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**JOBKEEPER AND COMMERCIAL LEASING TOP AGENDA AS TAA NSW
BOARD MEETS AFTER MONTHS OF ISOLATION**

The board of the state's top tourism accommodation body, Tourism Accommodation Australia NSW, has held its first socially-distanced but face-to-face meeting after months of dealing with the COVID-19 crisis remotely.

TAA NSW CEO Michael Johnson said the successful board meeting, held at the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney recently, was the "first in-person" gathering since February.

Topping the agenda was changes to JobKeeper 2.0 as well as the commercial leases code of conduct – due to expire in NSW in October.

"Recent changes to Jobkeeper 2.0 have been well received, however, TAA NSW will be pushing for some additional measures at both the Federal and NSW levels to support the many hotels which have been decimated during the crisis," he said.

"Border closures around the country continue to ensure hotels are operating in sub- 20 per cent occupancies across the Sydney CBD and it is just not sustainable.

"It is also critical the NSW government extend the Commercial Leases Code of Conduct for the life of Jobkeeper, which is now March 2021.

"The code of conduct agreement is keeping many hotel businesses in NSW afloat but it is due to expire in NSW in October."

Mr Johnson said it was also refreshing for the board to have Destination NSW's new CEO Steve Cox join the meeting.

"With the challenges ahead, Steve is confident of the Premier state pulling out of this crisis with a solid strategic plan to map out the road to recovery," he said.

"On another note, I was also extremely impressed with the professional way the Four Seasons implemented its COVID-safe plan for the meeting."

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