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Dairy competitions aim to lead the whey

Australian dairy producers can scoop up valuable feedback, with entries opening today for the Royal Queensland Cheese and Dairy Awards and Royal Queensland Ice Cream, Gelato and Sorbet Awards.

Renowned international dairy judge and cheesemaker Russell Smith will lead a 13 strong panel of Australia's top food industry professionals in the hunt for Australia's best cheese and ice cream.

Mr Smith said the standards of judging are among the best in Australia and comparison reports are provided for each dairy product entered.

"We will have some of the best judges in the nation in 2025 and there is a lot of support from the RNA to make sure these dairy competitions are the best in the country," he said.

"For entrants, having their product peer reviewed to see where they stand alongside their competitors in the industry is just as important as winning a gold medal."

The awards are built on long-standing traditions celebrating excellence in Australian dairy produce and are also reflective of current industry trends and changing consumer interest and demand.

"With so many changes in the manufacturing side of the dairy industry over the last few years, it's more important than ever for competitions like these to keep up to date with the changing landscape of dairy manufacturing," Mr Smith said.

The judges will oversee 59 classes in the cheese and dairy competition including cheese, desserts, yoghurt, butter, milk and cream, as well as 14 classes in Ice Cream, Gelato and Sorbet including flavours vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, fruit and nut.

Gold medal winners at the Royal Queensland Awards become eligible to enter the Australian Grand Dairy Awards, which will be judged in Brisbane next year.

Entries close Friday 14 March 2025. Dairy producers can enter now at <https://www.rqa.com.au/competitions/cheese-dairy-awards/>

For more information on the Royal Queensland Awards visit www.rqa.com.au.

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