



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Aurora Expeditions charts a new course, delivering clarity and commitment to its loyal guests and trade partners**

**Sydney: 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2021** – Australia's Aurora Expeditions is charting a new course in expedition travel to ensure clarity, commitment and care for its loyal guests, crew and travel trade partners.

The World's Leading Polar Expeditions Operator\* has today postponed the start of its potential spring and summer 2021 sailing season from Australia until there is greater clarity on travel start dates, but remains committed to operating a full Antarctic Peninsula program starting in November 2021.

Guests who have booked a voyage as part of the Australian spring/summer 2021 sailing program will be able to get a full refund or apply their deposit towards another voyage or leave their deposit as a credit with the company for a future voyage.

"Aurora Expeditions has been working closely with State and Federal Governments to bring a vessel into Australia. We continue to receive positive support for this and we thank each government for its constructive engagement," says CEO Monique Ponfoort.

"Aurora is still working to finalise staff and quarantine arrangements but remains unable to give clarity to passengers on departure voyage dates. As a consequence, we feel it is best to postpone the current itinerary of voyages until that certainty is achieved," she adds.

Ponfoort reiterates the Australia program decision is a postponement not a cancellation. "Our loyal guests, crew and trade partners are our number one priority," she insists.

"In these challenging times of uncertainty surrounding travel start dates, we have taken a leadership position to deliver a clear and committed pathway forward with the utmost respect to both the Government and our guests, staff, expedition team and our travel trade partners," she adds.

"We are so looking forward to getting back to doing what we do best – endlessly exploring on our ships designed for discovery – and returning to Antarctica in our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year as a world leader of polar expeditions in November 2021," she concludes.

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### Notes to Editors

#### **About Aurora Expeditions**

Aurora Expeditions is an award-winning, Australian owned expedition company celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. A pioneer in Polar Expeditions, Aurora is truly committed to environmentally responsible travel, we are committed to preserving the beauty and majesty that mother nature possesses, and we take real actions for the care of the planet.

Aurora Expeditions recently received one of the highest honours in global travel and tourism named '*The World's Leading Polar Expedition Operator 2020*' in the World Travel Awards.

Founded on the guiding principles of adventure and endless exploration, the small ship experience is intimate and friendly, and Aurora Expeditions takes guests on perspective-altering experiences to some of the most remote and incredible places on earth.

With two ships, both designed for the discovery, the *Greg Mortimer*, and now a second and brand-new small expedition ship the *Sylvia Earle*, is named after the acclaimed marine biologist, oceanographer, explorer and conservationist Dr. Sylvia Earle.

As part of Aurora's ongoing commitment to ensure that we are doing small ship expedition travel in the safest and most enjoyable way possible, every aspect of Aurora Expeditions Health and Safety program has been strengthened to protect against COVID-19.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/why-travel-with-us/health-safety/>

For more information or to book visit [www.auroraexpeditions.com.au](http://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au)

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