



Australian Hotels Association
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

38 Parliament Place West Perth WA 6005
PO Box 660 West Perth Western Australia 6872
T: 08 9321 7701 F: 08 9321 7730 W: www.ahawa.asn.au

Media Release

Wednesday 15 January 2014

LIQUOR REVIEW SINGS SONG OF PUBLIC HEALTH LOBBY

The WA review of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* has been criticised by the Australian Hotels Association (WA) for championing the causes of health, anti-alcohol groups and WA Police over the interests of the hospitality industry and the public.

Australian Hotels Association (WA) CEO, Mr Bradley Woods, said “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.

“While this is the first step of the *Liquor Control Act* review process, it is disappointing that opportunities to encourage innovation and investment have been missed.

“The review’s report has been substantially dominated by submissions from health, police and the anti-alcohol lobby, which in turn reflects the tone of the recommendations.

“The hotel and hospitality industries are seeking pathways to business and investment confidence and the removal of roadblocks to innovation and development. Our ability to compete with interstate and international markets will be grossly diminished if the health lobby agenda is adopted.

“The recommendation to remove the primary object of the act, that recognises consumer needs and the proper development of the tourism and hospitality industry, would take WA backwards.

“We expect the process of government consultation will take up to 18 months and hope the state parliament will now also listen to the community and not just the interests that have so far dominated the review,” Mr Woods concluded.

- Ends -

Further information: Adam Le Lievre, AHA(WA) Media Executive, on 9321 7701 or 0408 230 430.