

Berries Australia wins 'Highly Commended' at 2020 SafeWork NSW Awards



SafeWork NSW's annual work health and safety awards were announced on 29 October at an online event, marking the conclusion of Safe Work Month 2020.

The awards attracted an impressive 610 entries with 16 award recipients selected in categories representing small and large businesses throughout NSW. Government agencies and member organisations were also acknowledged. This year businesses and organisations were recognised for their efforts putting workplace systems in place and supporting members to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Eight outstanding and eight highly commended award recipients were announced across two categories.

Category 1: Outstanding work health and safety response to the changed working environment due to COVID-19

This category recognises excellence with outstanding awards, and also acknowledges the efforts and achievements of finalists with highly commended awards.

Category 2: Outstanding work health and safety support to members in the changed working environment due to COVID-19

This category recognises excellence in unions and industry associations with outstanding awards, and also acknowledges the efforts and achievements with highly commended awards.

Berries Australia was nominated in Category 2 for our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was in recognition of the extraordinary work carried out by the team across the country to try to ensure all berry growers had easy access to the very latest information required to manage their business through these unprecedented times.

Led by Executive Director Rachel Mackenzie, the team of Industry Development Officers (IDO) and communication professionals rapidly stepped in to manage the flow of relevant information from the wider world directly to each grower through our range of communication tools, whether they be a small family business or a large corporate farm entity.

"We felt it was our role to take the diverse array of information that was on the table for members, basically collate it, curate it and communicate it."

Berries Australia was particularly commended for the tools produced – like the COVID-19 Berry Farm Checklist – which were shared to help growers work their way through the minefield of risk assessments and new processes that the pandemic brought with it.

"I would like to give a big shout out to my team – I did not do this on my own, and actually having IDO's on the ground around Australia meant that we were getting really up-to-date feedback on what the issues and concerns of growers were.

So that feedback loop was short and we were able to get information back out to them and allay their anxieties and make sure that they can keep doing their job which is growing great fresh produce for Australians," said Rachel.

