

18 June 2020

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**End the state of confusion around domestic travel borders**

Latest tourism economic data has unveiled hundreds of lost daily jobs, including major impacts within States retaining closed borders, providing traveller confusion and a handbrake on attempts to reignite interstate travel.

ATIC Executive Director Simon Westaway said analysis by Lucid Economics identified that remaining internal border closures stopping interstate travel were costing the nation 702 jobs a day along with a hit to the economy of \$84 million. The State / Territory breakdown reveals:

**Daily GSP & Employment loss**

|   | AUS | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| <b>GDP / Gross State Product (\$m)</b>  | 84  | 21  | 19  | 21  | 6  | 6  | 4   | 3  | 4   |
| <b>Employment (No. Direct/Indirect)</b> | 702 | 165 | 168 | 173 | 53 | 48 | 51  | 20 | 27  |

Source: Lucid Economics

Mr Westway said strong tourism reliant states such as Queensland and Tasmania faced stark, accumulative employment and economic contraction at a local level, but the lack of a fully open domestic visitor economy continues to have major national implications.

ATIC found Queensland was experiencing a \$147 million fall each week in gross state product (GSP), but more critically also losing 173 jobs each day by not receiving interstate visitors.

Australia’s most reliant tourism state in relative terms, Tasmania, was losing an estimated 51 daily jobs with a \$28 million weekly hit to its own GSP given full restrictions against interstate travel.

The expanding pre-COVID Western Australia tourism industry loses 48 daily jobs with a \$42 million weekly State GSP hit by refusing interstate visitors without a 14-day quarantine period.

“We now face the prospect of at least four different points in time for partial lifting of our closed borders, but with no guaranteed timetable for a full national re-opening of state and territory borders. We are living in a state of confusion,” Mr Westaway said.

“The lower job and reduced state economic outputs have serious implications for our national tourism economy because interstate visitors are more financially valuable than intrastate ones.

“The need for a common-sense outcome where the COVID safe delivery of domestic tourism across all Australian borders in July is crystal clear in the interests of jobs and industry rebuild.”

ATIC welcomed yesterday’s decision by South Australia to advance towards a 20 July full border opening, via a two-step process, but pointed to likely traveller confusion and angst with returning visitors to WA, NT and Tasmania understood to still require to self-quarantine if visiting the State.

**Further Comment:**

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