



MEDIA RELEASE

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Time for Tassie to back traditional economic strengths

TCCI CEO, Michael Bailey, has today called on the Government to back in Tasmania's traditional economic strengths in response to the ongoing uncertainty created by COVID pandemic.

"Over the past few years, Tasmania's tourism and hospitality sector has gone from strength to strength, creating thousands of jobs and helping revive communities. Unfortunately, COVID has disrupted that entire sector, severely impacting many businesses and we need to do everything we can to protect those businesses and help them recover," Mr Bailey said.

"If the past few weeks are anything to go by, it seems we will have to learn to live with state and territory borders around Australia regularly shutting as new COVID cases are identified and until a vaccine has successfully been rolled out. Sadly, that could cruel confidence in the tourism and hospitality sector for much of 2021.

"However, it's not all doom and gloom. We need to take a fresh look at our traditional economic strengths and look to boost those while we help the tourism and hospitality sector recover. Our traditional economic strengths – agriculture,

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forestry, fishing and aquaculture, mining and mineral processing, and renewable energy – are the key to our state's success in 2021.

“Combined these sectors account for 10 per cent of all jobs in the State, nearly all of the \$3.5 billion in commodity exports for the 12 months ending October last year and truly are the engine room that powers our economy and supports a large part of our business sector.

“As our state looks to economic recovery from the COVID pandemic, we should be looking to leverage and support these sectors to expand and grow.

“This year, we're calling on both major parties to support a plan to help our economy recover by backing our traditional economic strengths.”

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