

## Important 2019 QTA Accreditation Changes:

The Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) will introduce a new, integrated framework for Australia's business quality programs, which will incorporate existing programs such as; the *Australian Tourism Accreditation Program*, *Star Ratings* program, and the *Australian Tourism Awards*. This new framework will be known as the **Quality Tourism Framework (QTF)**.

Under the new QTF, there will be changes to requirements for the 2019 Queensland Tourism Awards (QTA), which all entrants must meet in order to be eligible for the national award categories. The QTF, will provide greater efficiencies for those who are engaged across multiple programs and provide an assurance of minimum standards being met by all.

### Important 2019 QTA Accreditation Changes

1. To be eligible for any of the accommodation categories (17 – 23), all entrants are required to meet a specific Star Rating (dependent on their category), through the completion of a pre-assessment module in your submission portal, which will calculate a proposed rating.

Those who are already Star Rated will not be required to complete a pre-assessment as the rating has already been confirmed. *Note: annual Star Rating renewals are due July 2019.*

| Accommodation  | Star Rating required to enter |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Luxury         | 5                             |
| Deluxe         | 4 or 4.5                      |
| Standard       | 3.5                           |
| Unique         | 3.5+                          |
| Hosted         | 3.5+                          |
| Caravan Park   | 3.5+                          |
| Self-contained | 3.5+                          |

2. All entrants in non-accommodation categories are required to complete Level 1 of the QTF. This pre-assessment will be included within the submission portal.  
Those who are already accredited through QTF (formally known as ATAP) will not be required to complete a pre-assessment.  
*Note: annual QTF (formally ATAP) renewals are due July 2019.*
3. There is no additional cost for 2019 QTA entrants to complete the required pre-assessments. Additional costs will only apply if an entrant wishes to finalise the accreditation process through the QTF.
4. Queensland entrants were previously required to hold accreditation through one of 17 recognised programs. In order to ensure consistency across the States under the QTF, this requirement **no longer applies**.

***Although this requirement no longer applies, QTIC highly recommends that all entrants maintain their current accreditation, as it is a valuable business asset and will strengthen QTA submissions.***

Under the new QTF, QTIC will continue to work with our accreditation partners to uphold tourism excellence and deliver quality standards across the industry.

## Important changes to categories:

### 1. Updated descriptors:

Please ensure you look at the descriptor of your chosen category to ensure you are entering the right one.

#### Notable descriptor changes in 2019:

- Major Festivals and Events
- Festivals and events
- Ecotourism
- Specialised Tourism Services
- Caravan & Holiday Parks
- Hosted Accommodation
- Unique Accommodation
- Self-contain Accommodation
- Standard Accommodation
- Deluxe Accommodation
- Luxury Accommodation

### 2. Notable Question updates:

Please be aware that the Marketing Section and Sustainability section have been updated in 2019.

- Marketing section now consist of 5 questions weight 25 points
- Sustainability: 3 questions weight 15 points

This is for most categories.

### 3. RACQ Hall of Fame:

The RACQ People's Choice Awards Hall of Fame. Entrants who win the RACQ People's Choice awards two years consecutively. Will not be a part of the voting the following 2 years.

## Important dates

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Closing date for nominations:</b>            | Friday, 31 May 2019                         |
| <b>Closing date for submissions:</b>            | Monday, 19 August 2019                      |
| <b>Queensland Tourism Awards Gala Ceremony:</b> | Friday 08 November 2019 -<br>Sunshine Coast |

## Site Visits and Judging

The awards' judging is coordinated by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC). Please direct all enquiries regarding judging to Katie Driml via (07) 3236 1445 or email [katie.driml@qtic.com.au](mailto:katie.driml@qtic.com.au).

Site visits will take place from June to August 2019. Entrants will be contacted to arrange a suitable date and time for a site inspection to occur.

EY are the official Queensland Tourism Awards auditors.

## Nominations

Prospective entrants for the Awards program should visit [www.queenslandtourismawards.com.au](http://www.queenslandtourismawards.com.au) and follow the prompts to nominate and pay an entry fee via the online Awards portal.

Please note that all nominations must be lodged via the online Awards portal by **Friday 31 May, 2019**. Submissions will not be accepted unless you have nominated by this date.

## Entry Fees

The judging of the Queensland Tourism Awards is coordinated by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC). QTIC is a not-for-profit membership organisation, representing members' interests by providing a broad range of services.

|                  | < 25 employees | 25+ employees |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Full QTIC Member | \$180          | \$220         |
| Non-member       | \$360          | \$440         |

Costs associated with the Queensland Tourism Awards judging include:

- Development of entrant support material
- State judging
- National judging
- Meeting expenses
- Site inspections (over 200 properties throughout QLD are visited by the panel)
- Administration expenses

## Refunds

Site Visits will take place during June, July and August 2019. If you have nominated to enter the 2019 Queensland Tourism Awards and do not intend to follow through with a written submission, please advise Katie Driml PRIOR to a member of the judging panel leaving for the region for their site inspection. If you do not notify our office before the site judge have left for the site inspection, there will be no refund on your nomination fee. Refunds will not be given after **31st July 2019**.

## Entry Deadline

Submissions and images must be uploaded by **5pm Monday 19 August**. Entries received after this date **WILL NOT** be accepted.

# 2019 Important Information, Queensland Tourism Awards



## Awards Ceremony

Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Friday, 08 November 2019 Twin Waters Sunshine Coast.

Finalist are not announced prior to the event, only Gold Silver and Bronze are announced on the night.

## Enquiries

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