

## PRESS RELEASE 8 JULY 2024 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Record number of entries for Waikato Business Awards**

The Waikato Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, supported by Foster Construction Group, has received a record number of entries for 2024.

There are 88 entries across different categories. "That's the is the most we have ever had and is 11 more than last year," said marketing and events manager Rebecca Aston.

"We're thrilled to see so many emerging and established businesses entering; it's a great opportunity to focus on your business to identify strengths and competitive advantages as well as areas that might benefit from more focus."

This year's categories are: business growth and strategy; service excellence; people and culture, CEO of the year, for purpose, innovation; sustainability; marketing; small business of the year; emerging leader of the year; community contribution; and international trade.

Head judge Dr Heather Connolly said her team of 31 judges will soon be conducting site visits across various locations in the Waikato, for the 10 business categories and conducting interviews for the 2 individual categories.

"All entrants receive independent assessment and feedback from our experienced judges. It really provides the business with advice to grow, develop and improve," Dr Connolly said.

Finalists will be announced on September 18 at Ninja Valley, which was the recipient of last year's people and culture award.

The Awards Gala Dinner will be held on November 15 at Globox Arena, Claudelands.

To register to attend the finalist announcement event go to <a href="https://business.waikatochamber.co.nz/events/details/2024-waikato-business-awards-finalist-announcement-4675?calendarMonth=2024-09-01">https://business.waikatochamber.co.nz/events/details/2024-waikato-business-awards-finalist-announcement-4675?calendarMonth=2024-09-01</a>

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The Waikato Business Awards are supported by Foster Construction Group, while the category sponsors are: Company-X, Deloitte, Hamilton Airport, Kiwibank, Montana Food & Events, Sleepyhead, Trust Waikato, the University of Waikato, Wintec and 2degrees.