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### HEADLINE NEWS

- [Liquor Control Act Review](#)
- [Liquor Review a Tough Call](#)
- [McGowan backs late Sunday drink reform](#)
- [Men warned to spruce up](#)

### EVENT NEWS

- [AHA Aon Golf Classic 2014 - Places are limited!](#)

### WORKPLACE RELATIONS

- [Public Holiday for Australia Day](#)
- [Enforceable Undertaking after Underpayment of Wages](#)



Australian Hotels Association  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Like Australian Hotels Association (WA) on

- [Fair Work Ombudsman Campaign targets Young Workers](#)
- [Fair Work Ombudsman Targets Restaurant and Fast Food Industry](#)
- [New Forms for Conciliation and Arbitration Workers Compensation](#)
- [New Anti-Bullying Legislation](#)
- [Modern Awards](#)
- [Public Holiday Memos](#)
- [Fair Work 2014 Wage Review](#)

### **IN THE NEWS**

- [Industry penalised for actions of a few](#)
- [WA tops in economy and population growth](#)
- [WA pubs, retailers slam license fee plan](#)
- [MPs call for more drinking time on Sundays](#)
- [Perth makes New York Times 'Top 52 places to go' list](#)

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### **HEADLINE NEWS**

#### **Liquor Control Act Review**



**The Review into the WA Liquor Control Act 1988 was released by the Western Australian Government on Tuesday 14 January.**

A total of 141 recommendations have been made to Government by the Committee in its 266 page report. In coming to these recommendations the Review Committee considered close to 150 submissions and heard evidence from a variety of agencies, individuals and organisations which included the Australian Hotels Association (WA).

The review process was substantially dominated by submissions from

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health, police and the anti-alcohol lobby, which has resulted in a report championing the agenda of these groups over the interests of the hospitality industry and the public. The review of the Act was to assess the laws covering the sale and supply of liquor, not implement the agenda of the public health lobby.

The AHA argued during the review process that the hospitality industry strongly supported a more responsible and improved drinking culture, whilst requiring clearer legislative commitments to encourage business confidence and future investment. Instead the report leans more towards roadblocks and rules. The review has also failed to embrace the changing public mood and appetite for a more flexible and less regulated hospitality sector.

The AHA sought amendments to the Act that would reward innovation and investment in the states hospitality sector. The review attempts to consider a reduction in red tape and compliance costs but these are outweighed by a large number of proposed new conditions, regulations and fees, all purported to minimise harm.

The submissions of the public health lobby attempt to force more responsibility on to licensees rather than helping assist individuals to understand the danger of alcohol abuse and be responsible for their own actions.

Notwithstanding this, the report recognises that those people who do chose to drink excessively and behave in a violent and disruptive manner must accept responsibility for their actions. The review considers enhancing the concept of personal responsibility as an important part of changing the drinking culture.

The review has adopted a number of recommendations of the AHA, but we are concerned with the overt and unreasonable tone of recommendations that seek to appease the health lobby.

Prior to any recommendation being adopted, the Government has committed to carry out significant consultation with peak industry stakeholders which will include the AHA.

The AHA will over the coming period, analyse and consider the recommendations made to Government and consult with members as we formulate our response.

**Click here: [‘Liquor Control Act 1998 Review’](#) to read the AHA’s submission, a copy of the report, AHA Media Releases and published media.**

**29 January - Perth**

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## Liquor Review a Tough Call

### WA Business News



The state government's liquor licensing review has sparked a fascinating debate over corporate social responsibility, vested interests and Perth's social and cultural development.

The partial deregulation of liquor licensing has undoubtedly been one of the most profound drivers of change in Perth over the past decade.

Arguably the most important change was the introduction of the small bar licence in 2007.

That has led to the opening of dozens of small bars across Perth and in regional centres, adding an entirely new dimension to the social experience.

The 2007 changes included a new public interest test, which required applicants to satisfy the licensing authority that granting an application would be in the public interest.

