



ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

Presented By:



COUNTRY MUSIC SHOWDOWN SCHEDULE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Competition Overview..... 3

Who Can Enter..... 3

Entry Rules..... 3

Entry Restrictions..... 4

Entry Fees..... 4

Maximum Entries..... 4

Entry Procedures..... 4

Competition Details..... 5

Timing of Events..... 5

Equipment..... 5

Dress Code..... 5

Notification of Entrants..... 6

Cancellations..... 6

Publication Details..... 6

Prize Claim Details..... 6

Additional Terms & Conditions..... 7



ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN!

Competition will be held at The Ekka Saturday 15th August 2026.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Country Music Showdown

Ekka's Country Music Showdown (CMS) is an annual talent competition held during the Royal Queensland Show (the Ekka) in Brisbane. It's designed to discover and support emerging country music artists from across Australia. Receive feedback from industry professionals and compete to win over \$70,000 in cash and prizes.

Who Can Enter

- Junior Category – between the ages of 12 and 17 years as of 30 June 2026.
- Open Category – over 18 years of age as at 30 June 2026

Entry Rules

- Submit a video of two live performances (one cover and one optional original)
- Entries close Tuesday 30th June 2026 00:00 EST
- Finalists will be notified by email by Monday 6th July 2026
- Finalists are required to submit their bio, charts and competition entry fee no later than Wednesday 15th July 2026 5:00pm EST
- Finalists will compete live at Ekka, Saturday 15th August 2026



ENTRY RESTRICTIONS

- Entry is open to amateur and semi-professional artists only. A semi-professional is one who earns some money as a performer but is not dependent on such income for a living.
- All material performed must be in the country genre and must be accompanied by the correct charts and key
- Entrants who win 1st place in the Junior or Open category may not compete in the same category again
- All entrants competing in the Junior Category must be between the ages of 12 and 17 years as of 30 June 2026.
- All entrants competing in the Open Category must be over 18 years of age as at 30 June 2026.

Entry Fees

Entry to the Open Category of the competition will incur a fee of \$65 and entry into the Junior Category will incur a fee of \$50. This fee is to be paid upon qualifying into the finals. There are limited spaces in the competition. Entrants will be advised of their success after the closing date. There will be no refund of fees should the entrant change their mind or if the entrant fails to register on the day, except in special circumstances at the discretion of management. This fee includes an entry ticket into the grounds for the competitor (and one additional guardian ticket for entrants in the Junior Category).

Maximum Entries

Up to two people per entry permitted (solo or duo) – only one prize is allocated to each entry into the competition.

Entry Procedures

To enter entrants must, during the Competition Period, visit the Ekka Website and register their details. Entrants must submit two (2) links of a YouTube video of them performing during the Video Solicit Period. Entrants are not required to submit an original song. However, if they choose to do so, only one (1) of their two (2) submissions may be an original



COMPETITION DETAILS

This is a competition of skill. Entrants in both the Junior and Open Category will be judged by a panel of industry experts with three place getters in each category being selected – first, second, third and an overall People's Choice Award. Judges' decisions are final. Upon request, judging sheets may be supplied to the entrant after completion of the event at the discretion of the Ekka management.

Timing of Events

All entrants must be present for registration at their given time at the registration desk, located in XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill.

All entrants must present themselves to the Stage Manager twenty minutes prior to their performance and remain in the back stage area ready to go on stage. All entrants must be in attendance for the judging and awards ceremony.

Every effort will be made to adhere to the program, but changes may be made at the discretion of Ekka management.

Equipment

Due to space restrictions, the instruments permitted on stage will include: all instruments for use by the backing band and one (1) instrument to be played by the entrant. If you are part of a duo or have an accompanying instrument and musician then additional instruments may be permitted at the discretion of management.

Apart from the entrant's own instrument/s, the drums supplied by Ekka management will be the only equipment which contestants are permitted to use or operate. No pre-recorded backing music which includes midi or drum machines may be used. No pre-recorded backing vocals will be permitted.

Dress Code

The entrants must be in suitable stage attire, neat country dress encouraged. No singlets, shorts or thongs are to be worn on stage. No logos, slogans, or statements featured.



Notification of Entrants

Entrants will be notified of their success to become a finalist by email by Monday 6th June 2026 by 5:00pm EST June. Finalists will be asked to pay the entry fee and submit their music scores/chord charts and .mp3s so the Ekka Team can pass it onto the backing band so they have time to rehearse the songs. Should finalists require charts, this can be arranged for an additional fee of \$30 per song/chart. Finalists who do not pay the entry fee by Wednesday 15th July 2026 00:00 EST will not be permitted to perform.

Cancellations

Management reserves the right to limit or cancel any performances without notice. Depending on the availability of entrants, replacements will be accepted at the discretion of Ekka management.

Publication Details

Ekka management reserve the right to publish winner(s) on the website www.ekka.com.au and social media.

Prize Claim Details

Prizes must be claimed at the time of the announcement or as otherwise specified by the Promoter.

Unclaimed Prize Arrangements

Ekka management reserves the right to re-award unclaimed prizes to the next placed entrant. All redeemable prizes will be valid for a 12 month period from winning announcement. If not redeemed prize will become forfeited.



ADDITIONAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Ekka and participating sponsors are not responsible for mutilated, mis-uploaded or late contest entries.
- Winners are responsible for applicable travel and accommodation, if required.
- Management will not be responsible for any loss or injury to persons or property throughout Ekka. Each entrant shall not encourage any person/s up on stage. Each entrant must behave professionally at all times. There is to be no swearing and artists must not perform songs that contain inappropriate themes or language or they will face disqualification.
- Ekka has permission to take photographs of performers and has full copyright. Ekka reserves the right to use any images taken of performers on social media, websites, advertisements and any other format for marketing and publicity opportunities.
- Ekka will have full control of all advertising either by radio/newspaper/flyers etc. Any entrants wishing to advertise on their social media pages or websites may do so however you may not use the Ekka logo without prior approval.
- There is no parking on the grounds. There is ample public transport to and from the grounds and alternative parking is available within walking distance of the grounds.

*Please note: failure to adhere to any of the above criteria may result in immediate disqualification. Terms and Conditions are subject to change at discretion of Ekka management.

Ekka

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

Presented By:



ENTERTAINMENT

