



MEDIA RELEASE  
5 October 2020

**Auckland's Level 1 status a relief for many hospitality operators.**

The Government's decision to move Auckland down to Alert Level 1 on Wednesday, 7 October at 11.59pm in line with the rest of the nation is a welcomed step towards our economic recovery, says Hospitality New Zealand.

Hospitality New Zealand Chief Executive, Julie White, says "This will be a huge relief for Auckland operators who have been in heightened restrictions since mid-August. Operating under Level 2 is still hugely challenging for our industry and for establishments like bars and nightclubs, the costs to abide by these restrictions were often prohibitive.

"We hope to see a bit of a surge in hospitality spending again, especially due to the second week of school holidays and for our night-time economy, as people get back to enjoying social events and larger gatherings in Auckland. Regaining this sense of freedom in our most populous city has a ripple effect across the whole country, and while this is an exciting step towards our recovery, we're still urging our members and the public to remain cautious and continue using the NZ COVID Tracer App.

"Like the Prime Minister acknowledged today, hospitality is one of the hardest hit sectors – we cannot afford to yo-yo in and out of Alert Levels again. We have already estimated that around 20 percent of hospitality businesses will permanently close and more time under increased restrictions will hurt our sector and the economy," says White.

Hospitality New Zealand is also in support of the trans-Tasman bubble, but says in its current form there's no real benefit.

"We're excited about the prospect of implementing a travel bubble with Australia to give New Zealand's tourism and hospitality a much needed boost. However, as it stands, it's too restrictive and limited to have any economic impact, as Kiwis still have to quarantine in managed isolation on their return home. While we need a more attractive travel proposition, we're cognisant of the fact our team of five million has worked extremely hard in fighting this curve, so first and foremost, we must ensure it is safe for Kiwis before a two-way travel bubble commences," concludes White.

ENDS

For media enquiries, please contact: [media@hospitality.org.nz](mailto:media@hospitality.org.nz)



About Hospitality New Zealand.

Hospitality New Zealand is Aotearoa's leading nationwide hospitality industry association covering commercial accommodation and food and beverage businesses. It is a not for profit organisation, which currently supports over 3,000 members across the country. The association was first formed in 1902 as the United Licensed Victuallers Association, and has consequently been helping New Zealand's small businesses and communities for over a century. Visit our [website](#), speak to someone at the Hospitality New Zealand National Call Centre 0800 500 503 or connect with us on our social media channels; [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Twitter](#).