That has been a source of regular debate and was one of many issues addressed in the recent review, chaired by business leader John Atkins.

The trend toward deregulation took another step last year when the state government announced changes that made it easier for restaurants to serve liquor without a meal.

The high level of interest in liquor licensing was indicated by the 149 submissions sent to Mr Atkins' review.

That was almost matched by the committee's 141 recommendations.

One of the most important recommendations, which coloured the rest of the review, concerned the objects of the Act.

The committee concluded there is an inevitable tension between minimising harm and the interests of

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**February 2014**

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consumers and the industry.

It concluded this tension is a good thing, but chose to tilt the balance by recommending a greater focus on responsible behaviour by consumers and industry.

It also proposed that the objects of the Act should replace “the requirements of consumers” with “the interests of the community as a whole”.

The Australian Hotels Association responded by saying the review has championed the causes of health, anti-alcohol groups, and WA Police over the interests of the hospitality industry and the public.

The AHA was particularly concerned about the proposal for a new high-risk licence category that would include hotels and taverns.

In tandem with that, the review also proposed a higher licence fee for larger premises.

Clubs WA was also critical, saying it was inconceivable the review could ignore the benefits that licensed clubs can offer.

It believes clubs are regarded as safe venues with a very low level of alcohol-related harm and had therefore been seeking changes that would make it easier for tourists, for example, to patronise clubs.

Bearing in mind the self-interest of these lobby groups, they appear to have valid grounds for concern.

While the review made some proposals for lightening the regulatory load on low-risk venues, and smoothing the liquor licence application process, its overall thrust is coloured by public health concerns.

Instead of proposing changes that come down hard on repeat offenders, for instance, it has opted for across-the-board changes that don't seem to acknowledge the variable track record of different venues.

Put simply, some big hotels are very well run, while others are not. Good regulation should recognise this.

The review has also been cautious in its advocacy of further deregulation.

When the government evaluates its response to the review, it should bear in mind the positive impact of small bar licences.

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### McGowan backs late Sunday drink reform



LABOR leader Mark McGowan has promised to increase trading hours for bars and hotels on a Sunday nights if he becomes Premier.

Mr McGowan, who ran the state's alcohol policy as racing and gaming minister in 2006 under the then Labor government, said yesterday it was time to modernise Perth.

"As Premier I will embrace further changes to build on the reform we put in place in 2006 to create small bars and liven up our hospitality industry," Mr McGowan said.

"I support Sunday trading being the same as any other night's trading. That would mean bars and hotels being able to open until midnight (instead of 10pm). "It doesn't make sense in the modern world, where people often work on Sundays, for there not to be the opportunities for them to socialise as other people do on other evenings."

Mr McGowan said the law change would be a significant boon for the tourism industry.

An independent review of our state's liquor laws, commissioned by Racing and Gaming Minister Terry Waldron in December 2012, was released this week.

The findings of the 270page review recommended 141 changes to the state's liquor laws, including tough new laws which would make it an offence to supply alcohol to underage children without parental permission. But the review recommended against extending trading on Sunday.

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Mr McGowan said Labor supported secondary supply laws. He also called for “hardhitting education campaigns in schools and social media” to educate children about the dangers of alcohol abuse.

Earlier this week Liquor Minister Terry Waldron said he would not comment on specific recommendations until he had further consultation with stakeholders. Several Liberal MPs, including John McGrath, said they support extended Sunday trading hours.

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## Men warned to spruce up

**Phoebe Wearne**  
**The West Australian**



Daniel Wegener and Simon Duncan from Print Hall. Picture: The West Australian/Steve Ferrier

Perth men are not keeping up with the increasingly strict dress standards set by the city's venues and need to lift their game if they want to enjoy their night out on the town, according to a hospitality chief.

Australian Hotels Association WA chief executive Bradley Woods said an increase in the number of higher-end venues in inner-city Perth had brought with it higher expectations of partygoers.

