



The Hive Awards

POWERED BY Food&Drink BUSINESS 2025



Recognising
excellence in
the food & drink
business sector

2025 Entry Kit

thehiveawards.com.au

Entries close: 4pm, Friday 21 February 2025

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About the Awards

Celebrating innovation and excellence in the Australian food and beverage manufacturing sector.

“In developing the awards, we wanted the name to reflect the complexity, inter-connectedness, ambition, and tirelessness of Australia’s food and drink manufacturing sector. We couldn’t go past the concept of bees and their hive, a flawless system that runs 24/7, driven by a dedicated and determined workforce to consistently deliver a product to the highest standard. And so, the Hive Awards were born.” – **Kim Berry, Editor**

TO ENTER

Visit thehiveawards.com.au

- **Entries close:** 4pm, Friday 21 February 2025
- **Event:** Thursday 8 May 2025

Eligibility period is 2024 calendar year unless otherwise stated.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fee is \$90 + gst



Awards categories

The nine awards will celebrate outstanding projects and companies in the industry.

While the criteria and focus may differ between categories, all entrants must show how they embody the Hive Awards' values of innovation and excellence.

BEST INGREDIENT AWARD

This award recognises the best development and/or application of an ingredient for use in a food or beverage product.

BEST PROCESSING AWARD

This award recognises the best project displaying a product or process innovation and/or application.

BEST PACKAGING AWARD

This award recognises the best innovation and/or application of packaging for food and/or beverage products.

BEST TECHNOLOGY AWARD

This award is open to individuals, teams, or companies that have developed or implemented innovative technologies, equipment, or systems that set new benchmarks for excellence in food and beverage manufacturing.

LOCAL MANUFACTURING

This award recognises excellence in the production and manufacturing of Australian food and beverage products.

EXCELLENCE IN VALUE INNOVATION

Recognising companies that have responded

to current economic and cultural conditions with innovative value-driven solutions that successfully balance customer needs, profitability, and business relationships, to create impactful, sustainable, and commercially viable outcomes.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognising a business that encapsulates organisational excellence, emphasising leadership, innovation, sustainability, and quantifiable performance metrics.

RISING STAR

This award recognises a startup that is less than three years old and has disrupted established markets.

GAMECHANGER

This category is for the company that embodies new ideas, innovations, and practices for the benefit of future food systems.

THE GOLDEN HIVE

The Golden Hive recipient is selected by *Food & Drink Business* from the category winners.

Best Ingredient Award

This award recognises the development or application of an innovative ingredient in food and beverage products, evaluating its uniqueness, impact on product quality, example of company's R&D practice, and consumer acceptance.

Innovation **30%**

Describe the specific ingredient you developed or applied in a food or beverage product. What makes it unique, how does it enhance the product, and does it provide a solution previously unavailable to the industry? (250 words)

Impact **30%**

How has the use of this ingredient contributed to the overall taste, quality, or nutritional value of your food or beverage product? (250 words)

Provide images of the ingredient and products its used in.

Challenges & Solutions **30%**

Share any challenges you faced during the development or application of this ingredient and how you overcame them. (250 words)

Consumer Acceptance **10%**

When did you launch the product? What has the consumer response been to your product with this innovative ingredient? (250 words)

Provide evidence of consumer feedback/response

Best Processing Award

Presented to a project that showcases process innovation in food and beverage manufacturing. This award evaluates innovation, positive impacts on efficiency and sustainability, problem-solving abilities, and long-term benefits.

Innovation **30%**

Explain the innovative process or project implemented in your food or beverage production. What problem did it solve, and how does it differ from traditional methods? (250 words)

Provide photographs and/or diagrams of the project.

Impact **30%**

How has this process innovation positively impacted the efficiency, sustainability, or quality of your product? (250 words)

Provide evidence of any efficiency and sustainability claims

Challenges & Solutions **20%**

Share any hurdles you encountered during the project's execution and how your team managed to address them (250 words)

Long-Term Benefits **20%**

What long-term benefits do you foresee for your company and the industry due to the implementation of this innovative processing method? (250 words)

Best Packaging Award

Celebrating packaging innovation, this award assesses creativity, functionality, sustainability efforts, and the packaging's effectiveness in attracting consumers and enhancing the product experience.

