



## Media Release

For Immediate Release

### **ACA welcomes Federal Government announcement to re-start cruise in Australia**

(15 March, 2022) The Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has welcomed the announcement today by the Federal Government to lift the cruise ban for Australia on 17 April.

“After a two year pause in cruising, we are looking forward to seeing cruise ships back in Australia signalling a return to economic growth for this important sector of the tourism industry” said Australian Cruise Association CEO, Jill Abel.

“We have worked closely with our industry partners to hold extensive discussions with Federal Government around the healthy and safety protocols required onboard and onshore to make a cruise re-start possible.”

“We were fortunate to be able to draw on modelling from a successful re-start internationally which has seen CLIA ocean-going cruise lines welcome nearly 9M guests onboard since resuming operations in July 2020” continued Abel.

“Following the agreement in February at National Cabinet that the Commonwealth and the eastern states would work together with industry – the NSW, Victoria and Queensland Governments have done the heavy lifting on clearing the way to make this re-start possible with the Northern Territory, South Australia and Tasmania also lending their support to this effort.”

The Australian Cruise Association represents organisations responsible for the shoreside operations of cruising. “This is great news for our members who have been at an enormous economic disadvantage over the past two years,” Abel continued.

“While it will be some months before international cruise ships are ready to return to our shores, this news will give the Australian-based expedition ships the opportunity to enter into agreements with the various states and territories to re-start their winter expedition business.”

In preparation for the re-start, ACA has begun holding workshops around the country to help prepare their members for the return of cruising.

“From ports to provedores, ground handlers to transfer companies, restaurant owners and tour operators – this announcement signals exciting times ahead as they prepare to welcome back cruise passengers and crew to our city gateways and very importantly, smaller regional ports on the blue highway who rely on cruise visits for their livelihood” Abel concluded.

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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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