Taranaki Business Survey

RESULTS OF THE **NOVEMBER 2016** SURVEY



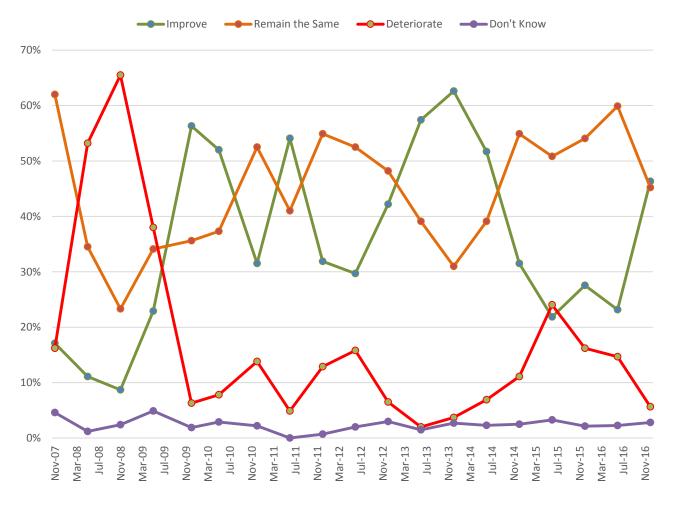


Taranaki Business Survey

- Monitors economic confidence by Taranaki businesses and their views on key business issues.
- Undertaken by Venture Taranaki 6-monthly since 1999.
- Survey sent to over 1500 Taranaki businesses.
- Cross section of industry type, location and size.
- Spans a number of standard economic questions.
- Plus a special topic: Taranaki awarded 2nd Best Region in World To Visit:
 - Awareness of award
 - Response
 - Potential impact on region growth
 - How to leverage



NZ Economic Conditions: next 12 months

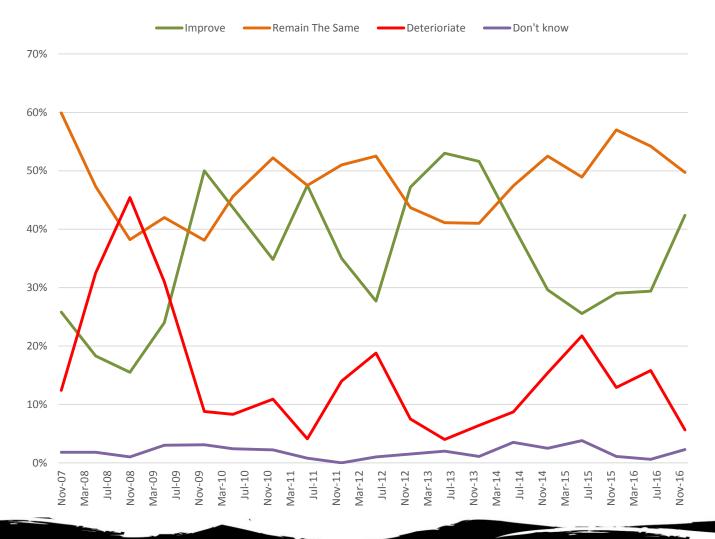


2017 looking more positive!

- Improve 46% (up from 23%)
- Same: 45% (up from 60%)
- Deteriorate 6% (was 15%)
- Don't know: 3%



Industry conditions: next 12 months

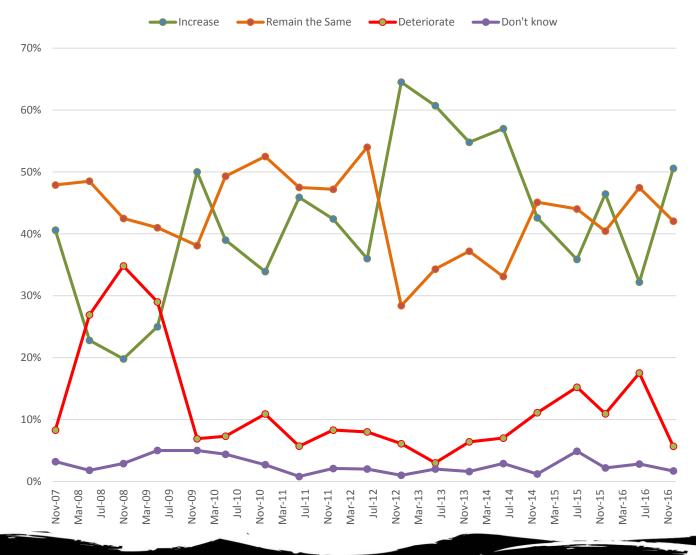


Also more bullish!

