

# Local News

31/10/2024

## Story 1

Some of the most innovative and bold businesses from across NSW were recognised and celebrated at the NSW State Business Awards recently, hosted by Business NSW.

The New England North West region emerged victorious with Armidale Regional Council and its flagship event, The Big Chill Festival, winning the prestigious Outstanding Visitor Economy Collaboration Award. This award acknowledges visionary projects developed over the past year by Local Business Chambers, Local Governments, Visitor Information Centres, Tourism Industry Associations, or collaborative groups dedicated to enhancing their local and regional visitor economies.

Diane Gray, Regional Director of Business NSW for New England North West said the achievement is a remarkable milestone for Armidale Regional Council and the community, who have tirelessly crafted The Big Chill Festival into the celebrated success it is today.

## Story 2

The finalists have been announced for the NSW Tourism Awards, and the Walcha Motorcycle Rally has been named among the top events in the state.

200 award nominations were received this year, doubling the amount from previous years. The judging panel, featuring over 50 leading tourism experts, noted the increase in the quality of submissions, reflecting the growth in commitment to excellence across the state.

The Walcha Motorcycle Rally is a finalist in the Festival and Events category, which is split between events with local, interstate and international visitor attendance under 50, 000, and those events with over 50, 000, in attendance.

The winners will be announced on Thursday November 28 at a gala event in Sydney.

