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Our Ref: #ReadySetSail

12 July 2021

#ReadySetSail Correspondence

Thank you for your #ReadySetSail correspondence regarding the resumption of cruise operations in Australia.

The Government is aware of the significant contribution the cruise industry makes to the Australian economy, and the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the industry and the broader tourism sector, particularly areas reliant on international tourism.

While there are some operators running small cruise vessels in Northern Australia unfortunately larger vessels are still not able to operate in Australian waters.

On 10 June 2021 it was announced that there was an extension of the human biosecurity emergency period to 17 September 2021, which also extends the restriction on the entry of cruise ships. These restrictions are based on the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and can be amended or removed at any time based on the AHPPC's expert medical advice. Health considerations will continue to guide the process of when large scale cruising can commence.

The Government will continue to consult with the States and Territories and the cruise industry on options for the staged resumption of cruising when the medical advice is that it is safe to do so.

Government agencies are also working to ensure that any return to cruise operations meets community expectations regarding the safety of guests, crew and the broader community.

Thank you again for making the Government aware of your views in relation to the cruise industry.