



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate Release

### **Australian Cruise Association welcomes new CLIA Chair**

(25 May, 2022) The Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has welcomed the appointment of Ben Angell, Vice President and Managing Director of Norwegian Cruise Line APAC, as the new Chair of Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

“We look forward to continuing the great work that our two Associations have done together in the past,” said Phil Holliday, Chair of ACA.

“This is such an exciting time for our industry as we welcome back cruise to Australia and the opportunities to move forward and make a positive impact for our port communities and also the tourism industry as a whole are endless,” continued Holliday.

ACA also thanked outgoing Chair, Gavin Smith for his two-year term during the most challenging period the industry has known.

“Gavin’s leadership and support for the industry and our Association Board and members during the pandemic has meant we could speak with a unified voice to government to represent the issues of both cruise lines and onshore industry organisations. This was critically important in helping to re-open the maritime borders. We look forward to our continued friendship with Gavin.”

CEO of Australian Cruise Association, Jill Abel, said “We would also like to salute the efforts of CLIA CEO, Joel Katz, who has worked tirelessly to communicate the incredible efforts the industry was taking around health and safety and providing confidence for passengers and crew.”

“He is a valued partner of our Association and has helped to guide us all through the “troubled waters” of the past two years” concluded Abel.

Our industry has been through two incredibly challenging years and it will be exciting to have cruise ship visits back on the agenda to support jobs and economic growth in our gateway cities and regional communities” said Australian Cruise Association CEO, Jill Abel.

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**About Australian Cruise Association:**

Australian Cruise Association is the co-operative marketing brand for cruise tourism in the Australia and Pacific region and represents a diversity of interests including regional ports, international, national and state tourism agencies, shipping agents, inbound tour operators and companies dedicated to marketing the region as a world class cruise destination.

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