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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## The show must go on: Women in Technology take centre stage



Nominations have started flooding in for the 2020 Queensland Women in Technology (WiT) Awards despite the sweeping disruptions of COVID-19.

For the first time, a regional award has been introduced to recognise and encourage women who are using science and technology to advance our regional industries and communities.

The WiT Awards have grown dramatically since Women in Technology was founded 23 years ago

and are now one of the biggest showcases in Australia for women from all scientific and technical disciplines.

There are [14 categories](#) this year celebrating women who are making an outstanding contribution in government, corporate, small business and community sectors as well as, leading employers modelling best practice in gender equity and inclusion.

The awards program includes two new innovation categories to shine the spotlight on Queensland women who are leaders in supporting scientific innovation and the development and application of new technologies.

Women in Technology (WiT) President Dr Claudia Giurgiuman said the awards were an important opportunity to celebrate the powerful contribution women were making to the State.

“With the devastating economic impact of COVID-19, harnessing our female talent and skill has never been more crucial so this year, more than ever, the awards show must go on!” Dr Giurgiuman said.

“There are many women doing amazing work in Queensland and these awards are about giving them the recognition they deserve, building support for their work, and inspiring the next generation of leaders by showing what is possible.

“Australia is screaming out for science and technology skills yet only 27% of our total STEM workforce is female<sup>1</sup>.

“Research shows that upskilling just 1% of our national workforce into STEM roles would add \$57 billion to Australia’s gross domestic product over 20 years<sup>2</sup>.

“The WiT awards are an important opportunity to come together and celebrate the success of our members and the other women in our community. COVID-19 has presented personal challenges for everyone as we have adjusted to social distancing, working from home and home schooling. Many women are the primary carer for their families and working from home has been particularly challenging for them.”

The prestigious WiT awards, which attracted more than 300 nominations and 700 guests last year, will be announced in a new ‘virtual’ format on 9 October 2020. Planning is well underway for an online cabaret with a difference.

**The nomination process is quick and easy – you can enter yourself or nominate another woman you admire. Nominations close on 1 August 2020. You then have until 16 August to complete your application online.**

To find out more about the categories and selection criteria please visit the awards website at [www.witawards.org.au](http://www.witawards.org.au).

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#### **ABOUT WiT**

Women in Technology (WiT) is one of Australia’s most respected and active technology industry associations, dedicated to supporting, developing, recognising and promoting the achievements of women from all science and technology disciplines. The organisation delivers professional development, advocacy and networking, including exclusive mentoring and Board Readiness courses, and the prestigious annual WiT Awards.

WiT was founded in 1997 by a small group of Queensland women who came together to share their aspirations and find understanding and solutions for the unique challenges they faced as female pioneers in technology. The community now has more than 7400 members and affiliates and more than 24,500 supporters. To learn more about WiT visit [wit.org.au](http://wit.org.au).

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<sup>1</sup> [www.professionalsaustralia.org.au/professional-women/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2018/08/2018-Women-in-STEM-Survey-Report\\_web.pdf](http://www.professionalsaustralia.org.au/professional-women/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2018/08/2018-Women-in-STEM-Survey-Report_web.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [www.pwc.com.au/pdf/a-smart-move-pwc-stem-report-april-2015.pdf](http://www.pwc.com.au/pdf/a-smart-move-pwc-stem-report-april-2015.pdf)