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## Media Release

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# Councils encouraged to apply for tourism infrastructure funding

Today's **announcement** of a \$14.9 million Government investment in tourism infrastructure will help regions benefit from the growth in tourism, Tourism Industry Aotearoa says.

\$14.2 million of the spending comes from the \$25 million a year Tourism Infrastructure Fund, while \$700,000 is going towards cycle trail maintenance.

TIA Chief Executive Chris Roberts says the funding will help communities provide fantastic experiences for both New Zealand and international visitors. And another \$10.7 million is expected to be available in a second funding round in early 2018.

"TIA is strongly encouraging councils to put in applications to the next funding round. Councils should take advantage of the opportunity to secure investment into good projects that will support the growth of tourism," Mr Roberts says.

Mr Roberts is a member of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund panel which considered the applications and made recommendations to the Minister.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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## KEY FACTS

- Tourism in New Zealand is a \$95 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 \$55 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 2016).
- 13.2% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 332,322 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

### TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

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