"The blokes of WA can do a lot more to scrub themselves up when they are going out for a night on the town," Mr Woods said.

"They should do their bit as much as the ladies do to look good, smell good and behave."

Mr Woods said it was reasonable for venues that had multi-million-dollar fit-outs to expect guests to put in a similar effort.

"If they have spent a lot of money on a fit-out, from lighting to carpets and furniture, can't they expect the customer to come dressed appropriately," he said.

Malt Supper Club owner Tony Tricarico said the club advertised its dress standard and stuck to it because it helped attract the mature clientele they catered for.

He said people knew Malt had a dress standard but people, mostly men, still turned up dressed

inappropriately and then complained when they were not let in.

"I think it has got to do with the climate in Western Australia," Mr Tricarico.

"If you go to bars in Melbourne or Sydney, they all have dress standards and I don't think anyone would even argue with them about it."

Print Hall general manager Simon Duncan said most of the revellers that the Brookfield Place venue attracted were fairly well dressed but they did have to turn away some people.

"Perth has just been recognised as one of the top 10 places to visit by the New York Times so we need to put our best foot forward," Mr Duncan said.

Bucking the trend is a new rooftop venue in Fremantle, Dave's Cans, where thongs are considered a cultural icon and allowed in the door.

Owner David Weir said troublemakers were capable of putting dress pants and black shoes on so they just made sure they managed their venue well and did not serve patrons stupid amounts of alcohol.

"Our attitude is that it is the middle of summer, it's Perth, and it gets up to 45C here," Mr Weir said.

Equal Opportunity Commission senior legal officer Allan Macdonald said the commission often received complaints about dress standards at licensed venues, most of which were on the grounds of sex discrimination.

Mr Macdonald said they were not overwhelmed with complaints about night venues but he expected there were more cases out there because people in their 20s who went to bars and nightclubs were not likely to lodge a complaint.

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## **EVENT NEWS**

**[AHA Aon Golf Classic 2014 - Places are limited!](#)**



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**@BradleyBWoods**

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## [WORKPLACE RELATIONS](#)

### [Public Holiday for Australia Day](#)

[Login to the AHA\(WA\) Members Area](#) to refer to the Workplace Relations Alert sent to Members in October 2013 pertaining to public holidays for the period October 2013 to June 2014.

### [Constitutional Corporations](#)

Members who are covered by the Federal awards being the Hospitality Industry (General) Award 2010 or

the Restaurant Industry Award 2010 the public holiday is MONDAY 27th January 2014. Please note that Sunday 26th January 2014 is paid as a normal Sunday rate to workers.

### **Non Constitutional Corporations**

Members who are covered by the State awards being the Hotel and Tavern Workers Award or the Restaurant, Tearoom and Catering Workers Award the public holiday is MONDAY 27th January 2014. . Please note that Sunday 26th January 2014 is paid as a normal Sunday rate to workers.

**Should you have any further enquiries, please contact either Dalton or Ron at the AHA(WA) on 9321 7701.**

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### **Enforceable Undertaking after Underpayment of Wages**

A café in Queensland underpaid a casual employee almost \$50,000 over a five-year period, the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) has found.

The café has agreed to back-pay the employee a total of \$48,586 and review their workplace policies to ensure future compliance with workplace laws.

The underpayment occurred as the result of the employee, engaged as a baker's assistant, receiving a flat weekly rate of pay as low as \$900 for work performed between July 2007 and February 2013.

The employee worked an average 45 hour week at the business from 6pm to 2am Sunday to Friday.

After investigating a complaint from the employee, the Fair Work Ombudsman found the flat rate was insufficient to cover the employee's entitlement to a number of allowances including, night work allowances, Saturday penalty rates, Sunday penalty rates, public holiday penalty rates and applicable overtime.