- **Improve 42%** (up from 29%)
- Remain same 50% (down from 54%)
- Deteriorate 6% (was 16%)
- Don't know: 3%



Sales: next 6 months



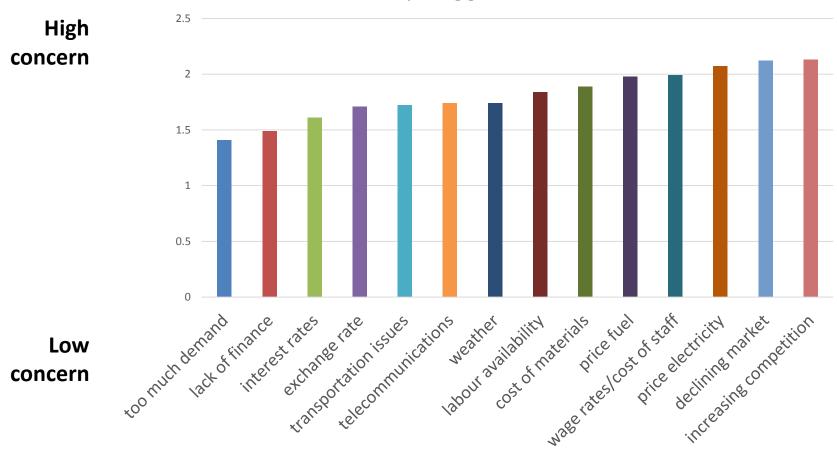
Anticipating a better six months ahead!

- Improve: 51% (up from 32%)
- Remain same: 42% (down from 47%)
- Deteriorate: 6% (was 18%)
- Don't know: 2%



Taranaki business: concerns

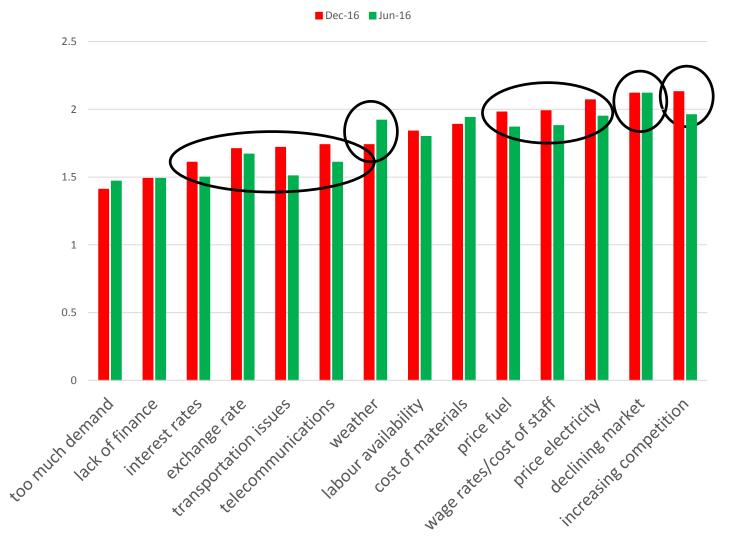
Factors Impacting growth Nov/Dec 2016





What's changed?

What's changed since June 2016?



