



News release
28 February 2022

Business Events Industry Aotearoa welcomes end to isolation for vaccinated visitors

Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA) is welcoming today's [announcement](#) lifting all self-isolation requirements for fully vaccinated New Zealanders and eligible visa holders entering the country from Australia.

This group will no longer be required to isolate from 11:59pm, Wednesday 2 March. They will be quickly followed by vaccinated New Zealanders and eligible travellers from anywhere in the world from 11:59pm, Friday 4 March.

BEIA Chief Executive Lisa Hopkins says this decision signals a strong intent for other travellers, with the Prime Minister indicating a decision will be made soon on when all fully-vaccinated visitors can come to New Zealand without self-isolation.

"This is a great start in reconnecting New Zealand with the world. We are encouraged by the Prime Minister saying a decision could be made by mid-March on opening up to all travellers," she says.

"However, for the past two years, our industry has felt like it has been in a permanent lockdown. We have a significant number of business events in a holding pattern because of current international border settings and, as a consequence, many New Zealanders here at home are still unsure of their future," Lisa Hopkins says.

"Our message to the Prime Minister is that while today is the first step in delivering hope back to many in the visitor economy, we now look forward to timely decisions on the next steps of the plan to ensure the industry can begin its own recovery from Covid," she says.

ENDS

About Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA)

- [Business Events Industry Aotearoa \(BEIA\)](#), formerly known as Conventions and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ), is the official membership-based association of New

Zealand's business events sector with more than 460 members across a broad range of sectors.

- BEIA works to actively promote the sector for its members and New Zealand, providing advocacy with central government and offering assistance, information, professional development and real business opportunities to its members.
- The impact of the sector on New Zealand's economy includes financial, social, regional investment and environmental. In 2019 in New Zealand, the business events industry was valued at \$1.5 billion per annum, with over 3.6 million attendees both domestic and international, employing 22,000 people. However, since Covid-19, the value of the sector has reduced by 78 per cent. This can be attributed to a combination of reduced international visitors due to border closures, the impact of restrictions, and the compounding lack of confidence from the sector.
- BEIA manages New Zealand's only national annual trade show MEETINGS. Last held in June 2021, MEETINGS generated \$74 million of business for the New Zealand industry.