

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

BUDGET GOOD NEWS FOR STRUGGLING ACOMMODATION SECTOR

Tourism Accommodation Australia National CEO Michael Johnson said the Federal Budget focus on jobs and regional tourism was a welcome boost for the struggling accommodation sector.

Mr Johnson said measures like the direct wage subsidy scheme, JobMaker Hiring Credit and instant asset write-off would have an immediate boost for large, medium and small accommodation venues.

“We welcome the emphasis on jobs in last night’s Budget and accommodation hotels are ready to play our role in getting more Australians back to work,” said Johnson.

“Jobs in our hard-hit sector can be created instantly once the demand returns. We have staff ready to work and we have rooms ready to be occupied as soon as domestic tourists begin freely moving around the country again.”

Mr Johnson said businesses heavily reliant on international tourism will benefit from a \$50 million Regional Tourism Recovery Budget initiative to help them adapt their offerings to appeal to domestic visitors.

The additional round of the Building Better Regions Fund will see half of the \$200 million for projects dedicated to tourism-related infrastructure and \$61.7 million of the COVID-19 recovery fund will be invested in heritage upgrades, conservation work and reef building to create more fishing and diving spots.

“Our industry has suffered more than almost any other and until international travel resumes we will continue to need this kind of support,” he said.

“It is pleasing to see the Federal government has listened to our concerns.”

Mr Johnson also welcomed the new subsidies for apprenticeships and said the sector would need more than 16,000 chefs over the next five years.

“Food service industries employed 11,290 apprentices in 2019 with 5,400 new entrants,” he said.

“The industry used to employ more than 10,000 new apprentices each year but that number has been steadily declining.

“This new subsidy extends to small, medium and large-sized businesses and will hopefully see hundreds of new apprentices and trainees come into our industry as we work on our road to recovery.

“The JobMaker Hiring Credit and direct wage subsidy schemes will also be massive boosts to a sector which has kept accruing debt during restricted trading.”

Media Contact: Craig Vaughan 0423 796 382