



Hon. George Souris M.P
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW wins big in national tourism awards

Tourism and Major Events Minister George Souris congratulated the record number of 11 NSW tourism operators to take out national titles in the prestigious Qantas Australian Tourism Awards held in Cairns on Friday evening.

Of 189 finalists in 27 categories, NSW tourism operators bagged 11 first places, six silver and three bronze awards.

“This is an outstanding result for NSW, demonstrating excellence in our tourism industry and highlighting the top-quality operators who are leaders among their peers,” Mr Souris said.

“NSW tourism operators were represented in all 27 categories, with eight Sydney-based businesses and operators in five regions winning accolades.

“In particular it was a great result for tourism operators in the State’s North Coast and Hunter regions, winning a total of 13 honours between them, showing the tremendous variety and quality of tourism businesses across NSW.

“All 26 NSW finalists are the cream of the crop and have displayed exceptional professionalism,” Mr Souris said.

Destination NSW Chief Executive Officer, Sandra Chipchase, said the awards were a testament to outstanding achievement in the NSW industry.

“The awards recognise tourism operators who are committed to innovation and demonstrate leadership in making the NSW tourism industry number one,” Ms Chipchase said.

“I congratulate the 26 NSW finalists, especially the 11 winners, who have worked so hard to achieve success and recognition.”

A full list of NSW award winners and finalists is attached.

Qantas Australian Tourism Awards – NSW results

Category	Entrant	Result
Major Tourist Attraction	Taronga Zoo	Silver
Tourist Attraction	The Magic of Jenolan	Winner
Major Festivals & Events	Bluesfest Byron Bay	Finalist
Festivals & Events	NSW Caravan, Camping, RV & Holiday Supershow	Winner
Ecotourism	Lane Cove River Tourist Park	Silver
Heritage & Cultural Tourism	Jenolan Cave, Written in Stone	Winner
Indigenous Tourism	Coffs Coast Aboriginal Discovery	Winner
Specialised Tourism Services	Newcastle Airport	Winner
Visitor Information & Services	Greater Port Macquarie Visitor Information Centre	Finalist
Meetings & Business Tourism	Shoal Bay Resort & Spa	Bronze
Major Tour &/or Transport Operator	Moonshadow Cruises	Bronze
Tour &/or Transport Operator	Tri State Safaris	Winner
Adventure Tourism	Tri State Safaris	Silver
Tourism Marketing	The Legendary Pacific Coast	Bronze
Tourism Education & Training	Travel 21 fiftythree	Winner
Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services	Margan Restaurant	Silver
Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Boutique Breweries	Wyndham Estate	Silver
Tourist & Caravan Parks	BIG4 North Star Holiday Resort & Caravan Park	Winner
Backpacker Accommodation	Sydney Harbour YHA	Winner
Hosted Accommodation	Mollymook Beach Waterfront	Silver
Unique Accommodation	Somewhere Unique – An Escape for 2 in the Hunter	Finalist
Standard Accommodation	Scone Motor Inn	Winner
Deluxe Accommodation	Macquarie Waters Boutique Apartment Hotel	Finalist
Luxury Accommodation	Sheraton on the Park	Finalist
New Tourism Development	Tandara, Lane Cove National Park	Finalist
Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism	Lane Cove River Tourist Park	Winner