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Media Release

Tourism funding will benefit regions

Today's **announcement** of a \$19.6 million Government investment in tourism infrastructure will help regions benefit from the growth in tourism, Tourism Industry Aotearoa says.

TIA Chief Executive Chris Roberts says the grants from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund will help communities provide fantastic experiences for both New Zealand and international visitors.

As a member of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund panel which considered the applications and made recommendations to the Minister, he congratulated the successful applicants for the quality of their applications.

"The funded projects may be for basic facilities like toilets and carparks, however, in many cases there were clear links to a wider vision for tourism development in the region," Mr Roberts says.

"Tourism in New Zealand is continuing to grow and our visitors are venturing further off the beaten track. If the regions have the infrastructure they need to support tourism, visitors will be encouraged to stay longer and spend more with local businesses, so everybody benefits," Mr Roberts says.

Less than half of the \$100m available in the Tourism Infrastructure Fund has been allocated to date. The Government has yet to announce when the next funding round will open.


"TIA strongly encourages councils and community groups to put in applications to the next funding round. Take advantage of the opportunity to secure investment for good projects that will support the growth of tourism in your communities."

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KEY FACTS

- 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 for more information

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