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## Media Release

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# Hotel sector gears up for big July – conference and awards

A valuable contributor to the country's \$35 billion tourism industry, the hotel sector is gearing up for a big July, with the annual New Zealand Hotel Industry Conference on in Auckland 19-20 July, culminating with a gala Awards dinner.

Conference registrations are open and entries for the prestigious New Zealand Hotel Industry Awards 2017 open today.

The conference, the largest and most important annual event dedicated to New Zealand's hotel sector, has been sold out for the past two years and co-hosts Tourism Industry Aotearoa and Horwath HTL Ltd expect demand to be high again this year.

"We have an exciting programme that will discuss and debate the big issues affecting this sector currently, including investment in infrastructure, the modern hotel and the trend towards lifestyle brands, and disruptor innovation, which can either be a threat or an opportunity," says TIA Hotel Sector Manager Sally Attfield.

Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the highly respected and successful conference is attended by managers and stakeholders in the New Zealand hotel sector. Last year's conference attracted over 320 delegates, including hotel managers, investors, developers, hotel chains, government agencies, hotel industry consultants, sponsors and exhibitors.

The conference culminates with a gala dinner and the presentation of the Hotel Industry Awards 2017.

"There are 11 Awards, recognizing the many key roles that are vital to operating a successful hotel. This year we are delighted to announce two new categories – Food & Beverage Employee of the Year, and General Manager of the Year," says Horwath HTL Director Stephen Hamilton.

"These are the New Zealand hotel sector's premier awards and an opportunity to set a benchmark of excellence and celebrate the success of our finest hotels and the outstanding individuals who work in them."

### TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

Level 4, 79 Boulcott Street, PO Box 1697, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

P +64 4 499 0104 [www.tia.org.nz](http://www.tia.org.nz) E [info@tia.org.nz](mailto:info@tia.org.nz)

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Go to [www.nzhotelconference.com](http://www.nzhotelconference.com) for more information on the conference programme and registrations, and the awards, including award criteria and entry forms.

## **About the co-hosts**

### **TIA Hotel Sector**

TIA's hotel sector represents the interests of more than 150 members throughout New Zealand, including international chains, large independent and privately owned hotels. TIA hotel sector members employ 11,979 staff nationally, with annual revenues of more than \$1.3 billion.

TIA's hotel members contribute to a monthly performance survey conducted by The Fresh Information Company. [www.tia.org.nz](http://www.tia.org.nz)

### **Horwath HTL**

Horwath HTL Limited is a consulting firm specialising in the hotel, tourism and leisure industries, providing specialist consulting services to a wide range of private sector clients and public sector stakeholders including developers, investors, funders, owners and operators. Horwath HTL is affiliated with Crowe Horwath International, a network of more than 140 independent accounting and advisory services firms with 560 offices in more than 100 countries.

### **Platinum Sponsor**

The conference Platinum Sponsor is Scenic Hotel Group.

### **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](mailto:ann-marie.johnson@tia.org.nz)  
[www.tia.org.nz](http://www.tia.org.nz)  
[www.tourism2025.org.nz](http://www.tourism2025.org.nz)

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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

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