Up:

Competition

Costs:

Electricity, staff, fuel

Transportation

Telecommunication

Interest rates

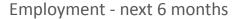
Less: weather

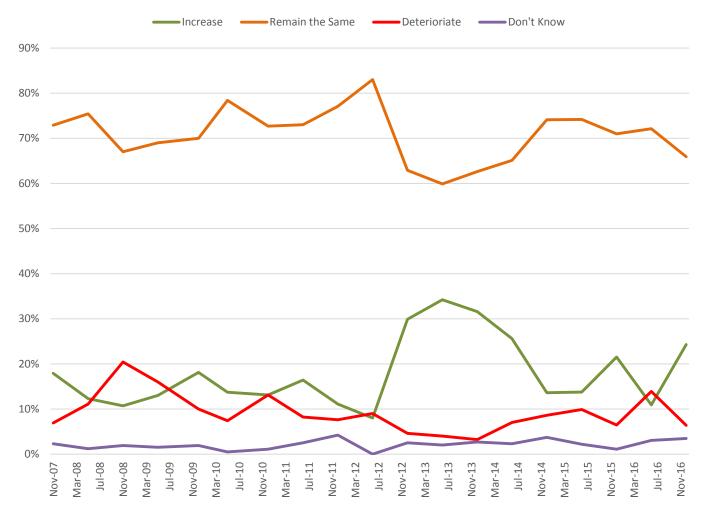
Other factors impacting on business

- Increased compliance costs e.g. food and alcohol sector
- Health and Safety compliance
- Work safe compliance
- Unregulated competition e.g. air bnb (visitor industry)
- US presidential election results (NB: survey undertaken prior to US elections)
- Local economy under pressure and uncertainty e.g. farming, O&G
- Oil, gas and dairy have made a big impact



Employee numbers – next 6 months





Outlook status quo but signs of lift

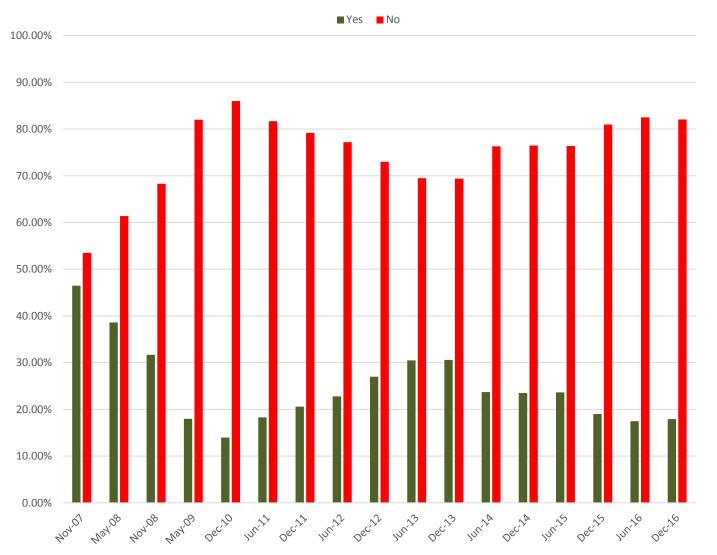
66% anticipate employment levels to remain the same.

24% - increase.

outweighs

6% expect staff numbers to decrease

Skill shortages or difficulty hiring?



Skill shortages decline slightly.

82% - no skill shortages

18% of Taranaki businesses report skill shortages or difficulties recruiting appropriate staff.

Skills shortages mentioned

- Chefs
- Mechanical fitters
- Diesel technicians
- Gas fitters
- Refrigeration technicians
- Skilled engineers
- Water treatment engineer
- Casual office staff over summer

- GPs for rural practice
- Experienced nurses

"We are very specialised and need specific qualifications and experience that aren't in New Zealand"





Special Topic: Taranaki: the world's #2 region to visit in 2017 (Lonely Planet)

