



PRESS RELEASE 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

Chamber announces Business Awards finalists

The finalists in this year's Waikato Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, supported by Fosters, were announced tonight at an invitation-only event at SkyCity.

Entrants, sponsors and judges gathered to hear the line-up of finalists for 11 categories. CEO of the Year doesn't have finalists; the winner of that category will be announced on the night of the gala dinner on November 21.

And the gala dinner is shaping up to be even bigger than last year. The event was held for the first time in the GloboxArena last year as it had outgrown where it used to be held at Claudelands. Chamber marketing and events manager Rebecca Aston said tickets to the dinner are selling faster than they did last year.

"I'm really excited to see this year's gala dinner come together. We had incredible feedback from people last year about the new, larger venue and I know guests are going to be wowed even more this year, with the scale of the event, the atmosphere we're creating, and the extra touches we've added to make it a truly memorable night."

Head judge Dr Heather Connolly said the awards play an important role in celebrating achievement and strengthening the business community.

"This year the panel of 30 judges were not only impressed by the outstanding quality of the finalists, but also by the number of entries we received," Dr Connolly said.

"The entries highlighted an incredible variety of innovation and excellence, and the standard overall was very high. It's also inspiring to see so many businesses putting themselves forward for the first time, bringing fresh stories, new perspectives, and real energy into the awards.

"As judges it's a privilege to gain an inside look at the dedicated people behind these businesses, to learn about the challenges they've overcome, and to see first-hand what makes each of them so unique. Every business has a story worth telling, and these awards provide a platform to shine a well-deserved spotlight on that success."

Rebecca extended thanks to the Business Awards sponsors and judges for their ongoing support.

The Waikato Business Awards are supported by Fosters, while the category sponsors are: Company-X, Fairview Motors, Deloitte, Hamilton Airport, Kiwibank, Montana Food & Events, Sleepyhead, Oyonnx, Trust Waikato, Union Square, the University of Waikato, Wintec and 2degrees.

Tickets for the gala dinner, to be held at Claudelands Event Centre on November 21 are available for purchase at <https://business.waikatochamber.co.nz/events/details/2025-waikato-chamber-of-commerce-business-awards-4942?calendarMonth=2025-11-01>

List of finalists (in alphabetical order)

Best Emerging Business

Get Loaded Catering
Hamilton Pet Transport
Pact Steel

Business Growth & Strategy

Bettle Associates
Deep Dive Division
The Rite Group

Community Contribution

Action Manufacturing
My Mortgage

For Purpose

Braemar Charitable Trust
ConneXu 2020 Trust
Rauawaawa Kāumatua Charitable Trust

Innovation

Action Manufacturing
Deep Dive Division
Iconic Construction
RML Machinery

International Trade

Satco
Showcase Entertainment Group

Marketing

Iconic Construction
Rabobank
Volare Bread
Waikato Milking Systems

People & Culture

Action Manufacturing

Kmart Ruakura Distribution Centre
RML Machinery
Sentinel Homes Waikato

Service Excellence

JetPark Hamilton Airport Hotel & Conference Centre
Sentinel Homes Waikato
The Red Barn
TOLBECS Ear Clinic

Sustainability

Action Manufacturing
Pact Steel
The Red Barn

Emerging Leader of the Year finalists

Claire Williamson – My Mortgage
Stephanie Matatahi – JMM Insulation
Tim Doyle – Doyle Accountants

Ends

Media inquiries: Rebecca Aston Phone 027 423 4277
Email: rebecca.aston@waikatochamber.co.nz