

CLIA pleads for industry support

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) yesterday released details of a formal pre-Budget submission to the Government calling for “urgent economic assistance to local Australian businesses left devastated by the suspension of cruise tourism”.

The submission, which notes that its now almost 12 months since the JobKeeper program ended, complements lobbying efforts by other industry groups, including the Australian Federation of Travel Agents and the Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and calls on the Government to finalise plans for a careful resumption of cruising in the country.

Local CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz noted the submission was not calling for financial assistance for the cruise lines themselves, but for the “thousands of Australian businesses which have been cut off from cruise tourism for almost two years”.

“People in communities around our coasts have been left devastated by the Government’s cruise ban and need urgent support until ships can return.”

CLIA’s submission also highlights



Executive Summary

CLIA is calling for:

- The phased resumption of cruising in Australia by the second quarter of 2022, initially on the basis of local cruises for eligible fully vaccinated guests only, in order to provide a positive impact on the 2022/23 budget
- The extension of financial support to the network of Australian businesses that rely on the cruise sector for their livelihoods and remain heavily impacted by the cruise shutdown, while the shutdown continues
- The removal of the Passenger Movement Charge in order to attract international visitors once borders are fully open

Cruise Lines International Association
cruiselines.com.au

the commitment of cruise lines to extensive health measures in response to the pandemic, including testing and vaccination requirements before boarding, and detailed on-board protocols.

“These measures are already in place and working in dozens of other countries where cruising has resumed, and Australia is now one of the only major cruise markets in the world without Government plans for cruising’s revival,” Katz added.

CLIA’s submission also backs the call from the Australian Chamber-Tourism to remove the Passenger Movement Charge, as a way of

stimulating inbound tourism once borders are fully open.

Before the pandemic cruising was estimated as the seventh-largest source of international visitors to Australia, with the industry bringing more than 200,000 arrivals each year.

MEANWHILE the push to lift the ban on foreign cruise ships was strongly backed in mainstream media yesterday, including an editorial in Sydney’s *Sunday Telegraph* pointing out the absurdity of allowing tourists to return to Australia and relax other border measures, while still maintaining cruise restrictions.

Newly appointed Carnival Australia Chief Executive Officer Marguerite Fitzgerald also weighed in, in an opinion piece published in Brisbane’s *Sunday Mail*, noting with the right political will, Queensland could lead the cruise restart, cooperating with the Australian Government to provide a clear pathway forward.

The travel and cruise sectors are waiting with bated breath on a promised update from Minister for Health Greg Hunt, who promised monthly reviews of the ban which is currently set to expire in just 10 days, on 17 Feb.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Carnival cancels

CARNIVAL Cruise Line’s decision to reposition both *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Splendor* to the United States has left the Australian cruise sector even more despondent (**CW** breaking news Fri).

Brisbane-based *Spirit* is now not scheduled to return to local waters for more than 18 months (**CW** breaking news Fri).

The update from Carnival followed initial confirmation that *Spirit* would be deployed from Jacksonville from early next month (**CW** 04 Feb), with the cruise line forced to move the ships to markets where the industry is booming again.

Splendor sailings from 10 Jun 2022 through to 26 Sep 2022 have been cancelled, as have *Spirit* cruises from 05 Jun 2022 through to 05 Oct 2023.

Any guests impacted by these changes will receive an email with details of the changes along with specific offers available to them.

Carnival is also protecting the commission on all bookings paid in full, on the original fully paid booking cancelled by the cruise line, and on the final fully paid rebooking when a future credit is redeemed on an active sailing.

Travellers must follow the automated process to request either the bonus value offer of a future cruise credit combined with an onboard credit or a full refund.

Carnival said “details for a two-ship return to Australia will be announced when they are confirmed,” with the cruise line looking forward to resuming local operations when government officials can provide clarity.

Crystals arrested

CRYSTAL Cruises’ *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* have both been arrested in Freeport.

There are no guests on either of the ships, with Crystal late last month announcing it was “temporarily” ceasing passenger operations (**CW** 20 Jan) in response to the ongoing uncertainty about the finances of its parent company, Genting Hong Kong.

It’s also understood the cruise line’s expedition ship *Crystal Endeavor* has been detained in Ushuaia.

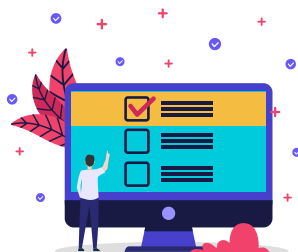


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IT'S hard to imagine how a tennis champion may celebrate the winning of a Grand Slam, but Rafael Nadal, the man who has done it more than any other, may be commemorating his 21st major title aboard his freshly delivered mega-yacht *Great White*.

The 24-metre vessel features a flybridge with a bar and a barbeque, a stern garage for a jet ski, an elegant interior in cream and coffee tones, and 360m² of living space, according to *BOAT International*.

Eight guests in four cabins can be accommodated aboard *Great White*, with the owner's suite featuring a walk-in dressing room, sofa, flip-down ceiling television, and a private fold-down balcony.

Just in case you were wondering, Nadal parks his yacht out the front of his mansion in Porto Cristo in Mallorca.

Cruise protests

THE irrepressible face of Australian cruise's social pages, Honida Beram, will host a 'Lift the Cruise Ban' rally next month.

Beram, who operates 'Cruising with Honey', will unite supporters on 13 Mar at noon at the Overseas Passenger Terminal in Sydney, and a yet-to-be-named location in Brisbane.

Advertised as a "peaceful, socially distanced sit-in", read more about the protest [HERE](#).

Viva la Viva with NCL

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is inviting trade partners to discover *Norwegian Viva*, with the brand's latest News & Network Series webinar, to be held 17 Feb.

Taking place at 11am AEDT, the webinar will be hosted by Norwegian's Queensland Business Development Manager Craig McLaurin, who will provide advisors with information on *Viva* - [CLICK HERE](#) for info and to register.

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A trip to Neptune



SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours' *Scenic Eclipse* has made history with the first submarine dive in South Georgia in 40 years.

Last Mon, *Eclipse's* submarine *Scenic Neptune* took guests on an underwater exploration in Stomness during the 21-day Antarctica & South Georgia voyage.

Scenic is the first operator to be granted permission to dive submersibles in this location after working closely with the authorities to increase knowledge and awareness of the region.

The *Neptune* submarine excursions are available in Antarctica, South Georgia and Falkland Islands voyages of at least 20 days.

Director of Marine Operations Captain James Griffiths said Scenic had been eagerly awaiting this moment since the application process began more than two years ago.

"After working closely with the authorities to gain permission, we'd like to thank them for placing their trust in us to operate these dives," he said.

"Seeing our plans become a

reality and being able to offer our guests this incredible experience unrivalled by any other cruise line is an incredible moment.

"As a brand, Scenic committed to raising the bar, only two years ago we were the first operator to fly helicopters and partake in submarine dives in Antarctica."

Griffiths added Scenic's team has worked tirelessly to make the dive happen.

"We're grateful for their continued dedication and passion that allows us to provide our guests with a truly unique and unforgettable experience."

Expedition Operations Manager Jason Flesher, who led the first dive (**pictured**), added: "it was an extraordinary experience to be on board *Scenic Neptune's* maiden submarine dive in South Georgia – and was a moment that both myself and our guests will remember for a lifetime."

"To personally provide deep insights to our guests and witness a diversity of rich marine life, including bioluminescent jelly fish, Pelagic Antarctic Krill and a vast array of marine benthic fauna, was truly an honour".

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