



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday, 7 July 2020**

### **NSW/VIC BORDER CLOSURE DISAPPOINTING BUT NECESSARY**

The nation's leading tourism accommodation body has renewed calls for the JobKeeper program to be extended until next year following the closure of the NSW-Victorian border.

Tourism Accommodation Australia CEO Michael Johnson said while health obviously had to come first, the closure was another blow to the struggling hospitality and accommodation sector in both states, especially in the regions.

"Health is obviously paramount and the industry has always put the health of staff and customers first ever since COVID-19 hit our shores – we continue to do so," Mr Johnson said.

"This is another blow to an accommodation sector which was already on its knees – especially for hotels in regional areas of NSW and Victoria which had just started to see some holiday makers and business travellers' return."

Mr Johnson said TAA and the Australian Hotels Association had been making representations to the Federal Government for some time about the urgent need to extend the JobKeeper program into next year to "ensure hospitality and hotel businesses can retain as many staff as possible."

"Unfortunately, this border closure between our two largest states means many hotels which were already on the brink will struggle even further," he said.

"It shows the very real need for JobKeeper to be extended to protect the hundreds of thousands of jobs in the hospitality sector.

"We were taking a step forward with the opening of the Queensland border later this week but this puts many hotels back to square one.

"The industry has a long and uncertain future ahead and that is why JobKeeper needs to be retained and extended."

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