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**Media Release**

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## **Tourism industry focusing on sustainable growth**

A revised framework to guide the sustainable development of New Zealand's tourism industry has been released today by Tourism Industry Aotearoa.

TIA Chief Executive Chris Roberts today unveiled the draft update of the industry's growth framework, *Tourism 2025 & Beyond*, to an audience of 300 industry leaders and stakeholders at Tourism Summit Aotearoa, in Wellington.

"As an industry-led initiative with strong government backing, *Tourism 2025* was incredibly successful in aligning our industry when it was released in 2014. But a lot has changed since then. In 2016, we recognised the rapidly evolving nature of our industry when we released *Tourism 2025 – Two Years On*. Moving forward another two years and there are yet more changes to acknowledge and respond to," Mr Roberts says.

"Tourism is our largest export earner, a significant employer and is continuing to drive economic growth, presenting both challenges and opportunities for New Zealand communities. Our industry has a growing focus on sustainability in its broadest sense, including economic, environmental, host community and visitor sustainability. This was recognised with the release a year ago of the *New Zealand Tourism Sustainability Commitment*, which more than 600 tourism businesses have now signed up to."

The industry is also increasingly recognising and adopting the Māori values of kaitiakitanga (guardianship), manaakitanga (hospitality) and whanaungatanga (working together).

These three values and the principles of the Tourism Sustainability Commitment have all been incorporated into *Tourism 2025 & Beyond*, which sets out the industry's vision for 'Growing a sustainable tourism industry that benefits New Zealanders'.

"We are seeking industry feedback on the draft *Tourism 2025 & Beyond* framework, with a view to releasing the final version in the first quarter of 2019, along with a set of actions to achieve our goals," Mr Roberts says.

"We are also working closely with the Government, which has just released its own draft Tourism Strategy, which is entirely consistent with the revised Tourism 2025 framework.

"Having an activated public sector working with the industry on the key issues facing tourism bodes well for the sustainable development of tourism in New Zealand."

### **TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA**

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Today's Summit has also seen the release of the annual **Tourism 2025 Scorecard**, looking at progress towards the framework's key priorities.

The Scorecard shows strong progress since 2014 against some of the Tourism 2025 objectives. The value\* of visitors has grown significantly and at a faster rate than visitor numbers. International and domestic air connectivity – the number of airline seats available – has grown. Visitor satisfaction has continued to be maintained at a very high level, with over 95% of international visitors having their expectations met or exceeded.

Two long-standing industry priorities have proved more difficult to make progress on, Mr Roberts says. Seasonality and regional dispersal – when visitors travel and where they go – remain challenging to influence.

*\*The expenditure figures are TIA estimates for the year ending March 2018. The Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) that will be released by StatsNZ in December 2018 will provide the official tourism expenditure figures and growth rates for the year ending March 2018. The Tourism 2025 Scorecard will be updated and finalised when these numbers are available.*

### **About Tourism Summit Aotearoa**

TIA's Tourism Summit Aotearoa is the largest national annual event that brings together business and government leaders from all sectors of New Zealand's big and fast-growing tourism industry.

This year's event, at Te Papa in Wellington, focuses on destination stewardship and how tourism can work with a broad range of stakeholders to sustain and enhance communities throughout Aotearoa – economically, environmentally, culturally and socially.

Tourism Summit Aotearoa is supported by the Tourism Industry New Zealand Trust, ServiceIQ, Wellington Airport and the New Zealand School of Tourism.  
<https://tourismsummit.co.nz>

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### **KEY FACTS**

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- Tourism in New Zealand is a \$99 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$40 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$59 million in economic activity every day.
- Tourism is New Zealand's biggest export earner, contributing \$14.5 billion or 20.7% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2017).
- 14.5% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 399,150 people are working in the visitor economy.
- The [Tourism 2025](#) growth framework has a goal of growing total tourism revenue to \$41 billion a year by 2025.

Visit [www.tia.org.nz](http://www.tia.org.nz) for more information

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