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MEDIA STATEMENT

Retention of JobKeeper backs Tourism's future

ATIC has welcomed the retention of JobKeeper as an investment in a stronger future for one of Australia's economic pillars and employers – tourism!

But the peak tourism industry body said re-consideration for exemption for seasonal tourism and associated businesses, particularly across Northern Australia, into JobKeeper 2.0, was needed.

ATIC Executive Director Simon Westaway said:

“The Federal Government's retention of JobKeeper was an absolute priority for our heavily impacted tourism industry, an employer of 1 million Australians, powered by thousands of small businesses. We recognise the significance of the continuing commitment to this valued Program.

“JobKeeper to date has done the job intended enabling sustainable businesses including most tourism enterprises to keep on key workers until the economy and visitor demand recovers.

“JobKeeper 2.0's 6-month extension provides certainty to keep tourism business doors open because most still await visitor recovery with a firmly closed international border and ongoing domestic border restrictions in place across States and Territories in response to COVID-19.

“Australia's border constraints remain critical in both tourism's and our economy's ability to effectively recover. Today's announcement cannot mask this obvious ongoing economic impediment which drove our call-out for JobKeeper's targeted extension.

“ATIC's positive 5-point plan for JobKeeper's future has been largely captured and we and our business members will work constructively with Government around its next-phase.

“This includes urgent engagement with Government and the Opposition on the best means to address the exceptional circumstances faced by seasonal tourism businesses, such as across Northern Australia, which didn't qualify under the first stage of JobKeeper and will again continue to fall outside the Program's next phase guidelines.

“Their value to Australia's tourism industry and our diversity of offering is undeniable.

“These businesses' ability to be eligible and re-considered inside JobKeeper 2.0 or be supported via targeted assistance through the Federal COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund due to their exceptional circumstances will be argued for.”

Further Comment:

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