

Unite & Recover

Small Business Connect

29 July 2021

COVID-19 restrictions and support

The current **face mask restrictions have been extended to 6am on Friday 6 August** for people in South East Queensland and anyone who has visited the region in the last 14 days.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the [roadmap to easing restrictions](#) this is updated regularly and outlines current arrangements across the state.

The Business Queensland website recently added [advice for businesses affected by a COVID-19 care](#), which covers what to expect if contact tracers identify a business as a close contact venue or casual contact venue.

Please continue to support staff and customers to use the [Check In Qld app](#) every time they arrive at a premises required to collect contact information.

Small business grants

Are you ready to apply for a Business Boost grant?

Don't forget! The Business Boost Grant program opens for applications tomorrow— Friday 30 July at 9:00am.

This is a great opportunity for small businesses (with less than 20 employees and a turnover of between \$300,000 and \$600,000 for the previous financial year) to secure up to \$15,000 to deliver on projects to improve the efficiency and productivity of business. Funds can be used to invest in future planning; specialised and automated software; or staff management, development and planning. Eligible projects could include investing in a new system to manage assets, inventory or customers; updating your website with new e-commerce software or booking tools; investing in cybersecurity tools; or building human resource management skills.

We anticipate there will be plenty of interest and applications will close when funds are exhausted—so get prepared and be ready to apply this Friday!

Interested small businesses are encouraged to note the requirements for a 30 per cent co-contribution.

Find out more at business.qld.gov.au/business-boost

Single use plastic banned from 1 September

The Queensland Government's ban on single use plastic will take effect on 1 September 2021. A [list of items that will be banned and possible alternatives](#) is available along with [information for businesses](#), which links to stakeholder groups you can contact for further information.

Resources

Business health check tool for small business

The [Business health check](#) supports small businesses to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and get into the best possible shape to look to future growth.

Answer a series of questions to identify your strengths, as well as areas where you may be exposed to risk and what action you should consider.

The health check will provide you with a free personalised report for your business and resources to help you address potential blind spots.

Take the [Business health check](#) on the Business Queensland website.

Australian Tax Office supporting small business information

The [ATO's small business support page](#) provides a range of information and additional support for small business owners and there's a [Tax Time 2021 toolkit for small businesses](#). There are also [39 occupation guides](#) for employees, including apprentices, to help them during tax time.

Upcoming [ATO lodgement and payment dates](#) for businesses are also available.

Events

Businesses shine in regional training awards

Congratulations to the outstanding businesses announced as regional winners in employer categories in the [2021 Queensland Training Awards](#), as well as everyone named finalists across the seven regions and 11 regional award categories.

You can watch each region's announcement video on demand here or join the final three regional finals when they premiere on Friday (30 July):

- [Tropical North Queensland](#)
- [North Queensland](#)
- [North Coast](#)
- [South East](#)
- [Metropolitan](#) (announced at 11am on Friday 30 July)
- [Darling Downs South West](#) (announced at 2pm on Friday 30 July)
- [Central Queensland](#) (announced at 6pm on Friday 30 July)

Keep the applause rolling on [Skills for Queensland Facebook](#) and stay tuned for more on the [State Final Event](#), including how you can get your hands on tickets.

Queensland export awards nominations now open

Queensland's exporters have until 6 August to enter the [Premier of Queensland's Export Awards 2021](#).

With 13 categories – including a Regional Exporter Award, Emerging Exporter Award and Small Business Award – the awards recognise the rich diversity of the state's export community.

Finalists will be announced in September, with winners named at an Awards Gala in October.

Queensland winners will then be automatically entered in the Australian Export & Investment Awards, with the chance to become a national champion. The current Australian Exporter of the Year is a Queenslander – Brisbane-based architecture and design firm, Populous.

Nominate for the Buy Queensland 2021 Supplier Awards

Queensland businesses are encouraged to nominate if they currently have, or have had, contracts to work with the Queensland Government since September 2017.

The three award categories directly relate to the Queensland Procurement Policy's objectives:

- Putting Queenslanders first
- Diversity through supply chains
- Delivering for Queensland.

Suppliers must [self-nominate](#) for the awards against the award category which best applies to their business. There can only be one award nomination per business.

Award nominations close at 5pm, 8 September 2021 - but please don't wait until then to nominate.

Stay connected

In addition to this message you can stay up-to-date with the latest assistance from the Queensland and Australian Governments through the [Business Queensland website](#). You can also follow us at facebook.com/businessqldgov.

For more information, visit
business.qld.gov.au or call 1300 654 687



This email was sent by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training,
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