FWO inspectors also found that the business had failed to issue the employee with payslips and had not kept relevant employment records, including the rate of remuneration, hours worked, overtime records or superannuation contributions.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has since entered into an Enforceable Undertaking with the café as an alternative to litigation.

An Enforceable Undertaking is a written deed executed between a business and the Fair Work Ombudsman which contains an admission of contraventions, an agreement by the business to perform specific actions to remedy the contraventions and a commitment to certain future compliance measures e.g. complete future internal audits.

Enforceable Undertakings were introduced by legislation in 2009 and the Fair Work Ombudsman has been using them to achieve strong outcomes against companies that breach workplace laws without civil court proceedings. They are one of a number of avenues the Fair Work Ombudsman utilises in ensuring compliance with Federal workplace laws.

AHA (WA) has tools on our website such as audit checklists that members can access in order to audit the operational compliance within their business. This is a way of doing a 'health check' from an industrial relations point of view.

**For further information and if you have any concerns that you may be underpaying, contact the Workplace Relations Team on 9321 7701.**

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### **[Fair Work Ombudsman Campaign targets Young Workers](#)**

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) has launched a campaign focusing on young workers taking up part-time and casual jobs this summer. The Ombudsman is urging those workers who are entering the workplace for the first time to learn about their workplace entitlements to ensure they receive their full entitlements.

This campaign is really no different than others run by the Ombudsman's office whoever it does highlight the need for members to ensure compliance and adherence to the correct pay levels when employing junior workers.

There are different rates for those classed as junior workers so if you need any assistance to make sure you are complaint contact the Workplace Relations Department at AHA (WA) for further information.

Some key areas to focus on to ensure you are paying employees correctly include, minimum hourly rates,

shift loadings, overtime, weekend and public holiday loadings and penalties.

Other key areas for members to be aware of include:

- Correctly issue payslips that state how much the employee is getting paid and what hours they are getting paid for;
- Make sure that all meal breaks are recorded and if a break cannot be taken then the applicable loadings apply;
- All trial work undertaken is paid. You need to pay employees for all hours they work, including trial shifts, probation, meetings, training and opening and closing the business.

The key is to keep an accurate record of all; shifts worked, their start and finish times and ensure meal breaks are recorded and taken in line with the relevant Award.

The Workplace Relations Department is currently drafting an online audit checklist for Constitutional Corporations that will assist members in these compliance requirements. [This will be accessible through the AHA \(WA\) website.](#)

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## **Fair Work Ombudsman Targets Restaurant and Fast Food Industry**

The Fair Work Ombudsman has commenced audits of Restaurants and Fast Food businesses recently.

A Restaurant Audit Checklist is available for members to ensure they comply with the Award provisions of the Restaurant Industry Award 2010 and the Fair Work Act 2009 record keeping requirements.

The audit checklist can be found on the [members section of the AHA \(WA\) website here.](#)

**Please contact the AHA Workplace Relations Team on 08 9321 7701 if you need any further information.**

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## **New Forms for Conciliation and Arbitration Workers Compensation**

On 2nd December 2013 all existing WorkCover (WA) forms for the Workers' Compensation Conciliation

Service & Workers' Compensation Arbitration Service were replaced.

All businesses are expected to use and progress the new forms from this date.

To facilitate the transition, the Workers' Compensation Conciliation Service & Workers Compensation Arbitration Service will continue to accept the old forms until 31st January 2014.

Due to content and layout changes, all legal representatives and registered agents participating in the workers' compensation scheme in Western Australia should familiarise themselves with these new forms.

According to WorkCover, the new forms will be accompanied by comprehensive instructions on how they are to be filled out will be more user friendly.

The forms on the WorkCover (WA) website are only available in PDF format. For those businesses wishing to fill the forms electronically, an electronically fill-able PDF has superseded the Microsoft Word version.

The new forms are available to download from the Publications and Forms channel of the [WorkCover \(WA\)](#) website.

