

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a rural landscape at sunrise or sunset. A large, leafy tree stands in the middle ground, with the sun positioned directly behind it, creating a bright starburst effect. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color, and the foreground is a vast, green grassy field. In the distance, there are rolling hills and a few more trees. The overall mood is peaceful and scenic.

# RIRDC RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD

[WWW.RIRDC.GOV.AU](http://WWW.RIRDC.GOV.AU)



# THE AUSTRALIAN RIRDC RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD

## WHAT IS THE RIRDC RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD?

The RIRDC Rural Women's Award is Australia's pre-eminent award for rural women.

The Award identifies and supports the capabilities of emerging women leaders who have the desire, commitment and leadership potential to make a greater contribution to primary industries and rural communities.


The Award acknowledges women's leadership capacity in effecting change and influence through connecting and collaborating, and creates opportunities for women to drive innovation and build resilience. The Award also encourages primary industries and their communities to embrace diversity in leadership to successfully navigate future challenges.

The Award supports women both financially and professionally. Each state and territory winner will receive a \$10,000 financial bursary to implement their Award vision. Each winner also has the opportunity to participate in the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Company Directors Course and will be supported to develop an individual integrated leadership plan.

The Award is an amazing opportunity to further women's leadership development, make a tangible difference and inspire others. The Award also links recipients with a positive and powerful alumni network of like-minded women across the country who are passionate about primary industries and rural Australia.

## WHO CAN ENTER?

The Award is open to all women involved in primary industries and natural resource management. No formal qualifications are required. Potential applicants can express their interest through the *Expression of Interest* process and gain access to mentors and feedback whilst undertaking their applications. The application process alone provides a leadership development opportunity for applicants to focus their passion.



## WHAT IS THE BURSARY?

The \$10,000 bursary is the major prize for each state and territory winner and provides the resources to develop each state and territory winner's vision into a project or initiative that will benefit primary industries and rural Australia. The project or initiative may contribute to key Award areas including:

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

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 knowledge of industries and markets; developing training programs; testing information technology initiatives and publishing books.

The bursary cannot be used for buying capital equipment (without the explicit approval from RIRDC) or further tertiary education such as a Diploma, Masters or Doctorate degree.

Visit [www.rirdc.gov.au/rural-women's-award](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/rural-women's-award) to find out more about how to enter the Award, see inspirational past Award recipients and read about their journeys.

## WHAT IS THE AICD COMPANY DIRECTORS COURSE?

The Company Directors Course is a comprehensive and credible learning program relevant to board directors and business entrepreneurs.

The course provides a thorough knowledge of the role and duties of being a board member, and knowledge of organisational performance, strategy development, risk management and financial performance, which are all critical to operating any business enterprise.

The Course provides the opportunity to gain the above skills and knowledge with like minded rural women. For more information on the course, its details and commitments please visit:

[www.companydirectors.com.au](http://www.companydirectors.com.au)

## WHAT IS THE INDIVIDUAL INTEGRATED LEADERSHIP PLAN?

Leadership capacity is an inherent part of the Rural Women's Award. The individual integrated leadership plan will provide 12 months of facilitated individual strategic support for each Award winner and runner-up to enhance their leadership development and the implementation of their Award vision, along with networking, media and public relations opportunities.

## HOW DO I ENTER OR NOMINATE SOMEONE?

To express an interest in applying or to nominate an applicant call 02 6271 4132 or email [rwa@rirdc.gov.au](mailto:rwa@rirdc.gov.au). Contact can also be made with the relevant state or territory Award coordinator listed on the back of this brochure.

Applicants will also need to complete the official entry form, addressing each of the selection criteria and include the name and details of two referees.

Referees will only be contacted if your application makes it to the final round. Email, post or fax your entry to your state or territory contact.

## SELECTION CRITERIA THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED:

### **1. A demonstrated personal commitment to primary industries, communities and the role of rural women in your state or territory:**

Write one page demonstrating your personal commitment to primary industries and/or natural resource management, and ways you have supported rural industries and rural women.

