



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 27 February 2020

TRAVEL BANS IMPACT MARDI GRAS HOTEL BOOKINGS

The state's peak accommodation body, Tourism Accommodation Australia, is calling on Sydneysiders to stay a night in the city this Mardi Gras with hotel bookings currently down 10% due to COVID-19 and travel bans.

TAA NSW CEO Michael Johnson said Mardi Gras was traditionally one of the busiest times of the year for accommodation hotel providers in the Sydney CBD.

"Mardi Gras is an internationally recognised event which brings tens of thousands of people from around the world to Sydney," Mr Johnson said.

"It is the second biggest annual event in terms of economic uplift in NSW, generating about \$30million.

"But fears of COVID-19 and the on-going bans on tourist travel from China have definitely had an impact with hotel general managers reporting bookings down about 10% on last year.

"Mardi Gras in the city is an experience not to be missed. Sydneysiders should not miss this perfect opportunity to feel like a tourist in your own city, view the parade then relax and stay the night in the CBD."

Mr Johnson said TAA was working closely with the State and Federal Government on the travel ban issue.

"Our tourism bodies are doing all they can to re-direct resources to mitigate the fallout and ensure we entice travellers in new and existing markets," he said.

"There are uncertain times ahead but we are a resilient industry."

Media Contact: Jason Bartlett 0433 95 46 57