



## LUCY LANGTRY & ROD SMITH WIN 2017 KENNEDY AWARD

PRIME7's excellence and commitment to regional news reporting has been recognised once again at the NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence In Journalism.

PRIME7 Local News reporter **Lucy Langtry** and camera operator **Rod Smith** won the prestigious '*Paul Lockyer Award For Outstanding Regional Broadcast Reporting*' for their live coverage of the devastating Northern Rivers floods in March 2017.

On 31 March 2017, the Northern Rivers region was devastated by a once in a generation flood following Cyclone Debbie which savaged North Queensland earlier that week. North Coast reporter Lucy Langtry and camera operator Rod Smith were assigned to cover the natural disaster ravaging their home town under trying circumstances.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Lismore based duo, Lucy Langtry said, "I am so honoured to receive this award on behalf of the entire PRIME7 News team, Rod and I couldn't have done it without such an incredible team supporting us - from everyone in the field, to the studio, the producers and directors. The Northern Rivers floods were devastating, and to this day it is still an uphill battle for the local community."

PRIME7 Head of News Paul Patrick commented, "We are thrilled to have another Kennedy Award winning news team working with PRIME7 Local News, the industry accolade is a testament to Lucy and Rod's outstanding work and dedication to reporting quality journalism. Regional broadcasting is about connecting with the local community and providing critical information that viewers would not otherwise get from metropolitan broadcasters."

"Regional news matters because regional communities matter. We are privileged to have the chance to tell their stories on a daily basis", added Langtry.

Now in its sixth year, the NRMA Kennedy Awards include nominations from media professionals from all major metropolitan and regional newspapers, television and radio networks, international journalists, photographers and artists. The winners were announced on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August at a gala presentation ceremony held at the Royal Randwick's Grand Ballroom.

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