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## **New Anti-Bullying Legislation**

The National AHA Workplace Relations Team made a submission to the Fair Work Commission in relation to the Anti-Bullying Book and Case Management Model on 27th December 2013.

This was in response to the Fair work Commission's revised Draft Benchmark released on 23rd December 2013 for comment.

What is workplace bullying?

Workplace bullying includes verbal, physical, social or psychological abuse by your employer (or manager), another person or group of people in workplace.

Bullying does not include reasonable management action carried out in a reasonable manner. Examples of this are, performance management processes and informing a worker about unsatisfactory work

performance or inappropriate work behaviour.

The AHA believes that the nature of how some of the questions in the draft form have been structured and are worded, have the potential to create more problems than the legislation was designed to attempt to resolve and we have written to the Fair Work Commission stating our concerns.

Some of the main points we addressed within our submission to the Fair work Commission included the following;

- The ambiguity as to when costs can be ordered as a result of a bullying claim;
- No reference to Employer Associations as a relevant provider of legal advice or representation;
- As the anti-bullying coverage is a new area for the Fair Work Commission, there is no established case law that can be used in a response to the claims put forward by an employee;
- The case examples referred to in the Draft Benchbook are a guide only and as such, claims may be lodged by employee using these examples as a guide therefore this may not reflect the true nature if the claim itself;
- A full and proper investigation process must take place to allow for fairness if the Commission to make orders as to the outcome of a bullying claim in a workplace. This is very pertinent as the Commission is currently unable to undertake investigations relating to bullying issues;
- The Benchbook should make it clear from the outset of its contents that if an employee has made a claim and left the workplace in question, then they should not be allowed to progress with their claim as they are no longer in the place where the alleged bullying has occurred.

It is important to note that, these new laws do not prevent WorkSafe (WA) from bringing a prosecution against an employer for a breach of Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) legislation in relation to a bullying incident even if it is already lodged with the Commission.

Given the new laws, the AHA (WA) recommends that all member businesses as a minimum should have in place up to date policies and procedures that deal specifically with workplace bullying, OSH and grievance handling procedures that enable employees to raise complaints of bullying.

The National AHA Workplace Relations Managers are in the process of writing a fact sheet on the Anti-Bullying legislation that will be issued to members in the near future.

**If you would like any further information or advice on this important issue contact the AHA Workplace Relations team on 08 9321 7701.**

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## **Modern Awards**

The Hospitality Industry (General) Award 2010 and Restaurant Industry Award 2010 have been varied to reflect recent changes to both awards.

Please ensure you downloaded a copy of the varied awards from the [AHA\(WA\) Members Area.](#)

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## **Public Holiday Memos**

The Workplace Relations Alert for September 2013 outlines the payment of wages for employees for public holidays for 2013/2014.

A copy of this is can be found on the [AHA\(WA\) Members Area.](#)

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## **Fair Work 2014 Wage Review**

The National wage review is due to hear responses from employer groups by March 2014.

AHA will be making a submission to Fair Work Commission.

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## IN THE NEWS

### Industry penalised for actions of a few

**22.01.14**

**Nick Sas**

**The West Australian**

Joe Fisher describes it as a broad brush reaction to an issue only relevant to a minority in the hospitality industry.

Standing in Clancy's Fish Pub City Beach, the co-owner of the chain, which has venues in Dunsborough, Applecross and Fremantle, says his business's situation highlights just how illthought-out it is.

In what has dominated chatter in the hospitality industry since it was announced last week, Mr Fisher is referring to WA's liquor review recommendation proposing premises bigger than 200sqm pay an extra \$10/sqm for their liquor licences.

"For example, City Beach is exempt, as it's under a restaurant licence, but the Dunsborough and Freo venues will be affected as they're under a tavern licence, but Canning Bridge (Applecross) is probably too

small,” Mr Fisher said. “It’s not the monetary concern, it’s more the principle of the thing. It’s a broad-brush approach that implies all big venues are causing problems.

