

Tuesday, 1 December 2020

BORDER OPENINGS EARLY ACCOMMODATION CHRISTMAS GIFT

Today's inter-state border re-opening is the beginning of the "open flow" domestic tourism the accommodation sector has been waiting for, the nation's top tourism accommodation body said.

Tourism Accommodation Australia CEO Michael Johnson said the re-opening of the borders between Victoria and NSW / Queensland and NSW / and Queensland and Victoria was "the big chance we've been waiting for."

"There's no doubt it will see the long awaited return of "open flow" domestic tourism which has been lacking for most of the year," Mr Johnson said.

"People are now able to book those Christmas and summer holidays they have been longing for during the long period of COVID shutdowns.

"In fact, bookings have already started, with CBD hotels in Sydney and Melbourne now welcoming interstate travellers back. Tourism areas like the Gold Coast and North Queensland are also set to receive a boost as Victorians and Sydney residents are finally able to head north once again. In many cases this will lead to more jobs and the re-employment of staff put off during the pandemic.

"The border openings are an early Christmas gift for the accommodation sector as we head into the busy summer period after what has been a tough year. And with the international borders still shut, there has never been a better time to experience the best Australia has to offer."

Mr Johnson said there were glimmers of hope for a better year for the sector in 2021 now most internal borders were open.

"Planning for 2021 meetings and conferences will now start to take shape as we watch our industry finally taking steps towards recovery," he said.

"Areas in regional NSW are already experiencing some recovery thanks to intra-state travel – particularly during the recent school holidays – we have strong hopes that will continue over summer with inter-state travellers added to the mix. Hotels have strong COVIDsafe policies in place and will continue to be at the forefront in the fight against COVID."

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