



MEDIA RELEASE

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TOURISM ACCOMMODATION AUSTRALIA WELCOMES PLAN TO REINVIGORATE TRANS-TASMAN AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL

The nation's leading accommodation body, Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA), has welcomed news that some restrictions on travel, including flights to and from New Zealand, could be eased earlier than expected.

TAA National CEO Michael Johnson said the possibility of re-opening domestic borders and creating an international 'travel bubble' between Australia and New Zealand are the first positive signs for the industry since the COVID-19 crisis began earlier this year.

"We have to take this one step at a time - and we have to do it right," Mr Johnson said.

"However, we certainly welcome any new initiatives from the Australian and New Zealand governments, individual states and territories and airlines which could see our struggling tourism industry finally start to re-emerge.

"It is certainly fair to say an opportunity for safe overseas travel would be welcomed by both Australians and New Zealanders.

Mr Johnson said any earlier than expected return to domestic travel was also welcome news, along with an announcement that airlines, including QANTAS, plan to slash the price of airfares.

"When interstate travel might recommence safely depends on individual states and territories agreeing to ease border restrictions, but with QANTAS announcing some domestic airfares could drop as low as \$19, we certainly hope tourism will soon begin to find its feet," he said.

"Domestic travel is a \$62 billion industry and as Australia's authoritative voice for the hotel sector, we are pleased to be working alongside Government, industry leaders and the aviation sector, to roadmap our way toward a COVID safe and profitable tourism economy."

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