



Australia Day POLICY

Purpose

The Winton Shire Council recognises the proud heritage and individual identities of the communities of the Shire and takes the annual Australia Day Awards as an opportunity to recognise the members of these communities and their contribution.

The Australia Day Awards program will be conducted on an annual basis.

Scope

This policy applies to the Mayor, Councillors, employees of Winton Shire Council, the Australia Day Awards Panel and individuals who contribute to the Winton community.

Definitions

Term	What it means / refers to
Chief Executive Officer	The person appointed by Council under the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> to manage the day-to-day operations of the local government and its employees in accordance with the plans and policies set by Councillors
Council	Winton Shire Council (WSC)
Councillor/s	The Mayor and Councillors of Winton Shire Council, within the meaning of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .
Council Employees	Local government employee: (a) The Chief Executive Officer; or (b) A person holding an appointment under section 196 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .
The Act	Refers to the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>
The Regulation	Refers to the <i>Local Government Regulation 2012</i> .

Policy statement

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Ensure a formal and consistent approach is taken to recognise the outstanding contribution of individuals to the Winton community through the Australia Day Awards program.
- Establish clear criteria for the Australia Day Awards.

Awards

Award categories

Should the Australia Day Awards Panel not receive any suitable nominations for an Award, the Australia Day Awards Panel will be under no obligation to present an award in any category.

Under the Australia Day Awards program, awards will be given for the following:

Citizen of the Year Award

The Citizen of the Year Award is awarded to an individual for their contribution to the Winton Local Government area. A maximum of one Citizen of the Year Award is presented annually on Australia Day.

Young Citizen of the Year Award

The Young Citizen of the Year Award is awarded to a young person for their contribution to the Winton Local Government Area. A maximum of one Young Citizen of the Year Award is presented annually on Australia Day.

Community Event of the Year Award

This award recognises outstanding achievement by an individual, group or organisation fostering community spirit or an event which has resulted in positive outcomes for the Winton Shire. The panel will consider the level of community involvement and the benefits to the community and local business.

Spirit Award

The Spirit Award acknowledges those whose contributions can't be measured on paper. The award strives to acknowledge those who exemplify the true spirit of the town. Those deserving individuals who, by their selfless actions and deeds, have a positive influence on the lives of those they assist. The Panel will determine whether there is a worthy recipient for the year with a maximum of one Spirit Award presented annually on Australia Day.

Award eligibility

- Nominees must reside in the Winton Local Government Area.
- Nominees must be an Australian Citizen.
- Nominees cannot be a previous recipient of the same award.
- Nominees cannot nominate themselves.
- Nominees must be 25 years or younger, as at 26 January each year (for the Young Citizen of the Year Award only).

Award nominations

Nominations for the Australia Day Awards will be called on an annual basis.

Nominations must be submitted by completing the nomination form circulated by Council and must be submitted by the designated closing date.

Assessment panel

The Australia Day Awards Panel will convene each year. The Panel will comprise the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the previous Citizen of the Year or a community member if required.

(Noting that where one or more of the nominated Panel members cannot attend a Panel selection meeting for whatever reason, the remaining members will make all decisions without further input / contribution being necessary).

Awards presentation

The Australia Day Awards will be announced and presented at the Australia Day function on 26 January each year.

An honour board for recipients will be maintained in an appropriate Council building.

Australian Ambassador

Australia Day Ambassadors include past recipients of the Australian of the Year Awards, talented athletes, medical professionals, business leaders, media personalities and community workers who provide inspiration and pride to Australia Day events.

The Australia Day Ambassador may participate in a diverse range of activities which have, in the past, included providing an inspirational address, presenting Australia Day awards, judging contests and meeting with locals.

Applications for an Australia Day Ambassador are made through the Premiers Department.

Ceremonies

Council will arrange an Australia Day ceremony, consisting of a modest function and awards presentation. This may include an Australian Day Breakfast, a Citizenship Ceremony, Great Australian Bites and/ or sporting events. It is intended that, where possible, community groups be encouraged to participate for both community benefit and fundraising opportunities.

Events are limited by the annual budget allocation set by Council. Council decides upon the time and location of the Australia Day Ceremony.

Communication

Winton Shire Council will ensure that:

- The Winton Community have access to this policy.
- The Winton Community be provided with opportunities to be involved in the review of this policy.
- Changes and/ or amendments made to this policy document are communicated to the Winton Community.

Related Council documentation

- WSC-QDM-FRM-006 Australia Day Nomination Form

Legislation, recognised Authorities and other sources

- *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld)
- *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld)
- Queensland Government Premiers Department Australia Day in Queensland

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years and remains in force until amended or repealed by resolution of Council.

Record of amendments and adoptions

Date	Version	Reason for amendment	Date adopted by Council
August 2023	Version 1.0	Initial policy	15 September 2023