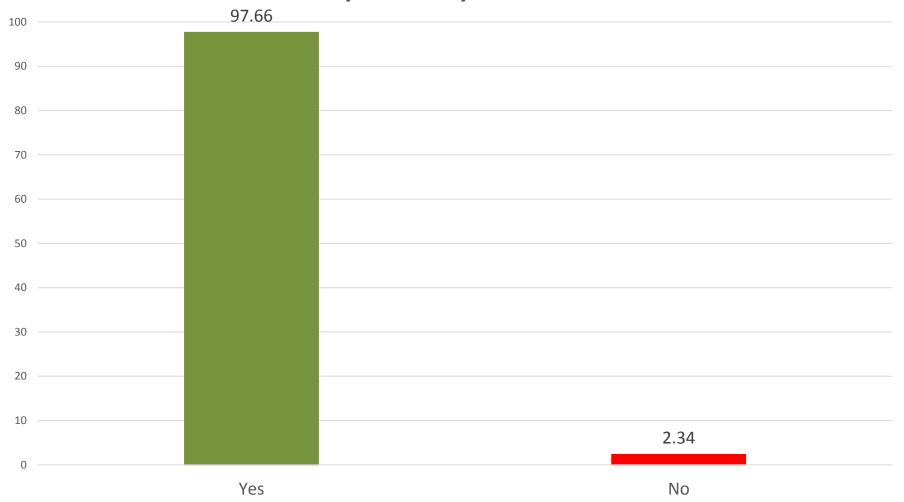


Background

- Context: Taranaki awarded 2nd best region in the world to visit, by Lonely Planet
- Who is Lonely Planet? The World's no. 1 Travel Guide.
- How was it judged? Independently assessed by Lonely Planet's travel experts, authors, commissioning editors and community travel advisers.
- Taranaki business feedback: Awareness of award, response, significance to the region, and how to leverage the award.

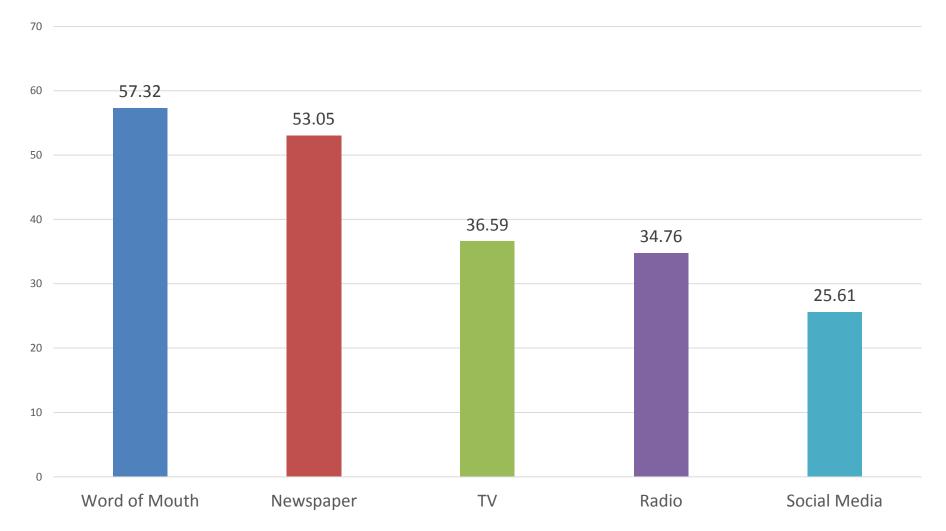


"2nd Best region to visit in the world" by Lonely Planet



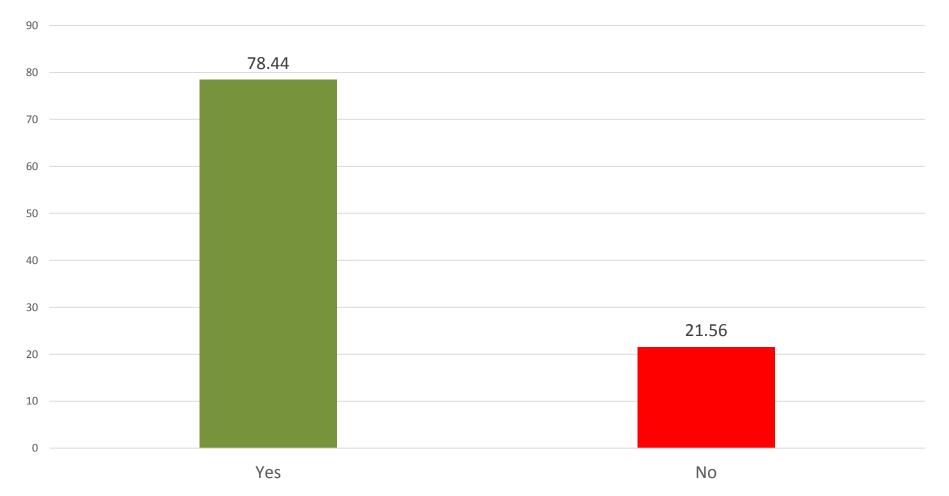
If YES - How did you hear about this Award?

