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## Media Release

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# Tourism Infrastructure Fund a good start

Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA), the peak body for the tourism industry is welcoming the government's new commitment to support infrastructure development.

This morning at [TRENZ 2016](#), the Prime Minister and Tourism Minister John Key announced a new \$12 million Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Fund to help communities fund some of their smaller infrastructure needs that enhance the visitor experience.

TIA Chief Executive Chris Roberts has been invited to be part of a Working Group that will help set up the application process and funding criteria for these grants.

Mr Roberts says he expects very strong interest from around the country in accessing the fund.

"The \$12 million commitment is a good start, and I am sure there will be no shortage of worthy projects coming forward. If presented with enough sensible investments that provide a long term return for New Zealand, there will be good reasons for government to look at adding to the initial funding," says Mr Roberts.

"The tourism industry is experiencing unprecedented growth levels and delivering enormous benefits. But we know that some regions, especially those with small rating bases, face funding issues in responding to a sudden jump in visitor numbers.

"This government fund can enable the most urgent and deserving investments to be made more quickly, so that regions and communities can properly cater for their visitors and enjoy the benefits of tourism."

Mr Roberts says the industry's updated growth framework – [Tourism 2025 - Two Years On](#) – gives increased attention to capacity and infrastructure development, to ensure New Zealand has the facilities needed for sustainable tourism growth.

"If tourism is to achieve its aspirational goal of \$41 billion in annual revenue by 2025, it's vital the industry, central and local government are making well informed decisions to invest in new tourism infrastructure.

### TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

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“TIA is leading a project to make sure New Zealand gets the right infrastructure in the right places to support tourism industry growth. This includes identifying infrastructure deficits and funding options to build this infrastructure.

“This new Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Fund is a small but useful contribution.”

TIA also welcomed the three latest grants from the Tourism Growth Partnership (TGP) fund supporting innovation and new product development in the tourism industry. TGP government funding is matched by industry contributions.

The government TGP grants are:

- \$2.5 million to Te Puia, Rotorua, towards the development of new facilities at the New Zealand Maori Arts & Crafts Institute, including a new bone, stone and carving school, and a Maori tattoo studio.
- Timber Trail Adventures Ltd will receive just over \$1.2 million for the development of a lodge at the halfway point of the Timber Trail cycleway, one of New Zealand’s Great Rides.
- AJ Hackett Bungy will receive half a million dollars for the development of a new bungy launch system at its Nevis site.

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## KEY FACTS

- Tourism in New Zealand is an \$81.6 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$32 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$49 million in economic activity every day
- Tourism is one of New Zealand's biggest export industries, earning \$11.8 billion or 17.4% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2015)
- 12.1% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 295,908 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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