### **2. Potential to achieve and deliver benefits to primary industries:**

*(This is the most important selection criterion and is where you outline details of your project or initiative)*

Write between one and two pages detailing your project or initiative, including tangible outcomes and your personal ambition for primary industries and/or natural resource management; your leadership capability as demonstrated by past experience in leadership and change agent roles; and how through the Award you will enhance your leadership capacity and contribution to industry.

Also provide a basic budget on how you will spend the bursary. Examples of costs that could be included are:

- Resources required to deliver your project or initiative
- Travel, accommodation and meals
- Training costs, conference and workshop registration fees
- Consultations and networking
- Printing, promotion and postage
- Vehicle expenses

### **3. Leadership and capacity building:**

Write in one page how your Award ambition will assist you in the development of your leadership and representative capacity and how you will share your skills and knowledge to support others.

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

Entry is free and open to all residents of Australia except:

- Employees of RIRDC or their immediate families.
- Previous state and territory winners of the Rural Women's Award.  
(Previous state runners-up are eligible to re-apply).

The Selection Committees' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into. The Selection Committees will view all applications to be true and correct and will not be held responsible for inaccurate or misleading statements. **Applications will not be accepted unless accompanied by an entry form that is completed and signed by the applicant.**

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS ONCE AN APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED?

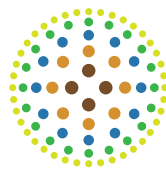
Nominations open on the 1st of August each year and close on the 31st of October.

- Applicants will be short-listed and interviewed in each state and territory.
- State and territory winners and runners up will be announced at formal state presentation events to be held between November and March.
- Award winners will participate in the AICD Company Directors Course (residential) to be held in Canberra. Date to be confirmed.
- State and territory winners will proceed through to selection of the Australian RIRDC Rural Women's Award winner and runner-up, to be held between August and September.
- National selection will include the state and territory winners' achievements during their term, including their project or initiative outcomes, and how they have put their leadership skills into action.
- The Australian RIRDC Rural Women's Award Celebratory Dinner to announce the Australian winner and runner-up will be held in Canberra at a date to be confirmed.

## WHAT IS RIRDC?

The Rural Industries R&D Corporation is an Australian Government Statutory Authority whose mission is 'enhanced prosperity for Australian rural industries and their communities'.

The Rural Women's Award is a RIRDC initiative in partnership with relevant state and territory agencies who manage the Award at a state and territory level.



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## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO RIRDC

State and territory Award winners will be required to sign a contract with RIRDC and at the conclusion of their Award tenure submit a report on their Award activities and achievements and how the bursary was used. RIRDC will seek reimbursement of the bursary if the report is not submitted.

State and Territory RIRDC Rural Women's Award winners and runners-up can expect to be interviewed by the media and where practical attend and speak at relevant public functions.

The National winner and runner-up will each be given an additional \$10,000 bursary to assist in meeting national commitments such as speaking engagements.

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

## SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION:

Mark your application 'Private & Confidential' and send it to:

### New South Wales & ACT:

Allison Priest  
NSW Dept of Industry & Investment  
Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800  
Phone: 02 6391 3620  
allison.priest@dpi.nsw.gov.au

### Queensland:

Karyn Manktelow  
Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
GPO Box 46, Brisbane Queensland 4001  
Phone: 07 3225 2770  
karyn.manktelow@daff.qld.gov.au

### South Australia:

Felicity Turner  
Primary Industries and Resources SA  
GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5001  
Phone: 08 8226 0539  
felicity.turner@sa.gov.au

### Tasmania:

Rebecca Williams  
Agricultural Policy Group  
Dept of Primary Industries, Parks,  
Water & Environment  
PO Box 44, Hobart Tasmania 7001  
Phone: 03 6233 6812  
rebecca.williams@dipwe.tas.gov.au

### Victoria:

Jocelyn Mason  
Dept of Environment and Primary Industries  
PO Box 500, Melbourne Victoria 3001  
Phone: 03 9658 4493  
jocelyn.mason@dpi.vic.gov.au

### Western Australia and Northern Territory:

Margo Andrae  
Rural Women's Award National Manager  
Rural Industries Research and  
Development Corporation  
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