



Rob Stokes MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
Minister for the Central Coast
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL PARKS AND ZOO SCOOP TOURISM AWARDS

Environment Minister Rob Stokes today congratulated staff at National Parks and Wildlife Service and Taronga Zoo on their multiple honours at the NSW Tourism Awards.

Mr Stokes said Taronga Zoo took out the Gold award for Major Tourist Attraction, while Taronga Western Plains Zoo won gold in the Tourist Attraction award and the Unique Accommodation category for their Zoofari Lodge and Billabong Camp.

“It’s great to see our zoos recognised in this way. At their heart, zoos are about creating meaningful connections between their visitors and wildlife conservation, so this is a unique achievement all round,” Mr Stokes said.

“NSW national parks took out six awards, recognising their excellence in visitor experiences.

“The World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park received Silver in the major tourist attraction category, while the Blue Mountains Walking Tracks also received a Bronze award in the Heritage and Culture category.

“Yanga National Park in the far south west of NSW received Silver in the Heritage and Cultural tourism category. This award recognises the celebration of pastoral history at the park with modern twists including audio tours and interactive iPad displays.

“The Silver Indigenous Tourism Award was won by Cape Byron State Conservation Area’s Arakwal Dreaming collaboration, which offers creative education and tourism programs to promote deeper cultural awareness in respecting, valuing and appreciating Arakwal Country.

“Cape Byron State Conservation Area also won a Silver award for the Tourism Attraction category.

“The Dorrigo National Park won Bronze in the ecotourism category.

“These award winners reflect the extraordinary dedication among parks and zoo staff in bringing the beauty and wonder of the natural world to our community.”

Now in their 25th year, the NSW Tourism Awards are presented by Tourism Industry - a division of the NSW Business Chamber - and proudly supported by Destination NSW.