



Australian Hotels Association
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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FREO SMOKING BANS NAIVE

Smoking bans on Fremantle footpath alfresco dining areas may sound good in theory, but will cause confrontation and confusion for tourists, visitors and restaurant staff, according to Australian Hotels Association (WA) CEO Bradley Woods.

Mr Woods said the City of Fremantle had created itself a policing nightmare as patrons would simply stand next to alfresco areas to smoke.

“Further calls for other Western Australian councils to follow suit are naive and do not realistically consider the impact on hospitality workers or the practicalities of enforcement,” he said.

“Hospitality business owners have the capacity to implement voluntary smoking bans and manage the issue according to customer need, but now that discretion to manage their outdoor space has been taken away and will lead to unnecessary confrontation.

“This ban will not have any real impact. Alfresco diners will still be exposed to cigarette smoke, car exhaust fumes and other environmental pollutants as they pass close by.”

Mr Woods said the WA hospitality industry had cooperated closely with the State Government to implement the current total indoor smoking bans, which had been extremely successful because the legislation was realistic and practical.

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For further information please contact Media and Research Officer ☎ 9321 7701, 0437 885 507