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Media release

Tourism industry excited by next phase of border reopening

The tourism industry warmly welcomes today's [announcement by the Prime Minister](#) that the opening date for visa-required travellers to enter New Zealand is being brought forward to 31 July 2022 – and that pre-departure testing would be dropped by the same date.

This announcement gives travellers from markets like China and India the confidence to book their trips to New Zealand for when they are able to travel.

The reopening of the maritime border at the same time is also welcome and means cruise lines can start confirming port calls and preparing ships with certainty for the 2022-23 season. This will support regions across New Zealand where cruise is an important component of their tourism economy.

Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) says as the borders reopen, the industry is seeking great people who are passionate about New Zealand to provide amazing experiences. Removing barriers to recruiting staff from overseas when a suitable New Zealander cannot be found will be pivotal to the industry's recovery.

"Offering a great visitor experience is critical to New Zealand's reputation as a destination," says TIA Chief Executive Rebecca Ingram.

"We appreciate additional measures to support the tourism industry announced today, in particular the Government's decision to phase in the median wage requirement for the new Accredited Employer Work Visa. This will give tourism operators time to get their businesses healthy again while rebuilding the workforce," she says.

TIA advocated for a phased approach of the wage requirement, citing the overall position of the tourism industry and the need for trading confidence to return. A number of TIA stakeholders are already paying median wage for some skilled roles. Many are also working towards or currently paying the Living Wage of \$22.75.

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KEY FACTS

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- 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 contributing positively to our people and cultures, our environment and our economy
- 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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