

**Tuesday, 6 April 2021**

## **AUSTRALIAN-NZ TRAVEL BUBBLE “STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION”**

Today’s announcement of a quarantine-free Australia-New Zealand travel bubble from 18 April was a “step in the right direction” for the beleaguered Australian tourism industry, said Tourism Accommodation Australia CEO Michael Johnson this afternoon.

“With a new quarantine-free environment of both sides of the Tasman for travellers we will finally see the struggling hotel, hospitality, tourism and visitor economies of both nations benefit,” he said.

“The opening of NZ will also allow us to begin to fine tune our international arrival and departure systems once again in preparation for the rest of the world - once worldwide and Australian vaccinations are successfully rolled out.

“Australians have been starved of international travel for more than a year now so I’m sure many of us will be heading across the ditch to sample the delights of New Zealand – especially the ski fields as colder months approach.

“Our Kiwi cousins also enjoy the relative warmth of our Aussie winters so we can expect an influx to hard-hit tourism spots like Cairns, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

“This is a piece of good news for a tourism and accommodation sector which has had very little to smile about for more than 12 months – especially with many worried about the economic impact of the end of JobKeeper.”

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