%

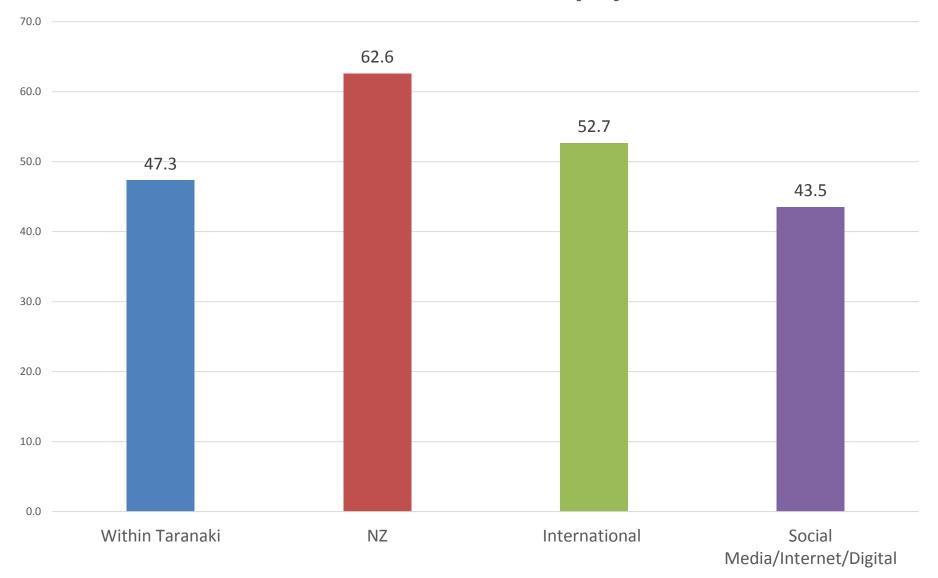


Have you shared news about the award with others e.g. friends/family/contacts

%



If Yes – Who have you shared the news of the award with (%):

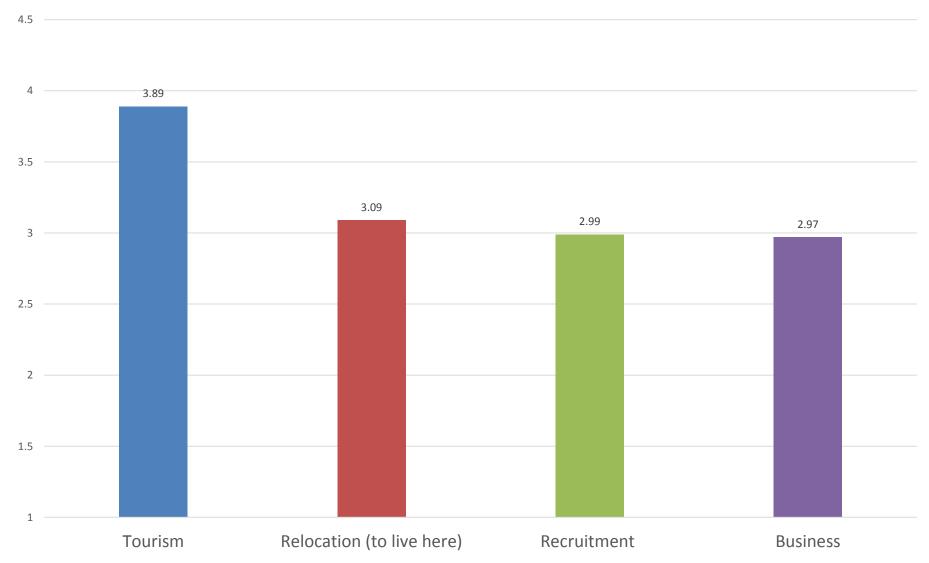


What has been the general response?

