

8 June 2021

## **ENTRIES OPEN FOR THE 2022 IMB BANK ILLAWARRA BUSINESS AWARDS**

Today entries open for the 2022 IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards, which promises to be bigger than ever and will again celebrate the excellence, diversity and resilience of our region's business community.

Executive Director of Business Illawarra Adam Zarth said that he and his team were incredibly excited to be announcing the opening of the 2022 awards season and welcomed IMB Bank as Principal Partner for a seventh consecutive year.

"The IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards is the region's largest and most prestigious business awards program and present an unparalleled opportunity to celebrate the combined successes of private enterprise across our vibrant and diverse business community," said Mr Zarth.

"Entry into the awards program provides participants the opportunity to reflect on their business journey and bring recognition to the hard work and dedication of their team and those around them."

"Now is the time to start thinking about who has excelled in business, and encourage your friends, family members and colleagues to enter the region's most prestigious awards program. As ever, the process can be as rewarding as the outcome and allows entrants to share their unique story with our region's business leaders as part of the judging process."

Chief Executive Officer of IMB Bank, Robert Ryan, said that IMB Bank is proud to be a partner and supporter to many exceptional businesses throughout the Illawarra and is pleased to be supporting the Awards for a seventh year running.

"Given the challenges small business has faced over the past 24 months managing through the impacts of the global pandemic, it is important we recognise their resilience and the pivotal role they continue to play in building strong, thriving communities - and the IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards do just that," said Mr Ryan.

An annual highlight of the Illawarra business calendar, the 2022 IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards gala ceremony will be held on Friday, 14 October at the WIN Entertainment Centre. This year's program theme, La Dolce Vita, captures the essence of the 'the sweet life' and seeks to transport the business community to the sun, salt air and terraced gardens of Italy's picturesque Amalfi Coast.

There are 15 categories open for entry that will recognise the achievements of business across a wide range of areas including customer service, tourism, hospitality, workplace culture, innovation, sustainability and export, as well as individual awards for outstanding employees and business leaders. This year we have introduced a brand-new category, Excellence in Tech, which asks entrants to demonstrate their contributions to the Illawarra's leading Tech industry.

Winners in aligned categories will go through to compete against the best in the NSW State Business Awards hosted by Business NSW later in the year.

To enter, visit [www.businessillawarra.com](http://www.businessillawarra.com) or get in touch via [awards@businessillawarra.com](mailto:awards@businessillawarra.com) for more information.

**Media Contact: Chloe Leach (0457 086 496)**

**KEY PROGRAM DATES**

- Entries Open 8 June 2022 at 9.00am
- Entry Deadline 12 July 2022 at 5.00pm
- Finalists Announced 31 August 2022
- Black-tie Gala Ceremony 14 October 2022
- NSW State Business Awards 18 November 2022

**2022 PRINCIPAL PARTNER**

- IMB Bank

**2022 CATEGORIES**

1. Excellence in Customer Service
2. Excellence in Tech
3. Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality
4. Excellence in Workplace Culture
5. Excellence in Innovation
6. Excellence in Sustainability
7. Excellence in Import & Export
8. Outstanding Employee
9. Outstanding Young Business Leader
10. Outstanding Business Leader
11. Outstanding Community Organisation
12. Outstanding Start-up
13. Excellence in Micro Business
14. Excellence in Small Business
15. Excellence in Large Business
16. IMB Bank Business of the Year (*not open for entry*)