Cowra Christmas Festival 2026: Christmas Lights Competition Terms and Conditions

Promoter

1. The Christmas Lights Competition (the Competition) is conducted by Cowra Tourism Corporation, trading as Visit Cowra ("Visit Cowra").

Eligibility

2. The Competition is open to residents and businesses whose display is at a property located within the Cowra Shire Local Government Area (LGA).
3. Entrants must be aged 18 years or over.
4. Employees, board members and volunteers of Visit Cowra, and their immediate families, are not eligible to win prizes.
5. Appointed judges, their immediate family members and anyone residing in the same household are not eligible to enter.
6. Tenants are encouraged to seek written permission from their landlord before installing a display and are responsible for any lease obligations relating to their display.

Entry

7. Entries are only valid once the entrant has registered via www.jotform.com/form/252888460315867. One entry per property.
8. Entries open on Monday 9th November 2026 and close at 5:00pm on Monday 7th December 2026 (AEDT). Late entries will not be accepted.
9. Entrants must select their category on the entry form. All eligible entries will be included in People's Choice voting.

Categories and prizes

10. Prizes are as follows:

Category	Prize
Best House	$1,500 in Cowra Cash Cards
Runner-up, Best House	$800 in Cowra Cash Cards
Best Village/Rural Property (a property outside the Cowra township)	$1,500 in Cowra Cash Cards
Best Business Christmas Display	$200 in Cowra Cash Cards
People's Choice	$1,000 in Cowra Cash Cards
Best Street	Commemorative Street Sign

11. Cowra Cash Cards can only be redeemed at participating Cowra businesses. They are not redeemable for cash, are not transferable, and are subject to the card's own terms and expiry.
12. A property may win only one judged category but may also win People's Choice.

13. To be eligible for Best Street, at least 25% of all properties in the street must have submitted an entry. The sign will be presented to the residents of the winning street. Its installation is subject to Cowra Shire Council approval.
14. Visit Cowra reserves the right not to award a category if there are insufficient entries.

Judging

15. Judging and photography will take place between Tuesday 15 and Friday 18 December 2026 inclusive. Displays must be switched on from 7:30pm to 10:30pm each night during this period. Judges will not give notice of their visit. A display that is not switched on when judges visit may not be judged.
16. The judging panel will comprise a minimum of three people appointed by Visit Cowra. Judges must declare any potential conflict of interest and exclude themselves from judging the affected category.
17. Displays will be judged from the street or footpath. Judges will not enter private property.
18. Each criterion below is scored out of 10 and equally weighted:

Criteria	What the judges look for
Christmas Spirit	Overall festive feel, warmth and Christmas atmosphere
Creativity & Originality	Unique ideas, imaginative displays and personal touches
Visual Impact	Overall presentation, use of lighting, colour and visual appeal
Effort & Attention to Detail	Thoughtfulness, effort and detail throughout the display
Community Spirit	Display creates enjoyment and contributes to the town's Christmas atmosphere

19. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

People's Choice

20. Public voting for People's Choice will be conducted through JotForm from 5PM Friday 11th December to 10:00pm Sunday 20 December 2026. A list of eligible properties and voting links will be published via the Cowra Christmas Festival Facebook Page.
21. Voting is limited to one vote per person. Votes may be verified by email address or mobile number.
22. Any entrant or household found to have submitted multiple votes, or to have engaged in or knowingly benefited from any attempt to manipulate voting, will be disqualified. Their entry will be withdrawn and any prize forfeited.
23. In the event of a tie, the People's Choice winner will be decided by the judging panel.

Winners

24. Winners will be announced on Tuesday 22 December 2026 via the Cowra Christmas Festival Facebook page. Winners will also be contacted directly using the details supplied at registration.

25. Prizes not claimed by Friday 29th January 2027 will be forfeited. Visit Cowra may then award the prize to the next-placed entrant.

Publicity and privacy

26. Entrants agree to have their street address and first name published for the purposes of public voting, judging and publicity. Phone numbers and email addresses will not be published.
27. Entrants agree to have their property photographed and filmed for judging and for Visit Cowra publicity, including future promotion.
28. Personal information collected will be used only to conduct the Competition and contact entrants, and will be handled in accordance with Visit Cowra's privacy policy.

Safety and responsibility

29. Entrants are responsible for the safety and security of their display and property. This includes, but is not limited to, electrical safety, equipment, decorations, pedestrians, damage and insurance.
30. Electrical equipment must be suitable for outdoor use, in good condition and compliant with Australian standards. Any hard-wired work must be carried out by a licensed electrician.
31. Displays must stay within the entrant's property boundary. The footpath, nature strip, power poles or any property outside the entrant's boundary must not be used. Displays must not obstruct footpaths or driveways or create distraction for drivers.
32. Entrants must consider the impact of their display on neighbours, traffic and pedestrians, and take reasonable steps to minimise risks and unreasonable disturbances to neighbours.
33. Visit Cowra, event partners and sponsors accept no liability for any loss, damage, injury or theft arising from entry into the Competition or from prizes accepted.
34. Charity collection boxes are prohibited unless a letter of authority from a registered charity is obtained and prominently displayed. Collections for the personal gain of the entrant are prohibited and will result in disqualification.

General

35. Visit Cowra reserves the right to amend, suspend or cancel the Competition due to circumstances beyond its control. Any changes will be published on the Cowra Christmas Festival Facebook page.
36. Failure to comply with these Terms and Conditions may result in cancellation of entry and withdrawal of prizes.
37. By entering the Competition, entrants accept and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.