- "Positive and enthusiastic. People want to plan a visit over here"
- "Positive and I have to say some surprise from NZ friends (and New Plymouth residents)"
- "Surprise how did it happen?"
- "Depends who you speak to. There seems a bit of tall poppy response via other NZ regions however international guests are more positive"
- "Social media great news, love the place, word of mouth (mixed message) either fantastic or disbelief"
- "Concern paradise might change"

Rate: Significance of Award to the Region

(1: no impact - 5: very significant)



COULD YOUR BUSINESS use/leverage this award?

- Many unsure
- Exporters/international/recruitment/social media
 - "We have already used it in a TV interview and are using it in our social media".
 - "We could include it in our communications especially international/export work".
 - "Yes, could use when advertising our products overseas".
 - "Mainly in our social media marketing and online marketing. Would be nice if we could design a badge (logo) for communications and perhaps email signatures".
 - "Yes in advertising jobs/recruitment".

COULD YOUR BUSINESS use/leverage this award? (cont)

Visitor/tourism operators:

- "We're a backpacker business so will be sharing this on our web site and brochures"
- "Could use in our branding, add to our web site and email address"
- "Just for general boasting!"



How can Taranaki leverage the award?

Marketing/Promotion:

- "Use/reference the award on promotional material. Use as a logo for everything – esp events"
- "Offer package deals around the mountain for different tours – gardens, art galleries, beaches, eateries, cultural activities"
- "Create short videos promoting area, environment and businesses as well showing off the rural towns"
- "Use it proactively throughout the year. The words Lonely Planet gets attention".

Taranaki wide:

"Taranaki is more marketable than New Plymouth"

How can Taranaki leverage the award?

Ensure substance beneath the marketing:

- "Tourism infrastructure is the missing link. The award isn't sufficient in itself. We need more tourism activities".
- Promote the Pouakai Crossing now

Government Connections: NZ Inc leverage:

- "Get Tourism NZ to increase market our region more visibly".
- "Lobby Government to help us develop the industry".

Spreading the word: A role for Everyone:

- "Remind everyone to take the opportunity themselves and inject it into their own marketing".
- "Provide a web site link to the award info on VT's web site ie a one page infographic on what is; why we have won".
- "Run a forum on how the award/brand can be used".

Other impacts of the Award

Confidence

- "Helping Taranaki businesses believe in themselves in challenging times"
- "Positivity among businesses and people living in Taranaki"
- "Validation for residents, a confidence boost"

Awareness, Taranaki on the map

- "Leveraging central govt investment in tourism infrastructure"
- "Make people more aware of our country and province. Its amazing how many people overseas do not know where NZ is"
- "Looks good on Taranaki CVs"

Other impacts of the Award (cont)

Lifting Our Game

 "Increase performance of hospitality staff because of higher expectations"

Potential concerns – expectations/losing paradise

- "More pressure on freedom camping areas and Egmont National parks and at surf breaks"
- "Need a coordinated plans on regional infrastructure stretching resources on mountain, tracks, rubbish, public toilets"
- "too many people not respecting what a beautiful place we have"
- "More people visiting isn't always good for environment"

