

18 July 2024

**IMB BANK ANNOUNCED AS PRINCIPAL PARTNER  
FOR THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLAWARRA BUSINESS AWARDS**

Business Illawarra and IMB Bank are delighted to announce continuation of their longstanding partnership, with IMB Bank returning as the Principal Partner for the 2024 Illawarra Business Awards.

IMB Bank's ongoing support for the local business community demonstrates an unwavering commitment to fostering growth and creating opportunities across the region. This collaboration highlights the strong alliance between Business Illawarra and IMB Bank in championing regional business excellence.

Paula Martin, Interim Executive Director of Business Illawarra, is enthusiastic about presenting the 2024 awards season with IMB Bank as Principal Partner.

"We are proud to announce the 2024 IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards, a fantastic platform to spotlight the outstanding businesses from the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, and Southern Highlands regions," said Ms. Martin. "With their long history in the region as both a successful business and friend to businesses, IMB Bank is a natural fit for the Awards, and we are very pleased to again welcome IMB as Principal Partner."

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, the 2024 awards have garnered over 145 entries from businesses across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. Written judging will conclude shortly, with finalists progressing to the second phase of judging, set to be announced on Wednesday, 31 July.

"Entry into the awards program allows participants to reflect on their business journey and bring recognition to the hard work and dedication of their teams and supporters," Ms. Martin added.

Robert Ryan, Chief Executive of IMB Bank, acknowledged the importance of businesses and their contribution throughout the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. "Business is the engine of local economies, delivering goods, services and employment that make our communities dynamic, resilient and liveable. IMB is proud to again support Business Illawarra to champion the outstanding achievements of businesses in the region and we look forward to hearing the inspirational outcomes showcased in the 2024 IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards," Mr Ryan said.

The 2024 black-tie gala ceremony is scheduled for Friday, 13 September, at the WIN Entertainment Centre. Fifteen categories recognise the achievements across various sectors. Winners in aligned categories will continue to vie for top honours at the NSW State Business Awards hosted by Business NSW in October.

Get in touch via [awards@businessillawarra.com](mailto:awards@businessillawarra.com) for more information.

**— ENDS —**

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## 2024 KEY PROGRAM DATES

Live Finalist Announcement  
Black-tie Gala Ceremony

Wednesday 31 July – City Beach Function Centre  
Friday, 13 September - WIN Entertainment Centre

## 2024 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 International Business
8. Outstanding Employee
9. Outstanding Young Business Leader
10. Outstanding Business Leader
11. Outstanding Community Organisation
12. Outstanding New Business
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*)