

29 March 2018

Media Release

Tourism industry backs sustainable employment

Tourism operators need to embrace the increase in the minimum wage and strive to be employers of choice, says Tourism Industry Aotearoa Chief Executive Chris Roberts.

The minimum wage will rise from \$15.75 to \$16.50 on Sunday, 1 April.

“Our industry needs to be committed to providing sustainable employment to its staff, and paying workers fairly is part of this.”

Tourism Industry Aotearoa is encouraging its members to sign up for the [New Zealand Tourism Sustainability Commitment](#), a programme TIA launched late last year whereby members commit to making their business sustainable by achieving targets across four key areas of sustainability—Economic, Visitor, Host Community and Environmental.

Mr Roberts says “the New Zealand Tourism Sustainability Commitment includes a business-level commitment to pay a fair wage to all staff. Meeting this commitment will help businesses achieve Host Community Sustainability by providing quality employment. In turn, it will help the wider industry achieve sustainability by ensuring that tourism businesses are seen as desirable and responsible employers.

“We need to attract quality, skilled people to work in the tourism industry, so we must offer appropriate wages and attractive conditions. This includes striving to offer permanent positions and training opportunities.”

The Government plans to raise the minimum wage to \$20 an hour by 2021.

“The Government is giving employers plenty of notice that the minimum wage will increase so businesses can start preparing now for any wage rises that will be required. SKYCITY has shown the way in their announcement this week that they will beat the Government’s timeline for \$20 an hour by a year,” says Mr Roberts.

“Treating staff fairly is all part of running a sustainable business.”

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

Level 4, 79 Boulcott Street, PO Box 1697, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
P +64 4 499 0104 www.tia.org.nz E info@tia.org.nz



For further information, please contact:

Ann-Marie Johnson
Communications Manager
Tourism Industry Aotearoa
DDI: 04 496 5001
Mobile: 027 600 4565
Email: ann-marie.johnson@tia.org.nz
www.tia.org.nz
www.tourism2025.org.nz

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

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

Level 4, 79 Boulcott Street, PO Box 1697, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
P +64 4 499 0104 www.tia.org.nz E info@tia.org.nz

