

MEDIA RELEASE

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RECORD NUMBER OF HOTELS COMPETE FOR TAA NSW AWARDS

The finalists for the state's top accommodation hotel awards - the Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) NSW Awards for Excellence - were announced in Sydney today.

This year, more than 300 nominations were received from 100 top NSW venues for awards in 32 different categories.

The winners will be announced at a gala function held at The Star Event Centre on Thursday, 25 July 2019.

Award categories range from *Outstanding Community Service*, *Best Environmental Practices*, and *Best Innovation Project* through to the *Hotel of the Year* awards in Mid-Range, Superior and Deluxe categories.

The personnel categories include marketing, sales and human resource talent of the year and the always closely contested housekeeper, concierge and chef of the year.

The most competitive categories with the most nominations this year were the *Hotel Industry Rising Star* award and the *Deluxe Hotel of the Year*.

TAA NSW and National CEO Michael Johnson said the finalists are stand-out leaders in an industry which employs over 35,000 people, and is worth \$2 billion to the NSW economy.

"The high quality of all the finalists shows just how strong accommodation hotels are in NSW," he said.

"Each year the independent judges find it harder and harder to separate hotels which continue to innovate and excel in service, facilities, training and staff."

Mr Johnson said it was good to see a large number of suburban and regional venues among the finalists.

"Many of the nominated hotels are from out of the Sydney CBD – areas like Campbelltown, Cronulla, and the Hawkesbury are well represented as are hotels from the Blue Mountains, Albury, Newcastle, the Central Coast and Hunter Valley," he said.

"The TAA NSW Awards for Excellence is a chance for all venues - from anywhere in NSW - to show they truly are the best our industry has to offer."

Visit: www.taanswawards.com.au/assets/taanswawards/TAAwards2019FinalistsList8.pdf for the full list of finalists.

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