

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **We're ready, and we've been waiting.**

The government expediting their multi-stage border reopening provides long-awaited relief to Canterbury business.

“The business community has been shouting from the rooftops for nearly two years at how critical reconnecting with the rest of the world is to our regional economy,” says Leeann Watson, Chief Executive of Canterbury Employers’ Chamber of Commerce.

“While the latest announcement to allow visitors to step foot on our shores two months ahead of schedule is a welcome one, we also need to ensure that our business community has sufficient staff to open their doors.

“Last week’s announcement on reducing self-isolation periods for household contacts will help, but we need to make sure this is continued to be reviewed as we progress through to the other side of the peak.

“Turning the tap back on tourism is a core ingredient in our regional economic recovery plan – we’re ready and we’ve been waiting.”

- ENDS -

### **For more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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*The Canterbury Employers’ Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) is a not-for-profit membership-based service organisation that has been the home and voice of business in the Canterbury region since 1859. Comprised of over 2,900 member organisations that represent over 70,000 employees, The Chamber’s purpose is to empower people in business by providing advisory and consultancy support in employment relations, human resources, health and safety, international trade, manufacturing, migrant support, research and development grants, and training and development in many areas. [www.thechamber.co.nz](http://www.thechamber.co.nz)*