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Media release

Tourism industry backs conservation law changes

Tourism Industry Aotearoa is pleased the Minister of Conservation is taking the first steps to address long-standing problems in conservation law.

Minister Kiritapu Allen has announced a roadmap that sets out a workplan for the next four years to modernise conservation legislation. The first action is a review of the Wildlife Act.

TIA Chief Executive Chris Roberts agrees with Ms Allen that New Zealand's conservation legislative framework is not fit for purpose, with a complex web of 24 Acts, developed on an ad-hoc basis over a span of nearly 70 years.

"It's not going to be an easy task to modernise the legislative framework but it is important to get started.

"It is also good news that the Department of Conservation is being asked to get going now on making improvements to its concession and planning systems. Simplifying the concession processes would alleviate many of the pressures and frustrations faced by tourism operators. And the planning system isn't facilitating activities that local communities support, like mountain biking.

"TIA agrees with the Minister that it is vital that we ensure conservation legislation and processes are up to date, enduring and reflective of our values. Conservation, recreation and tourism can all co-exist happily if we get the framework right."

TIA will be working with concession holders and other tourism operators to have input into the review processes.

For more information, please contact:
Ann-Marie Johnson
Communications Manager
0276 004 565
ann-marie.johnson@tia.org.nz

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

Inspire House, 125 Featherston St, Wellington 6011, New Zealand
P +64 4 499 0104 www.tia.org.nz E info@tia.org.nz



KEY FACTS

- TIA is New Zealand tourism's peak industry body. We are the only independent association that represents all sectors of New Zealand's large and diverse tourism industry.
- TIA has about 1300 member businesses from across the industry, ranging from small owner/operators to large publicly listed tourism corporates and international hotel chains.
- TIA is deeply involved in discussions on recovery and what the future of tourism in New Zealand will look like.
- TIA leads implementation of the industry's **Tourism Sustainability Commitment** which aims to see every New Zealand tourism business committed to sustainability.
- TIA delivers a comprehensive and diverse range of industry events including TRENZ, New Zealand Tourism Awards, Discussing Tourism regional events and the Tourism Summit Aotearoa.

Visit www.tia.org.nz for more information

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