

Tuesday, 2 November 2021

ACCOMMODATION HOTELS WELCOME NEW FREEDOMS AND MORE SUPPORT

The state's leading Tourism Accommodation body has welcomed the acceleration of the recovery roadmap and the NSW Government's \$8 million investment in the visitor economy.

TAA NSW CEO Michael Johnson said today's announcement that all hospitality venues will increase to a two-person-per-square-metre capacity limit from 8 November was a game-changer for hotels.

"This change means our restaurants, bars and conference facilities can begin operating again at a profitable level," said Mr Johnson.

"Opening at one person for every four square metres, basically 25% capacity, is just not sustainable.

"This change comes at the perfect time as travel restrictions lift and people begin travelling around the state again."

Mr Johnson said today's NSW government announcement of \$8.35 million in grants for regional tourism will also be crucial as the country opens up to the outside world.

"Anything that supports growth in regional areas is good news," said Mr Johnson.

"When overseas travel was banned and borders closed everyone visited their own backyard and regional travel lead our industry's recovery. But the front door is now opening and regional destinations will need promotion and support to be able to compete with the international world".

"And it is critical our Federal Government open up pathways for International Students and Working Holiday Makers to return as soon as possible".

"We are still facing significant labour and skills shortages in CBD and regional hotels and this will hamper our recovery if we do not address it now."

Media Contact: Nikki Taylor 0447 956 170