

Australia Day - Community Policy

Effective Date	Ordinary Meeting of Council - August 2019
Policy Owner	Communities Department
Link to Corporate Plan	<p>Strategic Priority: Active Vibrant Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are a happy, inclusive community, proud of where we live. - Our people of diverse backgrounds and ages are united by social, cultural and sporting activities. - Our parks, open spaces and community facilities are alive with activities and connect our communities. - We are a strong sustainable community supported by volunteers. - We empower communities to develop local initiatives and events.
Review Date	July 2023
Related Legislation	<i>Nil</i>
Related Documents	Australia Day - Organisational Procedure

Policy Version	Approval Date	Adopted/Approved
1.	20 November 2013	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20 November 2013
2.	22 January 2014	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 January 2014
3.	15 October 2014	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15 October 2014
4.	18 March 2015	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 18 March 2015
5.	16 December 2015	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 16 December 2015
6.	17 August 2016	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 17 August 2016
7.	21 August 2019	Ordinary Meeting of Council -21 August 2019

*This policy may not be current as Council regularly reviews and updates its policies. The latest controlled version can be found in the policies section of Council's intranet or Website. **A hard copy of this electronic document is uncontrolled.***



1. PURPOSE

Australia Day Awards recognise those outstanding persons or groups who make a real contribution and difference to the communities of the Western Downs.

The Western Downs Regional Council Australia Day Policy provides Council's approach to the administration of the Western Downs Regional Council Australia Day Awards.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to the Western Downs Regional Council Australia Day Awards program including the Award presentation events. The current Organisation Procedure is listed on Council's website <https://www.wdrc.qld.gov.au/Community-Recreation/Events-Initiatives/Council-Initiatives/Australia-Day-Awards>.

3. POLICY

3.1 Western Downs Regional Council Australia Day Assessment Panel

The Australia Day Assessment Panel comprises:

The Mayor (or delegate)
The Communities Portfolio Councillor
One (1) Nominated Councillor
General Manager (Community & Liveability) (or delegate) as Chair
Previous Regional Citizen of the Year recipient
Previous Regional Young Citizen of the Year recipient

The Panel is responsible for assessing nominations and selecting award recipients for each Award category as set by Council and detailed in the Australia Day Organisation Procedure.

The role of the Assessment Panel is to:

- Assess the nominations in accordance with the selection criteria and select award recipients.

The Assessment Panel is supported by the Communities Department and Executive Team.

3.2 Awards:

The Council will facilitate the receipt of nominations for and the awarding of Australia Day Awards to recognise the outstanding achievements of persons or groups who make a real contribution and difference to the communities of the Western Downs Region and the defined Districts within the region.

a) Western Downs Regional Council Australia Day Local Award Areas:

- Chinchilla & District
- Dalby & District
- Jandowae & District
- Miles & District
- Tara & District
- Wandoan & District

b) Western Downs Regional Council Australia Day Awards:

(i) Regional Awards:



- Citizen of the Year Award
- Young Citizen of the Year Award
- Regional Creative Arts Award
- Regional Sports Award

(ii) Local Awards:

- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Community Organisation Achievement Award
- Local Creative Arts Award
- Local Sports Award - Junior
- Local Sports Award - Senior

3.3

Nomination Conditions:

- Nominees must be Australian Citizens
- Individuals or groups can self-nominate.
- Councillors, Council Staff and State and Federal elected representatives are eligible for nomination.
- Nominees must reside within the Western Downs Regional Council area, or alternatively, where this is not the case, the nomination must demonstrate that a significant contribution has been made by the nominee to the Western Downs Regional Council community and that they are considered to be part of the community.
- Council may not necessarily make an award in any of the categories in any given year if circumstances arise where granting of an award is not considered appropriate.
- Where the Australia Day Assessment Panel determines that an award nomination does not meet the criteria for that category, the Panel reserves the right to:
 - Transfer the nomination to the correct category for consideration; or
 - Deem the nomination invalid for consideration.
- Nominations must be submitted in the correct category through the online application form which can be accessed via the Council website.

3.4 Award Presentations:

- Council will present awards to the successful nominees at nominated events as outlined in the Australia Day Organisation Procedure.
- Councillors will be present at approved events to present the Awards.

