



# Southern Lakes Business Response Group

COVID-19 – Update 31 – 6/08/2020 – 4.00pm

*Here's the latest update from the **Southern Lakes Business Response & Recovery team***

**All Government releases and updates on funding and support [can be found here.](#)**

**All QLDC announcements and updates [can be found here](#)**

**What's new?**

## **Interim Regional skills Leadership Groups - Otago Group announced**

Both Bridget Legnavksy (Cardron/Treble Cone) and Brian Howie (Millbrook) have been successfully appointed to the interim group which ensures solid representation and leadership for our district. The Otago Group draws together leaders who are already active in their communities, representing expertise across employment, business, industry, local iwi and Māori, and government. The groups will work closely with local and national initiatives and entities, including the six interim Establishment Boards for the Workforce Development Councils that will focus on industry specific training needs across all of New Zealand. They will be supported by a team of data analysts, policy advisors and workforce specialists at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Our district's labour working group MahiQL will feed into the iRSLGs, as well as seek information and data to inform planning.

## **Otago members:**

- Chair: Jason Tutty, Regional Director, Naylor Love
- Deputy Chair: Gerard Quinn, Chair, Otago Regional Economic Development (ORED) Working Group and Economic Development Manager, Waitaki District Council
- Member: Jackie van der Voort, Director, New Zealand Apples and Pears Inc, CAJ & EM van der Voort Ltd and Gorge Creek Station Ltd, former director of Treble Cone Investments Ltd
- Member: Phil De La Mare, Regional Manager, Ernslaw One
- Member: Simon Davies, President, Otago Federated Farmers
- Member: Bridget Legnavsky, General Manager, Cardrona Alpine Resort/Treble Cone
- Member: Brian Howie, Director of Operations, Millbrook
- Member: Helen Algar, Community Development Manager, Waitaki District Council
- Member: Maurice Burrowes, Enliven Director, Presbyterian Support Otago
- Member: Don Pryde, National Co-President, E tū
- Member: Sonja Mitchell, Unions of Otago member, M&C union member, FIRST Union organiser
- Member Jason Tibble, MSD Regional Commissioner, and Regional Public Service Lead

- Iwi/hapū representation on the Group is still to be confirmed.

**Click here to view a fact sheet about the iRSLGs.** (in folder)

**Click here to view Minister's full media release**

## **Employment**

### **Preventing common mistakes when dealing with redundancies**

We all make mistakes - but employers can easily prevent some common mistakes when dealing with redundancy. Common mistakes include:

- An employer making up their mind before consultation
- Not acting in good faith
- Not giving employees enough time to consider changes, provide feedback and arrange support
- Not considering re-deployment or re-training employees instead of making employees redundant.

When making employees redundant, it is essential that employers follow the proper lawful process to reduce the risk of a personal grievance.

<https://www.employment.govt.nz/about/news-and-updates/making-staff-redundant-follow-proper-process/>

### **Employers warned against illegal pay cuts**

Auckland employer, Dove Hospice, has been ordered to repay money owed to six workers after reducing their salary to 80 per cent without legal consultation. Following the Employment Relations Authority determination, the Labour Inspectorate is reminding employers of the need to follow legal procedures when making changes to workers' pay or other agreed terms and conditions.

Workplace changes, such as redundancy, changes to salary or hours of work, must be recorded in writing. Employees need to be consulted in good faith, and given the opportunity to consider and agree to these changes. If an employer has made changes unilaterally, they should talk with their employees and resolve the situation.

<https://www.employment.govt.nz/about/news-and-updates/employers-warned-illegal-pay-cuts/>

### **Suspension of offshore temporary visa applications**

Offshore temporary visa applications will be suspended for 3 months. INZ cannot process these as applicants are unlikely to meet entry requirements.

The following offshore temporary entry class visa applications are not affected:

- relationship-based visas for partners and dependent children of New Zealand citizens and residents
- visas for diplomatic, consular and official staff and accompanying dependants
- Antarctic Traveller Visitor visas and Antarctic Work visas
- Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Limited visas.

These policy settings reflect New Zealand's international obligations and our special relationship with the Pacific. Applications and expressions of interest for residence class visas remain open.

### **Find out more here**

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/suspension-overseas-visa-applications-introduction-eoi-fees>

### **Apprenticeship Scheme**

Government has finalised details Apprenticeship Support Programme is a cross-agency government response to help employers retain and bring on new apprentices, including Mana in Mahi participants, while dealing with the effects of COVID-19.

Employers and businesses will be able to access support from either Apprenticeship Boost, Mana in Mahi, or the Regional Apprenticeships Initiative. The Group Training Schemes which some employers are part of will also receive additional support.

