



MEDIA RELEASE



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STRUGGLING HOTELS AND STAFF DEVASTATED BY LOCKDOWN EXTENSION

Thousands of staff and hoteliers across NSW have been left devastated and exhausted by the extension of the Sydney lockdown and state-wide restrictions.

AHA NSW CEO John Whelan said the hotel sector would proudly continue to play its role in preventing the spread of COVID, but needed certainty moving forward.

“The lockdown extension is devastating news for more than 50,000 Greater Sydney-based staff who are out of work for another week, as well as the broader NSW hotel industry which has operated under restricted trading conditions for more than 15 months and counting,” Mr Whelan said.

“Our staff have rent and bills to pay. Many are not eligible for government support and a third week with no work really hits hard.

“Country and regional NSW have had no cases, but businesses there are also facing an extra week of restrictions.

“Today’s lockdown extension is particularly hard to take when we are seeing the world open up. We appear to be going backwards – with community vaccination still months away at best.

“Looking ahead, we simply can’t afford another Sydney CBD quarantine COVID breach - the economic and mental health costs of the ensuing lockdown are just too great.”

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