**Business as usual for Queenstown after Kaikoura earthquakes**

**Queenstown, New Zealand (Wednesday 16 November) –** Destination Queenstown is reassuring travellers and the international travel trade that Queenstown is open for business following the recent earthquakes near Kaikoura.

Queenstown and the wider Central Lakes region has not been impacted by the 14 November earthquakes and it is business as usual in the Southern Hemisphere’s premier four season lake and alpine resort, says marketing and communications director Sarah O’Donnell.

“We are thinking of the communities and visitors who’ve been affected by the earthquakes centred in the north of the South Island. The rest of New Zealand is largely unaffected by the earthquake and continues to operate as normal—including in Queenstown, which is several hundreds of kilometres away from the earthquake’s epicentre,” says Mrs O’Donnell.

All tourism operators in Queenstown and the wider region, including activities, conference venues, accommodation and hospitality, are ready for visitors to arrive ahead of what is going to be a vibrant summer season, starting with this weekend’s Air New Zealand Queenstown Marathon on Saturday 19 November.

Queenstown continues to be well-connected with the rest of New Zealand as Queenstown Airport and our major highways experienced no interruptions.

“If you or your clients have plans to visit Queenstown in the coming weeks and months, we are ready for you. If you are thinking of travelling here, for business or pleasure, hit go on those booking plans.”

“Summer is a very exciting time of year in Queenstown, with the long sunny days and stunning scenery creating the perfect atmosphere to enjoy adventure, relaxation and fun in this beautiful part of the world,” says Mrs O’Donnell.

**ENDS**