Innovation **30%**

Describe the innovative packaging solution you applied to your food and/or beverage products. What sets it apart from conventional packaging methods? (250 words)

Provide images and/or diagrams to show your solution.

Sustainability **30%**

How has this packaging innovation contributed to improved shelf life, sustainability, or consumer convenience? (250 words)

Provide evidence of any sustainability claims.

Challenges & Solutions **20%**

Discuss any challenges you faced while implementing this packaging solution and the strategies you employed to overcome them (250 words)

Impact **20%**

How do you see this innovation shaping the future of food and beverage packaging? (250 words)

Best Technology Award

This award is open to individuals, teams, or companies that have developed or implemented innovative technologies, equipment, or systems that set new benchmarks for excellence in food and beverage manufacturing.

Innovation & Impact **30%**

How novel and transformative is the technology? Evaluate the technology's potential to improve production processes, product quality, or food safety in a unique and impactful way. (250 words)

Provide images to support your response.

Sustainability & Efficiency **30%**

How does the technology contribute to environmental sustainability and resource efficiency, such as reducing waste, energy, and water usage, or minimising carbon emissions. (250 words)

Provide images to support your response.

Scalability & Practicality **30%**

Explain how the technology was integrated into existing manufacturing processes and what strategies were used to ensure operational compatibility and user-friendliness. If relevant to your project, how was the technology scaled across various product lines or facilities. (250 words)

Provide images to support your response.

Market Benefits **10%**

Examine the technology's potential benefits to the end consumer or the broader market, such as improved product safety, freshness, affordability, or nutritional value. (250 words)

Local Manufacturing Award

Honouring excellence in Australian food and beverage manufacturing, this award reviews local sourcing commitments, manufacturing quality, sustainability practices, and community engagement efforts.

Practices **30%**

Explain the practices and strategies used in your business that exemplify excellence in the production and manufacturing of Australian food and beverage products. (250 words)

Sustainability & People **30%**

How have you prioritised local sourcing, sustainability, and community engagement in your manufacturing processes? (250 words)

Provide evidence of how you did this.

Contribution **30%**

Share examples of how your company has contributed to the growth of local economies and supported Australian agriculture. (250 words)

Provide evidence in the form of images, testimonials, or other documentation.

Planning **10%**

What long-term commitments do you have in place to ensure continued excellence in local manufacturing for the Australian market? (250 words)

Excellence in Value Innovation

Recognising companies that have responded to current economic and cultural conditions with innovative value-driven solutions for customers and company.

Customer Value Creation **25%**

Demonstrate the company's deep understanding of current consumer needs and the innovative solutions you implemented to enhance product quality, accessibility, affordability, and overall satisfaction. Detail how the outcomes reflect meaningful benefits for customers. (250 words)

Provide evidence to support your answer.

Sustainable Profitability **25%**

Illustrate how the company's value innovation positively impacted its financial performance, showing a balance between cost-efficiency, increased revenue, and sustainable growth. How does the innovation integrate into the company's broader strategic goals. (250 words)

Provide evidence to support your answer.

Collaborative Excellence **25%**

Discuss how the business has fostered partnerships and collaboration that have contributed to the development and implementation of innovative solutions across the value chain. (250 words)

Provide evidence to support your answer.

Transformative Solutions **25%**

Provide examples of the company's value innovation such as products, services, or processes and their measurable impact. How does the solution(s) demonstrate scalability, potential for industry influence, and a commitment to addressing challenges such as sustainability, food security, or waste reduction. (250 words)

Provide evidence to support your answer.

Oustanding Business Achievement Award

Recognising a business that encapsulates organisational excellence, emphasising leadership, innovation, sustainability, and quantifiable performance metrics.

