



N O M I N E E

I N F O R M A T I O N

MBW ONE TO WATCH AWARD 2026

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Dear Nominee,

You've taken the first step toward an incredible opportunity by considering yourself for the 2026 "One to Watch" award. This is your chance to showcase your achievements, share your vision, and highlight the impact you're making in the meat industry.

This award is designed to celebrate emerging professionals like you—those who demonstrate passion, promise, and the potential to shape the future of our sector. By nominating yourself, you're taking an important step in recognizing your own value and the contributions you bring to the industry.

Winning or even being shortlisted for this award can open doors to new connections, professional visibility, and a platform to inspire others. It's a moment to own your story and be celebrated for your accomplishments.

Don't hesitate—put your best foot forward and let the industry see why you are truly "One to Watch." Submit your nomination today!

We look forward to hearing about your journey and the passion that drives you.



STACEY MCKENNA

Australian Chair

A handwritten signature of Stacey McKenna in black ink.

ABOUT MEAT BUSINESS WOMEN

Meat Business Women is a global network for professionals in the meat and food supply chain. We're building an inclusive, empowered community to attract and retain top talent, inspire women, and drive the industry forward through mentorship, connection, and transformative events.

ABOUT THE ONE TO WATCH AWARD

The "One to Watch" award celebrates the rising stars of the meat industry—young professionals who show exceptional promise, passion, and potential to lead and innovate in the sector.

This recognition aims to shine a spotlight on emerging talent, highlighting their contributions and inspiring others within the meat and food supply chain.

Eligibility:

- Open to individuals 35 and under as of 30 January 2026.
- Nominees must currently work in the meat and food supply chain industry in Australia.
- Self-nominations are the only option this year.
- Self-nominators must obtain their company's consent to participate.

Finalists will be selected based on their achievements, leadership, and vision for the future of the industry, with the winner announced at the Meat Business Women National Conference on 5th March 2025.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Follow these simple steps to create and submit your online application. Ensure your responses are clear, concise, and within the word limit to give yourself the best chance of being recognised.

STEP 1: GATHER YOUR INFORMATION

Before you begin, make sure you have the following details ready:

Nominee Details

- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Current Job Title
- Company Name
- Email Address
- Contact Number
- LinkedIn Profile URL

Employment History

- Dates of employment, roles, and companies you've worked for.

Entry Questions

Prepare answers to the following questions (250 words max per question):

1. Describe a specific project or initiative where you significantly impacted your organisation. What were the measurable outcomes?
2. Share a story of how you inspired or supported someone in their professional development.
3. Explain a major professional challenge you faced and the strategies used to overcome it.
4. In your view, what steps should the meat industry take to futureproof itself?
5. What motivates you to work in the meat industry?

Consent Confirmation

Gain approval from your organisation for your nomination. You'll need to provide a reference (a manager or supervisor) with their:

- Name
- Job Title
- Company
- Email Address
- Phone Number

Uploads

- A recent headshot photo.
- Any supporting documents (optional).

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

Visit the Meat Business Women website and navigate to the [One to Watch award](#) application page.

Fill in the following sections:

- Nominee Details
- Employment History
- Entry Questions
 - Write concise, impactful answers for each question. Keep them within 250 words.
- Consent Confirmation
 - Check the box confirming your organisation's consent.
 - Enter your reference's details.

STEP 3: REVIEW AND SUBMIT

- Double-check all your information and answers for accuracy.
- Agree to the Terms and Conditions of Entry by checking the box.
- Upload your photo and any optional supporting documents.
- Click "Submit."

Tips for a Strong Submission

**Be specific and use measurable outcomes in your responses.
Highlight your unique contributions and professional journey.
Ensure your answers align with the scoring rubric provided.**

KEY DATES

30 January 2026	Applications open.
1 March 2026	Applications close at 11:59pm.
25 March 2026	Finalists announced live at National Conference in Sydney.
Mid April 2026	Virtual finalist interviews conducted by the judging panel.
July 2026	Winner announced at MBW event - details to be advised

SCORING RUBRIC

UNDERSTANDING THE SCORING RUBRIC

The scoring rubric included in this pack outlines the criteria that will be used to evaluate your nomination for the 2025 "One to Watch" award. Each category reflects a key area of assessment, such as your impact, leadership, problem-solving skills, vision for the industry, and passion for the meat sector.

This tool is designed to help you understand how your submission will be scored, with clear descriptions for each performance level, from "Needs Improvement" to "Exceptional." Use this rubric as a guide to structure your responses and ensure your achievements and contributions align with the criteria.

By referencing the rubric while crafting your submission, you can highlight your strengths effectively and present a compelling case for why you are truly "One to Watch."