“Why should everyone in the industry be penalised for the actions of a few?

“If anything, venues that are responsible for the problems should be penalised. And the venues that provide nothing but a good service should be rewarded with smaller fees.”

The sentiment was echoed by Colonial Leisure Group WA State manager Vern Fogarty.

The Colonial group runs the Raffles Hotel, Royal Hotel and Print Hall. Mr Fogarty estimates the \$10/sqm fee could result in a \$25,000 to \$30,000 annual charge for the Print Hall.

“The entire industry has been trying to wind back red tape,” Mr Fogarty said. “But here we’ve potentially got more taxes on venues to make operating more difficult. If they were looking at a venue’s trading history or records of infringements, then I would understand it.”

Australian Hotels Association chief executive Bradley Woods said he had been inundated with calls over the past week from business owners “appalled” that the proposal could even reach the light of day.

“It’s one of the more absurd recommendations we have seen in the past 20 years,” Mr Woods said. “To label a venue ‘high-risk’ simply because of how many square metres it is, is simply wrong.”

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## **WA tops in economy and population growth**

**21.01.14**

**Nick Butterly**

**The West Australian**

WA remains the top-performing economy in the nation and the State is now the clear leader in population growth.

CommSec’s quarterly State of the States report found WA leads the nation for retail trade spending and is

second strongest in terms of economic growth, construction work done and housing finance approvals.

However, the economic situation looks more subdued nationally, with lead business groups predicting the jobless rate will rise this year.

CommSec said WA's retail spending figures were almost 22 per cent above decade-average levels.

WA and the Northern Territory are said to have the strongest job markets in the country.

Unemployment in WA stands at 4.5 per cent.

The State's annual population growth of 3.32 per cent is well above the decade average.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry said there had been a modest improvement in business conditions, but it was unlikely to halt the growing national unemployment rate.

“(Businesses) have limited appetite to invest and employ and that is unlikely to improve until there is a more sustained pick-up in trading conditions across the economy,” chamber acting chief economist Burchell Wilson said.

“It is also telling us that the unemployment rate is expected to rise over the next 12 months.”

The chamber said the depreciation in the Australian dollar would help local businesses.

Just before Christmas the Federal Government predicted the national unemployment rate would rise to 6 per cent by June, up from 5.8 per cent at the end of last year.

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## **[WA pubs, retailers slam license fee plan](#)**

**17.01.14**

**James Atkinson**

**The Shout**

The Australian Hotels Association (WA) and the Liquor Stores Association (WA) have condemned a recommendation of the state's Liquor Control Act review that would impose higher licence fees on a venue

or outlet based on its licensed area.

The review released this week recommends that where a pub, liquor store, nightclub or casino has a licensed area that is greater than a prescribed size of 200 square metres, it would be considered to be a higher risk venue and a licence fee surcharge of \$10 per square metre would be payable by the operator.

AHA WA CEO Bradley Woods declared the surcharge a “Hospitality Venue Tax (HVT)” that would effectively be paid by patrons to fund health and anti-alcohol lobby groups.

“The policy recommendation labels hotel, tavern and special facility licenses as high risk venues, most of which are clearly not, and proposes a new HVT charged per square metre,” he said.

“High risk venues should only be those with a continuous record of breaches of the law.”

“This is an unfair tax on well-run, professional venues and historic country pubs,” Woods said. LSA WA CEO Lindsay James told TheShout the proposal “gives no indication of the likely revenue to be raised and no doubt the ramifications of this will send many outlets to the wall”.

“This obviously hasn’t been considered nor modelled,” he said.

James said WA liquor stores are also strongly opposed to the recommendation for controlled purchase operations, which would clearly involve entrapment of licensees.

“The Premier and Minister have previously indicated that this will not happen and we will be following up with them,” he said.