Operational Excellence **30%**

Describe how your organisation has achieved excellence in efficiency and quality in food and beverage manufacturing, supply chain management, and service delivery. (250 words)

Provide evidence of measurable improvements.

Innovation & Growth **30%**

How has your company fostered innovation and employee engagement? Share notable achievements, initiatives, technologies, or business models that have contributed to your success in this category. (250 words)

Provide evidence to support your claims.

Leadership in ESG **30%**

How has your business prioritised ESG principles and committed to sustainable practices, including environmental responsibility, ethical sourcing, or waste reduction initiatives? Share notable achievements. (250 words)

Provide evidence to support your claims.

Planning **10%**

What strategies or goals are in place to build upon and enhance your business excellence? (250 words)

Rising Star Award

Presented to start-ups under three years old, this award acknowledges disruptive impact, innovation, resilience in overcoming challenges, and future growth potential. For eligibility, start-ups need to have been registered and operating as a company no earlier than 2020.

Disruption & Innovation **25%**

Describe your start-up and its disruptive impact on established food and beverage markets within the last three years. (250 words)

Provide images to support your response.

Resilience **25%**

What key challenges did you face as a start-up, and how did you overcome them to gain traction in the industry? (250 words)

Brand Building **25%**

Describe how your innovative approach or product has captured the attention and loyalty of consumers. (250 words)

Provide images to support your response.

Planning **25%**

What are your plans for growth and continued disruption in the food and beverage sector? (250 words)

Gamechanger Award

Recognising companies driving industry change, this award values innovation, sustainability, industry impact through collaborations, and a forward-looking vision for transformative practices.

Innovation **25%**

Explain how your company embodies new ideas, innovations, and practices that benefit the future of food systems. (250 words)

Leadership **25%**

What specific initiatives or technologies have you introduced that demonstrate your commitment to positive change in the industry? (250 words)

Collaboration **25%**

Share any significant industry collaborations or partnerships that have contributed to your game-changing status. (250 words)

Vision **25%**

How do you envision your company's contributions shaping the food and beverage industry in the coming years? (250 words)

Supporting Materials

- A minimum of five images is required in each entry. Please ensure images show products and/or processes clearly. Diagrams and drawings are also permissible where relevant.
- Images should be 300dpi JPG, PNG or TIFF files.
- These images may be used in the awards presentation and the *Food & Drink Business* winners supplement.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Awards are open to entries from Australian-based companies only. All entries must be submitted via the online entry portal. An entry fee of \$90 plus GST is required for each entry. Entry fees are non-refundable and must be paid at the time of entering. Entries will not be considered for judging if payment is not received at the time of entry. Entry fees will not be returned. Note the entry deadline – 4pm, Friday 21 February 2025. This date is final and there will be no extensions provided. The relevant eligibility period is between 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024 unless otherwise stated.

You can enter more than one category but only if the entries are deemed by the organisers as significantly different and tailored to the specific category. Entries can not be edited after submitting, if you notice an error in your entry please contact events@twodeforce.com.au. Please note: no changes will be permitted after the entry deadline. Please make sure all entry details are entered accurately, including grammar. Details collected through the online entry portal will be used in the Awards presentation and in print if selected as a finalist.

The decision of the judges will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. All entries are treated as confidential. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to another category if deemed more suitable. Judges reserve the right to disqualify entries that do not follow the entry requirements. The entrant grants *Food & Drink Business* permission to show the entries at The Hive Awards Presentation and in the magazine in print and online at such times as deemed appropriate. Finalists and winners will be covered in the *Food & Drink Business* winners supplement using information from the entry.

If there is specific information in your entry that is commercially sensitive and should not be published please make this clear at the time you submit your entry. Any attachments containing sensitive information should include "JUDGESEYESONLY" in their title. The entrant agrees that *Food & Drink Business* and Two de Force will not accept responsibility for errors or omissions reproduced in the presentation or the winners supplement or for work lost or damaged under any circumstances. The entry is a submission from the company. Should the individual designated to collect the award leave the company, another member of that company, not the individual, will collect the award.