

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2020**

## **HOPE ON THE HORIZON AS NSW GOVERNMENT EASES COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

The state's leading tourism accommodation body has praised the further lifting of COVID-19 restrictions from 1 July, with TAA NSW CEO Michael Johnson saying it will make a "real difference" for many hotels.

Mr Johnson said the loosening of restrictions on how many people will be allowed into functions, as well as sporting and cultural events, would be a game changer for the struggling accommodation sector.

"Many hotels are actually still holding conference bookings for July," he said.

"Thanks to the NSW Government's weekend announcement, a number of these conferences will now be green-lighted with a COVID-safe checklist plan in place to ensure social distancing and robust hygiene and cleaning protocols occur.

"The move follows strong representations from TAA to the State Government.

"The changes will finally give our industry the chance to holding meetings and business events – albeit under the 4sq metre ruling."

Mr Johnson said accommodation hotels have been operating at sub-20% occupancies for many months now.

"Opening up sporting and cultural events to 25% of normal capacity from 1 July is the first step in creating the much needed drivers which will finally attract customers back into our venues," he said.

"I would like to thank the Premier Gladys Berejiklian and the NSW Government for these new measures."

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