

Thursday, April 8 2021

MINISTER UPDATES HOTEL LEADERS ON VOUCHER PROGRAM

The NSW government's \$20 million accommodation voucher scheme was the topic of the day when NSW Tourism Minister Stuart Ayres addressed the Tourism Accommodation Australia NSW GM's lunch.

The Minister spoke to more than 30 general managers and industry partners from Sydney's leading accommodation hotels at the lunch held at the new ballroom in Crown Towers, Barangaroo.

TAA NSW CEO Michael Johnson said it was great for the leaders of Sydney's struggling accommodation hotel sector to hear the government's plans for recovery directly from the minister himself.

"The most reassuring news for the gathered GM's was the update on the NSW Government's \$20 million accommodation voucher scheme targeting hotels in Sydney," said Mr Johnson.

"While some details are still to be worked out, the scheme will hopefully start sooner rather than later and it was welcome news for Sydney hotel managers who are dealing with consistently low mid-week occupancies and the staffing dilemmas caused by the end of JobKeeper."

Minister Ayres spoke for 30 minutes and then took questions. He covered a range of issues from the development of the Badgerys Creek Airport, NSW Dine and Discover vouchers, the end of JobKeeper and the opening up of NSW – The Premier State post COVID.

Mr Johnson said the minister's attendance was appreciated by both the Association and the gathered members.

"Our industry is still hurting and it is refreshing to see a minister who is such a great supporter of the sector and willing to give up his time," said Mr Johnson.

"And I must also thank the management and team of one of our newest members, Crown Towers, Barangaroo, for putting on such a wonderful event.

"The ballroom is an impressive space and the hotel is definitely an iconic Sydney venue."

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