WALCHA MOTORCYCLE WEEKEND ANNOUNCED AS FINALIST IN THE 2020 NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Walcha Council is pleased to announce that our 2019 Walcha Motorcycle Weekend event has been listed as a finalist in the 2020 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards in the Local Economic Contribution category. The awards are administered by NSW Local Government Professionals NSW and are designed to celebrate outstanding achievements, whilst promoting innovation and continuous improvement within NSW local government.

Council's Tourism team Susie Crawford and Lisa Kirton led the fast tracked event development and implementation after the original event organisers went into administration with only four weeks to go. Many of our local business were depending on the event to bring in much needed stimulus in time for Christmas when our community was tackling challenges faced through the ongoing drought and the bushfire crisis.

The local economic benefit of the event was estimated to contribute approximately $300k to Walcha with over 1,100 day trippers and visitors from all over the country. The NSW Government has approved $70,000 of grant funds through the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund to plan and organise a long term future for the event.

Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes says, "*The path to a successful event under unexpected time pressure is a credit to our community, businesses and Council. The leadership and skills of the hastily formed committee, led by our talented tourism team, and funding from Primary Health Network and Local MP Kevin Anderson delivered an exceptional event, and one certainly worthy as a finalist in this award category.*"

"*No matter the result of this award, I would like to acknowledge the combined effort of our community, businesses, Councillors and staff that made this event a huge success.*" says Mayor Noakes.

The award winners will be announced in July through a series of online events.

For interviews phone Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes on 0428 774 504

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