Assessment Criteria	Needs Improvement (0-10)	Adequate (11-15)	Strong (16-20)	Exceptional (21-25)	Mark
1.Evaluate the nominee's impact on their organisation and the outcomes achieved.	Minimal or unclear impact of organisational or outcomes achieved.	Some evidence of impact but lacks clarity or measurable outcomes.	Significant contributions with some measurable outcomes.	Outstanding, transformative impact with clear and measurable outcomes.	/25

SCORING RUBRIC CONT.

Assessment Criteria	Needs Improvement (0-8)	Adequate (9-12)	Strong (13-16)	Exceptional (17-20)	Mark
2. Assess the nominee's ability to lead and inspire others.	Limited evidence of leadership or inspiring others.	Some evidence of leadership or ability to inspire others.	Demonstrates leadership and ability to inspire others.	Outstanding leadership with clear evidence of inspiring others.	/20
3. Examine how the nominee handled challenges and demonstrated resilience.	Little evidence of problem-solving or resilience.	Some evidence of addressing challenges but lacks innovation or clarity.	Effectively addressed challenges with clear problem-solving strategies.	Innovative and highly effective in overcoming challenges.	/20
4. Evaluate the nominee's vision for the meat industry and futureproofing strategies.	Vague or uninspired ideas	Some ideas for the industry's future but lacking specifics or feasibility.	Strong vision for the industry's future with practical ideas.	Compelling and innovative vision with actionable strategies for the industry's future.	/20

Assessment Criteria	Needs Improvement (0-6)	Adequate (7-9)	Strong (10-12)	Exceptional (13-15)	Mark
5. Assess the nominee's passion and commitment to the meat industry.	Limited passion or unclear motivations.	Some passion shown but lacks depth or clarity.	Evident passion and commitment to the meat industry.	Exceptional passion and commitment, demonstrated through tangible examples.	/15

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Eligibility Criteria:

- Nominees must be employed in the meat industry in Australia at the time of entry.
- Nominees must be under 35 years old and under as of 5th February 2025.
- Nominees must agree to participate in interviews and promotional activities.
- Nominees must obtain written consent from their organisation.

Submission Guidelines:

- All entries must be completed and submitted via the online form by 5th February 2025.
- Entries must adhere to the word limit for each question (250 words).
- Submissions do take time and effort. Expect your nomination to take up to two to three hours.
- Participants are encouraged to review the scoring rubric located on the Meat Business Women One to Watch webpage, that evaluates submissions across specific criteria, ensuring consistency and fairness.

Judging Process:

- All submissions undergo a thorough review process by our judging panel made up of representatives from across the meat and supply chain industry. Please refer to the One to Watch webpage for judging panel information.
- If a judge has a conflict of interest (defined as any situation where a judge has a personal or professional relationship with the nominee that could influence impartiality) with a submission, a representative from Meat Business Women will step in to review the nomination and conduct the virtual interview in their place.
- All submissions and interviews will be handled with the utmost confidentiality to protect nominees' information.
- Judging is based on the scoring rubric provided.
- Virtual interviews with finalists will contribute to the final decision.

Confidentiality:

- All submission information will remain confidential and used solely for the purpose of judging the award.

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Prize:

The winner of the "One to Watch" award will receive funding of up to AUD \$5,000, which will be directly applied to support their personal and professional development. The funds must be used for one or more of the following:

- Accredited courses or certifications relevant to the meat and food supply chain.
- University or vocational training fees.
- Leadership development programs or workshops.
- Professional coaching or mentorship sessions.
- Travel and accommodation costs for attending industry conferences or events.

Conditions:

- The winner must submit a development plan outlining how the funds will be utilised. Approval will be at the discretion of Meat Business Women.
- Funds will be paid directly to the education provider, event organizer, or service provider, rather than to the individual.
- The award must be used within 24 months of the announcement date, unless an extension is granted by Meat Business Women.
- Any unused portion of the fund will be forfeited.

Finalists and Winner Announcement:

- Finalists will be notified via email on 21st February 2025 and provided with details for their virtual interview, including timing and format.
- The finalists for the 2025 "One to Watch" Award will be announced on the Meat Business Women website, social media channels, and newsletter on 21st February 2025.
- Finalists are encouraged to attend the Meat Business Women National Conference on 5th March 2025 at Waters Edge, Portside Wharf, Brisbane, where the winner will be announced. Attendance will be at the finalist's own expense.
- Each finalist will receive a certificate of recognition, presented during the conference.

Disqualification:

- Incomplete, inaccurate, or late submissions will not be considered.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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