

## MEDIA RELEASE

01 March 2019

### Queensland tourism shines as the State wins major gongs at Australian Tourism Awards

Queensland tourism operators had reason to celebrate at the 2018 [Qantas Australian Tourism Awards](#), taking out an impressive 17 accolades at the industry's premier national awards on Friday 1 March 2019.

Queensland's six Gold, eight Silver and three Bronze award-winning businesses were announced at a dazzling Gala Ceremony held overlooking the idyllic Cataract Gorge in Launceston, Tasmania.

The winners were among a group of 25 Queensland finalists that had taken out top spot in their respective categories at the 2018 Queensland Tourism Awards, the state's most prestigious industry recognition program hosted by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) in partnership with Queensland Airports Limited and Tourism and Events Queensland.

Australian Tourism Awards Chair and QTIC Chief Executive Daniel Gschwind said the calibre of finalists from across the country was exceptional and showed that Queensland operators could compete at the highest level.

"It's a coup for the entire state to have 17 Queensland businesses and events honoured on a national level," Mr Gschwind said.

"We have certainly booked our reputation for hosting outstanding events with the annual Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers inducted into the prestigious National Hall of Fame – the State's first inductee in a decade.

"It was also fantastic to see the awards spread across the State, with operators from Tropical North Queensland to the Gold Coast getting a piece of the action – it was a great night to be a Queenslander."

Queensland locals, the Irwin family, was also awarded the prestigious title of *Australian Tourism Legends* – recognising their continued contribution to Australian tourism through the promotion of Australia as a destination of choice, and their tireless work in protecting the environment and ensuring the quality of our destinations are maintained for future generations.

"To reach the finalists stage of the Australian Tourism Awards is a great honour in itself and all finalists should be immensely proud of their achievements.

"These winners are truly the best of the best, with strong competition across all categories this year," Mr Gschwind said.

Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said the results highlighted the strength of Queensland's world-class tourism industry.

## MEDIA RELEASE

01 March 2019

“Queensland’s \$25 billion tourism industry has boomed over the last 12 months. With a \$14 billion pipeline for tourism infrastructure pipeline, an \$800 million major events calendar and great trends in domestic and international visitor numbers, we know this sector will continue to grow in the future,” Ms Jones said.

“I’m so proud of all the Queensland winners and nominees recognised at the Australian Tourism Awards tonight and I congratulate them for their outstanding contributions to our industry.

“Our Government, in partnership with QTIC, will continue to be strong advocates for advancing Queensland’s tourism industry to ensure we achieve ongoing growth and success.”

More information is available at [www.australiantourismawards.com.au](http://www.australiantourismawards.com.au) or [www.qtic.com.au](http://www.qtic.com.au).

– ENDS –

### Note for Media:

- Media are asked to refrain from contacting award recipients until after **10.30pm on Friday 1 March 2019**.
- Images from the winning entries and operators are available upon request.
- A full list of Queensland finalists can be provided upon request.

### MEDIA CONTACTS

Georgia Roberts, BBS Communications Group, (07) 3221 6711 / 0428 043 388  
[groberts@bbscommunications.com.au](mailto:groberts@bbscommunications.com.au)

Cassie Charlish, BBS Communications Group, (07) 3221 6711 / 0448 458 592  
[ccharlish@bbscommunications.com.au](mailto:ccharlish@bbscommunications.com.au)

### 2018 Australian Tourism Award Winners – Queensland

Individual		
<a href="#">The Irwin family</a>	Australian Tourism Legend	Sunshine Coast, Queensland
GOLD		
<a href="#">BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort</a>	Caravan and Holiday Parks	Whitsundays
<a href="#">Fun Over Fifty</a>	Ecotourism	Brisbane
<a href="#">Bundaberg Rum Visitor Experience</a>	Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries	Bundaberg

## MEDIA RELEASE

01 March 2019

<a href="#">Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers</a>	Major Festivals and Events – Hall of Fame	Southern Queensland Country
<a href="#">Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo</a>	Festivals and Events	Outback
<a href="#">Red Cat Adventures</a>	Major Tour and Transport Operators	Whitsundays
<b>SILVER</b>		
<a href="#">Capricorn Caves</a>	Tourist Attractions	Capricorn
<a href="#">Grand Hotel and Apartments Townsville</a>	Standard Accommodation	Townsville
<a href="#">Small World Journeys</a>	Specialised Tourism Services	Tropical North Queensland
<a href="#">Sarina Sugar Shed</a>	Excellence in Food Tourism	Mackay
<a href="#">Paronella Park</a>	Cultural Tourism	Tropical North Queensland
<a href="#">Ocean Safari</a>	Tour and Transport Operators	Tropical North Queensland
<a href="#">Cobbold Village</a>	Hosted Accommodation	Outback/Tropical North Queensland
<a href="#">Whitsunday Escape</a>	Unique Accommodation	Whitsundays
<b>BRONZE</b>		
<a href="#">Novotel Twin Waters Resort</a>	Business Event Venues	Sunshine Coast
<a href="#">RACV Royal Pines Resort</a>	Luxury Accommodation	Gold Coast
<a href="#">Mossman Gorge Centre</a>	Qantas Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism	Tropical North Queensland