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MEDIA RELEASE

TAA NSW AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE – RECORD NUMBER OF HOTELS NOMINATED

With tourism becoming ever more vital to the state's economy, next month will see the best accommodation hotels in NSW honoured at the industry's premiere award night – the **Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) NSW Awards for Excellence**.

The full list of finalists has now been released, with the winners to be announced at a gala function at The Westin, Sydney on Wednesday, 29 July 2015.

This year, a record 281 nominations from 67 top accommodation venues in NSW have been received, across more than 30 award categories.

Award categories range from *outstanding community service*, *best environmental practice* and *redeveloped hotel of the year* through to the *superior* and *deluxe hotels of the year* categories. Popular personnel categories include *housekeeper*, *concierge* and *chef of the year* through to the always closely contested *hotel industry rising star*.

Chair of TAA NSW Nigel Greenaway said all finalists were "world class."

"These venues really do showcase the best the NSW hotel industry has to offer – they quite simply are second to none and that is shown in the high quality of all the finalists," he said.

"Again, we have a record number of nominations and a record number of venues involved across the full range of accommodation hotel providers – from established to aspirational brands, from the regions to the Sydney CBD. This is a great cross-section of the accommodation sector and my best wishes go to all finalists."

Finalists for the prestigious *Sydney deluxe hotel of the year* include; Four Seasons Hotel Sydney, Intercontinental Sydney, Intercontinental Sydney Double Bay, Jonah's Restaurant and Boutique Hotel, QT Sydney, Shangri-La Hotel Sydney, The Darling The Star, The Langham Sydney.

Finalists for the *Regional deluxe hotel of the year* include; Chateau Elan at The Vintage and Lilianfels Resort and Spa Blue Mountains while there is a close contest for *Regional superior hotel of the year* between Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, Crowne Plaza Newcastle, Crowne Plaza Terrigal, Echoes Boutique Hotel and Restaurant, Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains, Mercure Resort Hunter Valley Gardens, Parklands Country Gardens and Lodges, Rydges Mount Panorama and the Carrington Hotel.

***Go to <http://nsw.tourismaccommodation.com.au/> for the full list of finalists.**

Media Contact: Jason Bartlett, 0433 95 46 57