Click here for details

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/apprentice-support/>

### **Tourism and Hospitality**

#### **[Investing in the tourism sector's recovery](#) - Beehive, 1 August 2020**

More than \$300 million in funding has been approved to protect strategic tourism businesses, drive domestic tourism through regional events and lift digital capability in the tourism industry, Tourism Minister Kelvin Davis has announced..

#### **[Fiordland's Great Walks set to open after flooding damaged tracks](#)**

Two of Fiordland's Great Walks are set to reopen for the summer season after flooding caused extensive damage to the tracks earlier in the year.

[Go With Tourism To Launch Industry Expert Web Series To Discuss New Zealand Tourism](#) - Go with Tourism, a government-funded initiative focused on building the tourism workforce, will this week launch a weekly web series – dubbed The Itinerary – that will delve into New Zealand's multi-faceted tourism industry, featuring a panel of experts from across the sector.

#### **[New Tourism Initiative To Activate And Reward Kiwi Travellers](#) - Tomahawk, 1 August 2020**

Auckland-based tourism marketing company Tomahawk is preparing to launch in September an exciting new platform that will activate and reward kiwi travellers.

### **July Trading Insights**

The [Restaurant Association of New Zealand](#) is collecting data on July trading for hospitality sector to help inform decision making- Please provide your feedback by clicking the button below - it should take

no more than 2 minutes to complete. We are very keen to get viewpoints represented across the country, so thank you for taking the time to contribute.

CLICK HERE TO TAKE SURVEY [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/July\\_hospo](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/July_hospo)

**Hospo Lifeline** is a 'positive takeaway from Covid' focused on finding a Kiwi eatery who needs a helping hand to respond to the disruptions caused by Covid-19.

Be in to win over \$26,000 worth of prizes including business support for online marketing, branding, strategy, financial and subscriptions. We're proud to be partnering with some of the country's top industry leaders to launch this initiative and encourage any Kiwi eatery with an operational takeaway menu to enter!

- Entry is open to hospitality business owners across New Zealand offering takeaway
- If you haven't already, you must add your venue to FirstEATS (this is a condition of entry)
- Complete the Hospo Lifeline Competition entry form before midnight on Monday August 24

<https://firsteats.nz/hospo-lifeline>

## Engagement

**Aurora Electricity - Commerce Commission Consultation now open for feedback** -- The consultation paper has been released on the key issues the NZ Commerce Commission identified during their initial assessment of Aurora Energy's plan to make its electricity network safer and maintain reliability.

The paper covers a range of issues they want your feedback on including:

- Options for minimising consumer price shocks
- The length of the investment period
- Consumer preferences on the communication, timing and management of planned and unplanned power cuts while Aurora works to fix its network
- Consumer and stakeholder confidence in Aurora's ability to deliver on its plan to time, budget and to a high quality, including how Aurora should be held to account for completing the work
- Whether the COVID-19 pandemic has changed consumer feedback on Aurora's proposal and how the Commission should account for growth and demand uncertainty caused by the pandemic
- Ensuring Aurora's proposed spending is cost effective in areas like safety improvements, tree trimming, staffing and business costs and that it is targeting the right equipment for replacement at the right time.

Feedback on the key issues paper will help to shape their draft decision which is expected to be released in November for consultation. The issues paper, including a consumer summary and submission form, along with more information on the project can be found at [www.comcom.govt.nz/aurora](http://www.comcom.govt.nz/aurora). Feedback can also be provided by email to [feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz](mailto:feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz)

## Stakeholder feedback events are being held across the region:

- 10 August - Alexandra Community Centre - between 12-2pm
- 11 August - Cromwell & Districts Presbyterian Church - between 12-2pm
- 12 August - Lake Wanaka Centre - between 12-2pm
- 13 August - St Andrew's Presbyterian Church - between 12-2pm

## Wanaka

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) has released two Concept Plans for Stage Two of the Wānaka Lakefront Development Plan and is calling for community feedback.

Feedback on both Concept Plans opened at 9.00am on Monday 3 August. To view and provide feedback on the Concept Plans for Stage Two of the Wānaka Lakefront Development Plan, head to [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz). Feedback closes on Sunday 30 August at 5.00pm.

Locals are also invited to attend a number of drop-in sessions being held in and around Wānaka.

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 5 August	5.00pm – 7.00pm	Lake Wānaka Centre
Tuesday 11 August	5.00pm – 7.00pm	Lake Wānaka Centre
Saturday 15 August	11.00am – 1.00pm	Lakefront – Stage Two area
Thursday 20 August	2.00pm – 4.00pm	New World – Three Parks

## Reminders

### [Wage subsidy applications close soon](#)

Got staff or self-employed? Apply by 1 September for the wage subsidy extension. These payments help cover wages or salaries — including your own.

