



**Stuart Ayres**

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events

Minister for Sport

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 27 November 2015

### **INDUSTRY PRAISED AT 2015 NSW TOURISM AWARDS**

The achievements of the State's tourism industry were celebrated last night during a special ceremony at Dockside Pavilion to mark the 2015 NSW Tourism Awards.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events Stuart Ayres said these Awards provide a fantastic opportunity to publicly showcase the quality products and experiences that are continuously delivered across NSW each year.

"It was an honour to be at this year's NSW Tourism Awards and congratulate the individuals and businesses from one of the country's most important industries on their outstanding accomplishments over the last year," Mr Ayres said.

"In the year ended June 2015, the tourism industry contributed \$23.6 billion in international and domestic overnight visitor expenditure to the NSW economy.

"These phenomenal figures demonstrate the significance of recognising the thousands of individuals who have worked tirelessly to ensure NSW remains the number one tourism and events State."

The 2015 NSW Tourism Awards are made up of 29 categories including a range of tourism areas such as major tourist attractions, ecotourism, destination marketing, accommodation, tourism education and training.

Destination NSW Chief Executive Officer Sandra Chipchase said Destination NSW is proud to support the NSW Tourism Awards.

"The NSW Tourism Awards celebrate not only the winners but the finalists from across the State which is a major achievement in itself," Ms Chipchase said.

"Awards such as these provide a valuable platform to help businesses consistently strive for excellence in their respective fields and last night was a wonderful testament to the diversity and strength of the NSW tourism industry."

## **2015 WINNERS**

### **Major Tourist Attractions**

Taronga Zoo

### **Tourist Attractions**

Cape Byron State Conservation Area

### **Major Festivals and Events**

Byron Bay Bluesfest

### **Festivals and Events**

Boggabri Drivers Campfire

### **Ecotourism**

Tri State Safaris

### **Cultural Tourism**

QStation

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism**

Arakwal Dolphin Dreaming Cape Byron State Conservation Area

### **Specialised Tourism Services**

Flash Camp

### **Visitor Information Services**

Dubbo Visitor Information Centre

### **Business Event Venue**

Chateau Elan at The Vintage

### **Major Tour and Transport Operators**

AAT Kings New South Wales

### **Tour and Transport Operators**

Oz Whale Watching: Sydney Princess Cruises

### **Adventure Tourism**

TreeTops Central Coast

### **Destination Marketing**

UNSPOILT South Coast Marketing Campaign

### **Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services**

Bent on Food

### **Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries**

Margan Wines

**Caravan and Holiday Parks**

BIG4 Deniliquin Holiday Park

**Hosted Accommodation**

Eldee Station

**Unique Accommodation**

Taronga Western Plains Zoo

**Self Contained Accommodation**

Lilypad Luxury Cabins

**Standard Accommodation**

Moama on Murray Resort

**Deluxe Accommodation**

The Observatory Port Macquarie

**Luxury Accommodation**

Chateau Elan at The Vintage

**New Tourism Business**

Halcyon House

**Excellence in Food Tourism**

Margan Wines & Restaurant

**Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism**

The Observatory Port Macquarie

**Outstanding Contribution by an Individual**

Ron Cregan

**Tourism Education and Training**

Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School

**Backpacker Accommodation**

Railway Square YHA

**People's Choice**

TreeTops Central Coast