

# Media Release



## **All Aboard: COVID Safe Options for Tourism and Transport Operators 3/7/2020**

In a very significant amendment to the *Tourism and Accommodation Industry COVID-safe Business Plan*, previously approved by the Chief Health Officer, additional flexibility has been added to the provisions to bring more business back to viable operations.

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) today announced the welcomed approval to the improved provisions by the Chief Health Officer, effective immediately from 3 July 2020.

“The new options for tourism coach operators and marine businesses to accommodate up to 50 passengers on their vehicles and vessels is a very significant step, welcomed by businesses across the state”, QTIC Chief Executive, Daniel Gschwind said.

“Under the previous conditions, it was simply not viable for many tours and experiences to offer services to an eager travelling public. With safety and hygiene measures in place now it is possible to offer these services and get businesses going again.”

The general Stage 3 easing of restrictions and the upcoming border opening has led to a significant increase in consumer enquiries and bookings, bringing hope and relief to countless tourism operators.

“We welcomed the Premier’s announcements earlier this week which opened new possibilities for travel. Now we have some practical, operational measures in place that allow tourism transport operators to accommodate visitors and showcase the great attractions that Queensland offers. Tour operators from our beautiful Outback to marine operators in the extraordinary Great Barrier Reef can now get back to promoting their businesses and keep staff employed.”

The new provisions allow for up to 50 passengers on coaches and vessels, subject to operators adhering to a clear checklist that provides appropriate health and hygiene safety for passengers.

“QTIC appreciates the engagement of members and stakeholders who were central to achieving this outcome. We also acknowledge the cooperation and support from the involved government agencies and the Office of the Chief Health Officer. The willingness of all parties to find solutions and compromises for these complex issues is exceptional and greatly valued by QTIC,” concluded Mr Gschwind.

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