“Rightfully the Minister has indicated that these are ‘recommendations’ that will be addressed with ‘stakeholders’ prior to the Government making any decisions,” James said.

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## **MPs call for more drinking time on Sundays**

**17.01.14**

**Gareth Parker**

**The West Australian**

A key recommendation of the independent liquor review — to keep the Sunday closing time for hotels, taverns and small bars at 10pm — could be challenged by the Liberal Party, with some MPs declaring it an anachronism that no longer fits modern WA society.

The push for later Sunday hours also received the qualified backing of two key Labor MPs — shadow liquor minister Mick Murray and shadow tourism minister Paul Papalia — though both stressed it was a personal and not a party view.

But the recommendation to introduce secondary supply laws, which would create an offence for supplying alcohol to juveniles without parents' permission, received broad, cross-party support and appears certain to eventually become law.

The last major stocktake of the Liquor Control Act before yesterday's review, the 2005 Freemantle review, recommended extending Sunday closing to midnight but this was rejected by the former Labor government. It preferred closing times on Sundays to remain at 10pm, with later closing to be dealt with by applications for extension permits.

This review, chaired by businessman John Atkins, recommends the status quo on Sundays but for a minor amendment that would allow pubs to close at midnight where a public holiday Monday falls on the following day. Liberal MLA John McGrath said he favoured the extension of Sunday hours to midnight.

"I want to see it debated in the party room and I do believe a lot of Government members support more flexibility in trading hours," he said.

Mr McGrath was backed by North Metropolitan MLC Peter Katsambanis, who questioned why Sunday was any different to the other days.

"We are not here to push an industry barrow, we are here to look at the best interests of WA," Mr Katsambanis said.

"I think 10 o'clock closing on a Sunday sends an anachronistic message, especially to people who might have come into town on a Sunday ready to do business on a Monday."

Another Liberal MLA, Peter Abetz, disagreed. "People have got Friday night and Saturday night to go out at the moment," he said. "I don't think we need another night out because of all the social problems that brings."

Mr Murray, who stressed the issue had not been considered by Labor's caucus, said WA had a seven-days-a-week economy.

"We don't all work Monday to Friday anymore," he said. "For some people, Sunday night is their Friday night."

Liquor Minister Terry Waldron has said he would not comment on specific recommendations until he had further consultation with stakeholders.

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## **Perth makes New York Times 'Top 52 places to go' list**

**13.01.14**

**Robyn Preston**

**WAToday**

Thanks to a trendy transformation, Perth has finally made its mark as one of the world's top places to go, according to The New York Times.

At number nine, Perth sits among the Top 52 Places to Go in 2014, an impressive list which also boasts Cape Town in South Africa, Germany's Frankfurt and the Vatican.

Pointing out "signs of a trendy transformation", journalist Baz Dreisinger notes large-scale change in Perth, including the Riverside project and re-purposed late night haunts including the Stables Bar and Print Hall.

Vocalist of West Australian band Red Jezebel and owner of restaurant The Old Crow, Paul Wood said he was "stoked" to also receive a nod from The New York Times which, for him, "came completely out of the blue".

Despite the shock, Wood was not surprised Perth ended up in the top 10. He said it's a well-earned title after an insurgence of new bars, restaurants and arts scene.

"Perth has dramatically changed – to a degree that everyone is getting out of this small town syndrome... We all want to make this place better," he said.

Wood hopes Perth's new accolade will encourage the positive response and flow of customers he and his wife, Beck, have received since opening the art deco house-turned-restaurant in June.

"I've learned not to expect anything. In business, what you plan for often ends up on its head," he said.

"We've been pretty much booked out solid for months. Hopefully we will be able to keep open and more people will keep coming."

Wood said the bar and restaurant circle in Perth was one that was extremely welcoming.

"We've had lots of people in the restaurant and bar community congratulate us. Everyone in the industry is very supportive of each other. It's all about bringing the business into the city and making it better for everyone."

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