

Friday, 15 October 2021

REGIONAL TRAVEL DELAY HUGE BLOW FOR ACCOMMODATION HOTELS

The nation's peak tourism accommodation body said the backflip on travel to regional NSW will be a devastating blow for accommodation hotels barely managing to survive.

Tourism Accommodation Australia NSW CEO Michael Johnson said the delay of travel in and out of the regions until 1 November is extremely disappointing to accommodation hotels after months of sitting empty.

"Hotels across regional NSW have taken hundreds of bookings, hired new staff and bought stock based on an announcement the state would open up at 80% double vaccinated," said Mr Johnson.

"It is also a blow to CBD hotels who have been closed or operating at less than 2 per cent occupancy, with most staff stood down since June.

"Our members, many of whom have received little to no government support, need certainty. They cannot understand why they now have to cancel much-needed bookings from fully vaccinated guests at the last minute."

Mr Johnson said hotels have been losing thousands of dollars each week, paying rent and taxes and other costs, with little government support and no income.

He said accommodation hotels need tailored and on-going support.

"Disaster payments are due to end when vaccination targets are reached, but hotels will need on-going support," he said.

"The extension to Job Saver may aid some hotels in the short term, but hotels cannot recover until patrons feel confident about travel within the state and between states.

"Lockdowns and constant rule changes create uncertainty far beyond the actual restricted period and without confidence we have no hope of climbing out of this ever-deepening hole."

Mr Johnson said TAA is still in communication with the State Government for extra support for these hotels.

Media Contact: Craig Vaughan 0423 796 382