CILT NZ report to IMC

Introduction

As IMC members will know, New Zealand has been pretty fortunate in its management of covid19. We have four Alert Levels. Our major impact was Alert Level 4 which ran from 25 March to 27 April. During this time only essential services (such as health and supermarkets) were allowed to operate. By 13 May, NZ was at Alert Level 2, and Level 1 on 9 June.

The sudden resurgence of covid19 in Auckland after 102 days of no community transmission plunged the Auckland region back to Alert Level 3 and the rest of the country up to Level 2. The separation of Auckland from the rest of NZ has created a lot of challenges which are commented on later in this report.

At Level 3 all gatherings are limited to 10 people and at Level 2 100. This has impacted on CILT activities across the country. However, CILT NZ members are very creative and addressed those challenges decisively.

Activities

CILT NZ has been asked to assist in the writing of Covid-19 guidelines targeted specifically at the supply chain industry.  These guidelines are due for release later this week.

As for many CILT branches internationally, the Internet has proved to be a great help in keeping people connected. There have been several webinars both nationwide and at local Section level, and we are very grateful that CILT Australia has invited New Zealanders to participate in their webinars. Two webinars focused specifically on the response to covid19 while others looked at topical matters for NZ ie Business As Usual.

Our northern Section, based in Auckland, has instigated a programme of webinars for the remainder of the year, due to the uncertainty of Alert levels for their region, and are optimisticthat they can also run a networking event for younger members.

Sections further south have felt the restrictions less heavily. They have maintained regular programmes of activities inclusing site visits, guest speakers from commercial operators, education providers etc, even a Quiz Night (attended by 60 people).

The Annual Awards dinner is currently programmed for 14 October 2020. Nominations are due by 31 Agust and there is strong interest across the country.

Issues

We are coping with whatever Covid19 throws at us. We have a General Election scheduled for 17 October (postponed from September after the Auckland surge in cases). Due to electioneering there are risks that issues and challenges are used for political gain, which is not constructive when our economy has taken such a hit (as for most of CILT member countries!) Tourism was New Zealand’s biggest export earner, and with the borders closed to all but returning New Zealand citizens and sepcial cases (such as the America’s Cup contestants and Avatar film crews) the sector is not in a good state.

Challenges

The biggest challenge our sectors are facing is the difference in Alert Levels between the Auckland region and the rest of the country. The boundaries are set by the geogrpahical jurisdiction of the Auckland Council, but many people live inside or outside that border and travel across it for work. The border restrictions are causing further financial hardships to affected businesses and workers. While there is a system of permits to cross the border, and checkpoints at all border crossings, there remain long queues as those travelling are processed.