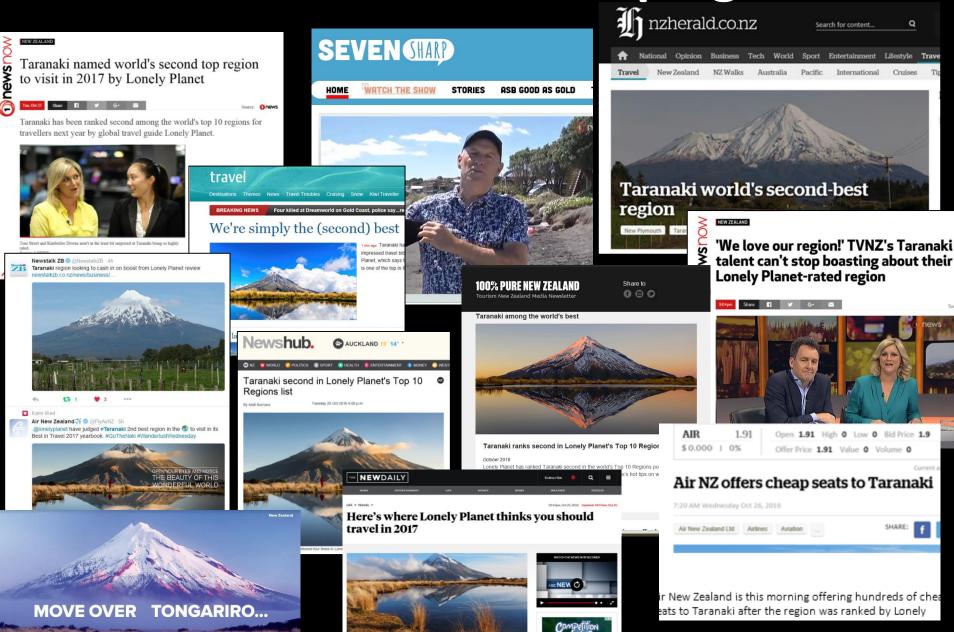
Venture Taranaki's response



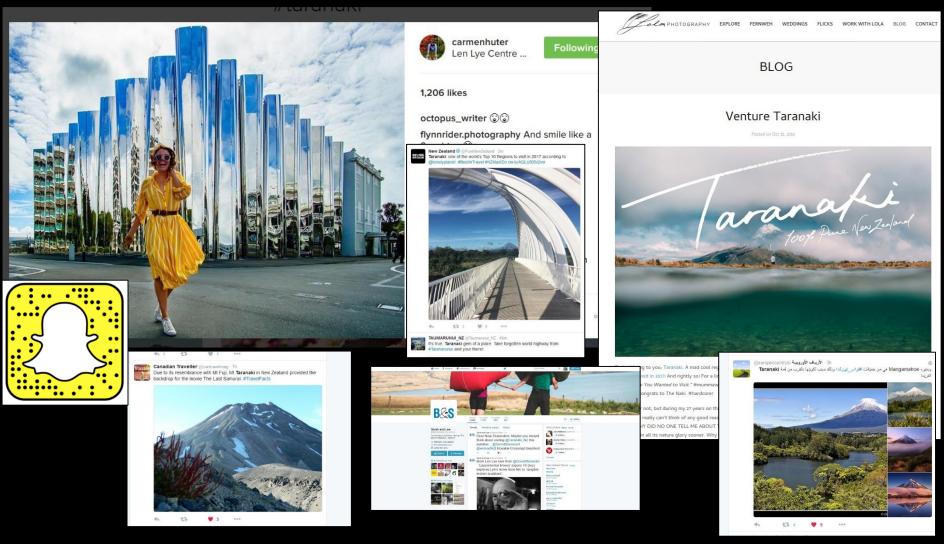




Phase 1: Media campaign



Phase 2: Digital campaign



Who can use the official badge

- Brew Mountain
- Butlers Reef
- Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre
- Hawera Water Tower
- Kin & Co
- Opunake Fish & Chips
- Pukekura Park and Bowl of Brooklands



- Puke Ariki
- Social Kitchen
- Tawhiti Museum
- The Hourglass
- Top Guides
- TSB Festival of Lights
- Venture Taranaki
- WOMAD

Phase 3: Tools for businesses





Here's what you can do



Go to: www.visit.Taranaki.info Click on Trade & Media

Download and use:

- Badges
- Social media images
- Use in email signatures
- Desktop wallpaper
- Anywhere & everywhere

Here's what you can do

- Download the material and use liberally
- Promote the region and your place in it on social media. Use the hash tags:
 #bestintravel #Taranaki #nz
- Industry contacts show off

- Encourage your staff, customers and families to share the news
- Tell everyone: email footer, advertising, website, shop windows
- Be regional ambassadors



Taranaki Economy

- Outlook brighter
- Dairy prices on rise
- Feeling more confident generally
- The Lonely Planet impact?



