innovation.
- A dedication to professional standards, client and supplier relationships, coaching, mentoring and training and promoting a healthy and safe workplace culture

Entry Form Fields

- Primary Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Activity or project name or title (max 60 characters including spaces)
- Location (town/region)
- Activity/Project Summary (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Please list the project stakeholders/partners
- Describe the project technologies, methodologies or programs (up to 500 words)
- What outcomes/benefits did the project achieve (please include data) (up to 500 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload up to 4 high resolution photographs or images. Please include both landscape and portrait options (max 2MB per file)

Safety Innovation of the Year

This award recognises excellence in developing and implementing an innovative solution to an identified health and safety issue. Entries for this award may include a product solution, an engineering innovation, a training program, an awareness raising activity or other risk control measures that reduce the risk of work-related injury and illness

Eligibility

- Open to industry and local government; industry and end-users, industry and generators or other partnerships
- The nominated program must be an ongoing initiative and meet all regulatory standards

Selection Criteria

- Describe the development of new programs, facilities, or equipment to address a specific health and safety issue in the workplace.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of the solution in reducing the risk of work-related injury and illness through measures such as reduced accident rates, improved safety records, or decreased absenteeism.
- Showcase effective communication strategies utilised to promote safety awareness and engagement among employees, contractors and other stakeholders.
- Provide examples of how the safety innovation has had a positive impact on employee engagement, morale, and overall well-being.

Entry Form Fields

- Primary Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Activity or project name or title (max 60 characters including spaces)
- Location (town/region)
- Activity/Project Summary (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Please list the program stakeholders/partners
- Describe the issue the initiative sought to address and provide details of the program, facilities, or equipment developed/implemented (up to 500 words)
- What outcomes/benefits did the inititiative achieve (please include data) (up to 500 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload up to 4 high resolution photographs or images. Please include both landscape and portrait options (max 2MB per file)

Best Recycled Product

This award aims to raise awareness and showcase the latest product innovations and designs for recycled products as well as progress in the application of recycled materials

Eligibility

- Open to industry and local government; industry and end-users, industry and generators or other partnerships
- The nominated product must meet all regulatory standards

Selection Criteria

- Describe the product and its use including its composition, specifying the percentage of recycled material it contains.
- Demonstrate how the product's lifecycle and environmental impact have been considered, including the production processes, packaging, and transport.
- Provide data to quantify the performance, usability, and durability of the product in fulfilling its intended purpose.
- Highlight the potential for the product to be easily scaled, replicated, and adopted by a broad consumer base or industry and the accessibility and affordability of the product for various markets and demographics.
- Provide evidence or testimonials from users of the product

Entry Form Fields

- Primary Contact (name, position, organisation, phone, email)
- Activity or project name or title (max 60 characters including spaces)
- Location (town/region)
- Product Description/Summary (100 words) – this will be used in publications about the awards so we request that you submit full sentences/paragraphs and not simply notes)
- Please list any stakeholders/partners
- Describe the product, its design, composition and lifecycle (up to 500 words)
- Demonstrate how the product performs compared to non-recycled alternatives, addressing accessibility and affordability (up to 500 words)
- To support your entry, you may upload up to three attachments (e.g. reports, publications). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your submission
- Please upload up to 4 high resolution photographs or images. Please include both landscape and portrait options (max 2MB per file)

Join us for a spectacular evening of celebration and recognition at the WRIQ Industry Awards Gala Dinner!

The WRIQ Industry Awards Gala Dinner is a prestigious occasion where we come together to acknowledge and honour outstanding individuals and companies who have displayed excellence throughout the year.

The 2026 awards will be presented at a Gala Dinner on Friday 4th September 2026, in the Grand Chelsea Ballroom at the voco® Brisbane City Centre. This special evening will feature industry recognition, entertainment, and networking opportunities for all attendees.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of recognition and inspiration as we highlight and celebrate the achievements of those who have contributed to the success of Queensland's waste and resource recovery industry.

Date: Friday 4 September 2026

Time: 6:30pm – late

Venue: The Grand Chelsea Ballroom
voco® Brisbane City Centre
85-87 North Quay, Brisbane

Dress: Dress to impress

Tickets: Get in Quick (by 17July)
Individual Ticket: $240
Table of 8 $1728
Table of 10 $2160 inc GST

Standard (from 18 July)
Individual Ticket: $260
Table of 8 $1872
Table of 10 $2340 inc GST

Includes sumptuous three-course meal, drinks and entertainment

Bookings: Book online at https://events.humanitix.com/wriq26awards

Special accommodation rates are available at Hotel Indigo Brisbane City Centre for attendees. Details available @ https://www.wriq.au/event/wriq-2026-industry-awards-dinner/





WRIQ
Essential for community Essential for environment

Waste Recycling Industry Association QLD
T: 07 3067 3315
E: events@wriq.com.au
A: Level 5, 14 Banfield St, Chermside QLD 4032
W: www.wriq.au

