


# Perth curfew on alcohol and energy drinks

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**ENERGY drinks mixed with alcohol will be banned after midnight across all inner-city Perth nightclubs, bars and pubs, in what Western Australia's peak hospitality body says is an Australian first.**

The Australian Hotels Association (WA) has agreed with the state's Director of Liquor Licensing to impose a blanket ban on the serving of energy drinks mixed with alcohol as well as shots after midnight.

AHA WA chief executive Bradley Woods said on Sunday the bans would apply across all liquor venues in the Perth CBD along with Subiaco and Northbridge, which has long been plagued by alcohol-fuelled violence.

"You can still go into a bar and order a Red Bull by itself after midnight, but if you ask for a Red Bull and vodka after midnight in pubs, bars, nightclubs, the whole lot, it wouldn't be allowed," Mr Woods said.

"I'm not aware of any jurisdiction which has these bans in place."

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The Australian Medical Association of WA has long been pushing for complete bans on serving energy drinks with alcohol and its president David Mountain welcomed the latest move.

"We're happy that this will reduce the stupid idea of serving energy drinks with alcohol," Professor Mountain told AAP.

"We don't really think there's any place for them at all at any time because all it does is encourage excessive drinking and blunts the sedating effects of alcohol so people drink more and think they're immune."

Prof Mountain said the restrictions were an indication that WA's liquor and hospitality industry had acknowledged there was a problem with serving energy drinks with alcohol.

On top of the after-midnight bans of shots and energy-drink mixers, licensed premises will be forced to impose lockouts 30 minutes before they are due to close.

Furthermore after 1am pubs, bars and clubs will be prohibited from serving drinks in vessels bigger than 750ml, meaning bottles of wine and jugs of beer and cocktails will be banned.

Cocktails with more than 75ml of alcohol will also be banned after 1am.

"So a Long Island Ice Tea, which has about 75ml of pure spirit, wouldn't be allowed but a Manhattan or a normal Martini would be," Mr Woods said.

Individual licensees have until April 27 to appeal the proposed restrictions but Mr Woods said he believes they will be agreed to by most people.

"We're talking about 60 to 70 venues within the parameter and there might be someone for whatever reason who has decided to oppose it," he said.

"But at this stage we understand through working with a majority of licensees in Northbridge and the CBD precinct that everyone is accepting of it."

Mr Woods believed most people who go to pubs, bars and nightclubs would be untroubled by the new restrictions.