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BEST IN BUSINESS

By **TROY DODDS**

SIX local businesses are in line to take home a prestigious Western Sydney Industry Award after being nominated across a variety of categories.

Minister for Western Sydney, Diane Beamer, announced the finalists for this year's awards last week and said it was important to encourage, highlight and reward business innovation and excellence in western Sydney.

"It is a big achievement to be named a finalist in these awards – one fifth of Australia's top 500 companies are located in western Sydney and each year we discover more leading-edge businesses," Ms Beamer said.

"The awards have a vigorous judging process, ensuring that finalists are performing to world-class standards and demonstrating excellence and innovation."

The five awards up for grabs are Global Excellence, Excellence in Innovation, Leader in Business Practice, Regional Excellence and Entrepreneur of the Year.

Local nominees this year include Samburt Locksmiths from South Penrith who are in line to win the Entrepreneur of the Year award, Lindsay PieMaking Equipment from Emu Plains who are in the Regional Excellence category and EZI-Automation from Penrith who have been nominated in both the Regional Excellence and the Excellence in Innovation categories.

Delfin Lend Lease – Ropes Crossing from St Marys has also been nominated in the Regional Excellence category while Freshwater Environmental Management from Emu Plains has been nominated both in the Excellence in Innovation and Leader in Business Practice categories. Alpha One Industrial Cleaning Services from Glenmore Park has been nominated in the Regional Excellence category.

Brett McVea from Samburt Locksmiths says being nominated is an incredible honour.



Some of the businesses nominated for gongs at the Western Sydney Industry Awards gather with Karyn Paluzzano and Diane Beamer.

"It's just great – it's the second year in a row we've been nominated, but we missed out on winning last year. It's a great experience, however," Mr McVea said.

"Last year just being a finalist was great – it created a lot of interest and I had calls from right across the country."

Mr McVea says he believes his business has been singled out for special attention thanks to their quest to go one step

further for their customers.

"We have a determination to help people," he said. "We like to go one step further and make sure they are comfortable."

Ms Beamer said 20 of the 35 finalists this year were new to the Western Sydney Industry Awards, demonstrating the depth of diversity and talent among western Sydney's business community.