### [Low-interest loans](#)

Borrow up to \$10,000 — or more, if you have employees — at just 3% annual interest.

These government loans are for small businesses, including sole traders and self-employed people.

## Help Keep New Zealand Safe by contact tracing

New Zealand businesses and organisations can help keep New Zealand safe by taking a few minutes to get the official Ministry of Health QR code. It's now easy to get your official QR code.

There's a self-service webform, and if you have a large number of premises you can complete a simple template instead. The official QR codes help your customers and staff keep track of where they've been with the NZ COVID where they've been with the NZ COVID Tracer mobile app.

- Make sure to display your QR code poster on the door of your premises or in another prominent location at the entrance.
- Place it between 1 and 1.5 metres from the ground so app users can scan it easily.

Get your QR code now by visiting <https://qrform.tracing.covid19.govt.nz/> or by following the links on the Ministry of Health's website [health.govt.nz](https://health.govt.nz)

### **Make your ideas for our district's recovery heard**

**Torokiki** is a community driven ideas platform that has emerged out of the QLDC Recovery work following the impacts of COVID-19 and its effect on our District. Torokiki is here to enable you, our community to help shape the future through your ideas. It's not only about your own ideas however it is also about helping shape and support ideas that have been submitted by other people from across our District and beyond.

For more information click [HERE](#) or head to [torokiki.hunchbuzz.com](https://torokiki.hunchbuzz.com) to create a user profile and get started.

### **COVID-19 Resilient Recovery Planning**

If you have not already, now is the time to ensure your team is thinking strategically about recovery.

It is easy to get overwhelmed with the response process and the complexities of adapting operations to our new normal. But it is vital for long term success to allow time for some strategic thinking. If you are a small business owner, this means extracting yourself from the operations. If you are a larger organisation it may be helpful to assign a separate team to start thinking strategically about recovery for your organisation. Read more [HERE](#)

### **Webinars and Events**

#### **Australia activity update**

Find out about Tourism New Zealand's restart plans for the Australia market for when the time is right and more about our Australian visitors so your business is ready to attract and welcome our Aussie neighbours.

**When; Wednesday 12 August, 1pm Register [HERE](#)**

TNZ's offshore trade marketing managers will host a series of webinars designed to update NZ industry on the following:

- A look into their trade activity over the past three to four months
- An update on the trade landscape and sentiment in-market

- A brief overview of their upcoming activity for FY21
- How can NZ industry get involved in TNZ trade activity offshore

**UK and Continental Europe | 18:30 – 19:15, Thursday 30 July Register [HERE](#)**

#### **Institute of Directors**

**Webinar - 19 August, 10.00-11.00am: [Director Dialogue online with CEO of the Financial Services Council, Richard Klipin - Tone at the top](#)** – All boards have a core role in overseeing corporate culture, conduct risk and ethical behaviour. How do they set the tone from the top?

**In person - [17 September, 5.15pm-7.15pm: Governing through the rise and fall \(and rise\) of journalism with Jack Matthews – St Moritz Hotel, Queenstown](#)**

#### **Good reads**

**[Leadership in extraordinary times: Tourism NZ chief executive Stephen England-Hall](#) - Stuff, 4 August 2020**

Leadership in extraordinary times is a series for Stuff in which Henri Eliot talks to key business leaders on how they are dealing with the impact of Covid-19. The leader this time is Stephen England-Hall, chief executive of Tourism New Zealand.

***We are here to help, so if you have any concerns, or are not getting the support you need, from the resources, please contact anyone below.***

**Destination Queenstown** – Ann Lockhart – CEO – [annl@queenstownNZ.nz](mailto:annl@queenstownNZ.nz)

**Queenstown Chamber** – Craig Douglas – Acting GM – [chair@queenstownchamber.org.nz](mailto:chair@queenstownchamber.org.nz)

**Lake Wanaka Tourism** – Gizelle Regan – [gizelle@wanaka.co.nz](mailto:gizelle@wanaka.co.nz)

**Ignite Wanaka Chamber** – Naomi Lindsay – Executive Officer – [naomi@ignitewanaka.co.nz](mailto:naomi@ignitewanaka.co.nz)

**QLDC Economic Development** – Peter Harris – Economic Development Manager  
[peter.harris@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:peter.harris@qldc.govt.nz)

**Regional Business Partners** – Tara Druce – Business Advisor – [tara@otagorbp.co.nz](mailto:tara@otagorbp.co.nz)