

13 November 2018

Megan Anderson - Manager, Policy & Legislative Review  
Data System Leadership  
Stats NZ

## **Submission to Stats NZ: Towards New Data and Statistics Legislation: Public Discussion Document**

Dear Megan,

Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the 'towards new data and statistics legislation' public discussion document.

TIA is the peak body for the tourism industry in New Zealand representing the \$36 billion tourism industry. With over 1,600 members, TIA represents a range of tourism-related activities including hospitality, accommodation, adventure and other activities, attractions and retail, airports and airlines, transport, as well as related tourism services.

The industry has its own Tourism Insight Framework that was developed and launched in 2017. It is based around the five themes of leadership, sustainable funding, quality inputs, technology and better decision-making, which are aimed at creating an environment that better supports knowledge to grow a sustainable industry.

TIA supports changes to update the Statistics Act 1975 legislation. We feel that this is both desirable and necessary to enable the continued provision of trusted statistics in an ever-changing operating environment. The direction of travel as set out in the discussion document is logical and necessary, and reflectively of how far the circumstances underpinning statistical production have changed since 1975.

TIA would like to highlight:

- Knowledge is an enabler of TIA's 'Tourism 2025 & Beyond' sustainable growth framework in recognition of the important role it has in supporting better business decisions and achieving strategic outcomes.
- An official statistics system that is progressive and operating effectively for the times is an essential requirement. As such, the industry is supportive of a more cohesive data system through the introduction of more timely and relevant statistical legislation. The official statistical system needs to be future-proofed to enable it to meet changing technological developments, and to better meet business, social and user needs.
- The tourism industry supports official statistics that are relevant, reliable, timely and impartial, and that are inclusive for tourism stakeholders, including iwi and Māori rights and interests.
- Better and more coordinated use of administrative data is important to embed in new legislation. This move to enable more and better use of administrative data needs to be undertaken alongside the appropriate use of traditional methods, and must include the formulation of common standards that can be used across the statistical system.
- TIA supports Stats NZ taking a stronger leadership role across the wider official statistics system, leading to better government and industry alignment on official statistics.

TIA's feedback on each question set out in the discussion document is attached as Attachment 1.

TIA welcomes being part of further discussions with Stats NZ to ensure the tourism industry is well represented in further input to changes to the statistical legislation. Data is a critical enabler to the tourism industry achieving its strategic goals and objectives.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Chris Roberts  
**Chief Executive**