

Southern Lakes Business Response Group

COVID-19 – Update 26 – 4/06/2020 – 4.00pm

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

The Government has today released criteria for the Strategic Tourism Assets Protection Programme and announced the first grants for New Zealand's 31 Regional Tourism Organisations. More details on this below.

The next newsletter from this group is scheduled for Monday 8 June after the PM's announcement around Alert Level 1, and what that means for business. Any key updates in between, will be posted online [HERE](#) at the local COVID-19 page and the Government page [HERE](#).

Stay safe, stay well, Kia Kaha

Govt tourism funding to help regional recovery

The Government has today released criteria for the Strategic Tourism Assets Protection Programme and announced the first grants - \$4 million to Discover Waitomo and up to \$20.2 million for New Zealand's 31 Regional Tourism Organisations.

What does this mean for you?

Applications for the STAPP by tourism businesses are only open until **18 June**. Tourism businesses are urged to look at the criteria and consider whether they might be eligible.

Eligibility criteria and the options for support to safeguard strategic assets through this programme are in development and will be considered by the Tourism Recovery Ministers Group in early June.

A strategic asset will likely be:

- nationally and/or internationally recognised,
- a key attraction for New Zealand or a region, and
- one without which, visitation to the region would be significantly diminished

More [HERE](#)

Support for New Zealand's 31 RTOs

Up to \$20.2 million has also been made available for the country's 31 Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) to enable them to implement Destination Management and planning, along with other projects to support their regional tourism industry.

This is fantastic news for members and the community. The next step is understanding the criteria and how the fund will deliver the best results, the two RTO's will continue to work closely with our national agencies and Government on the rebuild of the tourism industry.

Read more [HERE](#)

Agricultural Redeployment Expo – 10 June in Queenstown

There are potentially 120 jobs on offer with AgContracting in Southland. Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) have collaborated with Agricultural and Forestry industry groups to provide short training courses to allow people who may have lost their employment to quickly retrain for Agricultural and Forestry positions. There is a strong focus on drivers required – particularly for harvesting equipment. The Agricultural Redeployment Expo will run on 10 June in Queenstown. The aim of the expo is to assist job seekers, especially from Queenstown Lakes District to access employment in the agricultural sector.

For more information and to register your place at an expo, call SIT on 0800 4 0 3337, or email Aaron Halstead from Study Queenstown to get emailed an information flyer about the expo and the employment opportunities learn@studyqueenstown.com

Supporting Kiwi businesses to resolve commercial rent disputes

The Government will legislate to ensure businesses that suffered as a result of the COVID-19 response will get help to resolve disputes over commercial rent issues. A temporary amendment to the Property Law Act will insert a clause in commercial leases requiring a fair reduction in rent where a business has suffered a loss of revenue because of COVID-19. Read more [HERE](#)

Apprenticeships

The Targeted Training and Apprenticeships Fund (TTAF) will pay costs of learners of all ages to undertake vocational education and training.

- The fund will target support for areas of study and training that will give learners better employment prospects as New Zealand recovers from COVID-19
- Apprentices working in all industries will have costs paid
- High demand areas, including in regional New Zealand, targeted
- In many cases apprentices, trainees and learners at tertiary providers will save between \$2500 and \$6500 per year.

Read more [HERE](#)

What's New

Council vows to fight the economic impact of COVID-19

Economists at data analytics company Infometrics have released their early modelling on the economic impacts COVID-19 could have on the Queenstown Lakes District. Commissioned by Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC), the report states tourism, economic activity and employment are anticipated to feel the greatest impact.

Mayor Jim Boulton said that while the report paints a bleak picture, the analysis is based on a “do nothing” scenario and we are already making big steps as a district to improve our future.

Please see full media release [HERE](#) and link to the report [HERE](#)

Immigration and Welfare

Queenstown Community Hub

The Kia Kaha Queenstown Lakes Community Hub opened its doors to the Queenstown Lakes community Thursday, 4 June, 2020. The ‘pop up’ hub will provide accurate, independent information and advice regarding immigration, repatriation, employment, finance, community connection, wellbeing and welfare needs to all members of the community. This will complement existing services provided by Community Networks Wānaka from the Wānaka Community Hub. Pre-registration will be available via an online booking system [HERE](#)

Labour market tests in Queenstown Lakes District

For roles with an [ANZSCO](#) skill level of 4 to 5, employers need to contact Work and Income to ensure there are no suitable New Zealanders available for the role. For Queenstown there are some roles that have been exempt from this process. But with effect from 26 May 2020 the exemptions will no longer apply and employers will need to follow the labour market test process used throughout the rest of the country.

