

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION WHO CAN APPLY? WHAT IS REQUIRED?

### Who can enter?

- The AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award is open to all women involved in rural and regional industries, businesses communities.
- No formal qualifications are required.
- Location is no barrier. If you want to create impact, innovate and make a difference and/or contribute to enhancing the prosperity of rural and regional Australia, then we want to hear from you.
- Applicants must be female and/or identify as female.
- Applicants must be over the age of 18.
- Applicants must not be a Related Party of AgriFutures Australia (ie not an employee of AgriFutures Australia, or a member of the key management personnel of major sponsors and government agency partners, nor a close family member of the above. Applicants must not be a previous national or state/territory winner of either the former ABC Radio Rural Woman of the Year, RIRDC Rural Women's Award, or AgriFutures Rural Women's Award – *however previous state/territory finalists are encouraged to re-apply.*

When we refer to “rural industries” we mean agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

### What is the bursary?

The \$10,000 bursary is awarded to each state/territory winner, providing the financial resources to bring to life a project or initiative that will benefit rural industries, businesses and/or communities.

**Consideration of commercially focused projects and initiatives was an important change to the Rural Women's Award in 2018, and continues to be the case in 2020.** The project or initiative must align with AgriFutures Australia's strategic priorities such as:

- Innovation
- Creativity
- Community sustainability
- Education
- Productivity
- Agribusiness
- Regional development
- Technology

The bursary can be used for formal training in leadership and business management; overseas study tours; establishing business plans or pilot programs; developing educational or promotional campaigns; networking at forums and conferences to grow your knowledge of industries and markets; developing training programs; testing information technology initiatives; developing or testing a new business concept or innovation; and publishing books.

The bursary cannot be used for buying capital equipment (without the explicit approval from



AgriFutures Australia) or further tertiary education such as a Diploma, Masters or Doctorate degree.

All state/territory winners will participate in a separate National Selection Panel interview. The National Winner will be awarded an additional \$10,000 bursary and National Runner Up, an additional \$5,000. These additional funds can be used for the above-mentioned activities, plus may also be used to assist in meeting national commitments such as speaking engagements as the National Winner or Runner Up.

Winners will also have the opportunity to complete a professional development training course, and will attend a three-day workshop with all other state/territory winners, to focus on further professional development skills and refinement of their winning idea, project or initiative.

### How do I enter?

- Online applications for the 2020 AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award open on Thursday, 12 September 2019 and close on Thursday, 31 October 2019 at 11pm AEDT.
- The online application link can be found at [agrifutures.com.au/rwa](http://agrifutures.com.au/rwa)
- Within the application, all selection criteria must be addressed, and contact details of two referees must be supplied.
- Referees will only be contacted if your application makes it to the final round – ie. face-to-face state/territory interviews.

State Coordinator contact information is provided at [agrifutures.com.au/rwa](http://agrifutures.com.au/rwa) and on the online application form – we encourage you to contact your State Coordinator, who will guide you through the application process and provide feedback on your project idea.

### What is the process and schedule?

DATE	ACTIVITY
September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Sept: Online applications open</li> <li>• 26 Sept: What is the Rural Women's Award, who should apply, and how to address the Selection Criteria? Link to 2018 webinar can be found at <a href="http://agrifutures.com.au/rwa">agrifutures.com.au/rwa</a></li> </ul>
October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31 Oct: Applications close*</li> </ul>
November 2019 – February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications reviewed and shortlisted</li> <li>• Top 8-10 applicants participate in phone interviews with state/territory Selection Panels</li> </ul>
March 2020 – April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State/territory finalists face-to-face interview with State /territory Selection Panel</li> <li>• State/territory announcement events</li> </ul>
June 2020 – July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State/territory winners participate in a three-day workshop and National Selection Panel interviews</li> </ul>



September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award Gala Dinner and National Announcement</li></ul>
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\* NT applications close 27 January 2020



### **Your responsibilities to AgriFutures Australia**

State/territory AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award winners will be required to sign an agreement with AgriFutures Australia. Once winners have been formalised, they will be required to submit a detailed Project/Business Plan to AgriFutures Australia for review and approval. AgriFutures Australia will provide a template for the plan and will work with each state/territory winner to develop and formalise their plan.

As part of the agreement with AgriFutures Australia, state/territory winners will be informal brand ambassadors for AgriFutures Australia and the AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award. Each state/territory winner will be required to visit one school during their 12 month tenure as the state/territory winner, speaking to students about careers and opportunities in Agriculture and rural and regional communities. You may tailor your talk to focus on your areas of knowledge and experience.

At the conclusion of the Award tenure, a final report must also be submitted, including information on how the bursary was used. AgriFutures Australia will seek reimbursement of the bursary if the report is not submitted.

State/territory AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award winners can expect to be interviewed by the media and where practical attend and speak at relevant public functions.

AgriFutures Australia and relevant state and territory agencies reserve 'non-exclusive' rights to publish any material generated from successful applicants' involvement in the Award.