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NEW ZEALAND TRAVEL BUBBLE FIRST STEP IN BREAKING VISITOR DROUGHT

Tourism Accommodation Australia has welcomed the first flights to land in Sydney as part of the New Zealand ‘travel bubble’.

National CEO of Australia’s leading tourism accommodation body, Michael Johnson, said he hopes the trickle of initial visitors will quickly grow into a much-needed boost for struggling accommodation hotels.

“The majority of the 350 people landing in Sydney today are Australians returning home, but our hotels are hopeful this new bubble is the start of us opening up again to international tourists where safe to do so,” said Mr Johnson.

“After months with no international travellers and state border closures this feels like the first small step towards normality.

“CBD hotels in cities like Sydney (and obviously Melbourne) are operating more than 70 percent down in room revenue compared to this time last year. Traditional iconic travel international destinations like Uluru, Gold Coast and Cairns are well below capacity.”

“Our hotels are COVIDSafe, we have the staff and we have the rooms – we just need the visitors.”

Mr Johnson said the New Zealand bubble will not only bring visitors into the long-suffering CBD’s of Sydney and Darwin, but will also bring in much-needed working holiday makers for our regions.

“Working holiday makers are a key part of the hospitality workforce and we are already seeing skills shortages, particularly in the regions, where more Australians are now taking advantage of the chance to holiday in their own backyard.”

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