Hiring a candidate process [HERE](#)

Migrant and employer information

Immigration New Zealand is working with businesses, helping them navigate an environment where more New Zealanders are available to work, while continuing to uphold the rights of migrant workers. The flyer attached to this email above provides helpful information for both migrants and employers. (Flyer uploaded to folder)

Short-term variation of conditions for essential services

As New Zealand moved into Alert level 2 at 11.59pm on Wednesday 13 May, any visa holder who received a short term variation will revert back to their original visa conditions at 11.59pm on Wednesday 24 June 2020. We intend to proactively inform clients about this condition expiry.

Thai Nationals

The Thai Embassy is planning a charter flight to Bangkok for Thai citizens, departing from Auckland on 17 June.

Those wishing to register for the flight or find out more information are asked to visit the Thai embassy’s website at <http://www.thaiembassy.org/wellington/th/news/1110/118292>.

We would be grateful if you could share this information through your networks to get the message out as quickly as possible.

ขอเรียนว่า สถานเอกอัครราชทูต ณ กรุงเวลลิงตัน กำลังเตรียมการจัดเที่ยวบินเหมาลำพิเศษเพื่ออพยพคนไทยกลับประเทศ ซึ่งกำหนดออกเดินทางจากนครโอ๊คแลนด์ในวันที่ 17 มิ.ย. 63

ผู้ที่ประสงค์จะเดินทางกลับประเทศไทยด้วยเที่ยวบินพิเศษฯ สามารถอ่านข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมได้ที่เว็บไซต์ของสถานเอกอัครราชทูตฯ ที่ <http://www.thaiembassy.org/wellington/th/news/1110/118292>

ในการนี้ ขอความร่วมมือทุกท่านช่วยกระจายข้อมูลข่าวสารนี้ผ่านทางเครือข่ายของท่านด้วย และขอขอบคุณสำหรับความร่วมมือของท่านมา ณ ที่นี้

Indian Nationals

The High Commission of India has just announced an upcoming series of repatriation flights from New Zealand. Those wishing to register for these flights or find out more information are asked to contact the High Commission. For updates visit [HERE](#) (flyer in folder)

Reminders

The COVID-19 Business Helpline is available for specific advice and access to Government business support **0800 505 096**

Tourism Transitions Programme

This programme will deliver advice and support for either pivoting a business towards the domestic and Australian market, hibernating a firm, or other options. Businesses interested in finding out more about what support may be available to them, or in registering their interest for support, should visit the Tourism Advisory Support Services page on the Qualmark website [HERE](#)

Webinars

General business and economic

Retail eCommerce Webinar - Wed, 10 June 2020, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM.

Recently there have been numerous changes in the digital landscape that can help you run your business. The team at Findex have done the research to create some comprehensive digital packages using the latest leading technology. [Click here to register](#)

Digital Solutions

Hear about recent developments in online shopping that are aimed at streamlining the processes for small to medium size businesses and learn some of the key systems available to assist with growth. Learn how an efficient toolkit of systems along with a robust reporting package and expert advisory services can assist you with the running of your business [Click here to register.](#)

Platform Overview

- Xero
- MYOB
- Vend
- Shopify
- GoSweetSpot
- Hubdoc
- Receipt Bank
- Spotlight Reporting

• Power BI

COOKING UP E-COMMERCE hosted by Lynda Henderson and Alex Murray from FIREBRAND
Wednesday 10th June 2020 10:00am

- E-Commerce planning, expdesign and platform options
- A demonstration on how to build an e-commerce site (from content to inside a popular platform)
- Q&A on e-commerce for Otago businesses

[Register in advance for this webinar here.](#)

Institute of Directors

11 June, 10.00-11.00am : Director Dialogue with Rowena Davenport and Jessica Palmer who will share a personal perspective on their own governance journeys and their learnings along the way.

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

Queenstown Chamber – Anna Mickell – CEO – ceo@queenstownchamber.org.nz

Lake Wanaka Tourism – James Helmore – GM – james@wanaka.co.nz

Ignite Wanaka Chamber – Naomi Lindsay – Executive Officer – naomi@ignitewanaka.co.nz

QLDC Economic Development – Peter Harris – Economic Development Manager
peter.harris@qldc.govt.nz

Regional Business Partners – Tara Druce – Business Advisor – tara@otagorbp.co.nz