



Alcohol Tax on Distilled Spirits Now At One Dollar per Standard Drink

Drinkers of distilled spirits and pre-mixed drinks will be paying \$1 in alcohol tax for every standard drink* when Australia's alcohol tax rates are adjusted for inflation next month.

The increased tax takes effect on 1 August as part of the regular six-monthly CPI excise rate increase.

Alcohol in beer will also pay more tax but at less than half the amount that distilled spirit drinkers will pay. Wine taxes will not increase as they are taxed by value, not its alcohol content.

Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia (DSICA) spokesperson Stephen Riden said that the much higher taxes on distilled spirits were very unfair on drinkers who preferred spirits, and that those drinkers should question why the alcohol tax system treated them so poorly.

"People accept alcohol should be taxed. But why tax distilled spirits at more than twice the rate of the highest taxed beers? The gap between spirits, beer and wine taxes will keep growing because the twice-yearly CPI percentage increase always has a bigger financial impact on the higher taxed spirits, and the tax rate on wine holds still.

"The new tax rate means that the government will take \$22 in alcohol tax from each standard sized bottle of spirits. Drinkers of pre-mixed spirits and flavoured ciders can work out how much they are paying to the government by looking at the standard drinks logo on the bottle and putting a dollar sign in front of it," he said.

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Notes to editors

*A 'standard drink' is Australia's measure of alcohol in alcohol products and is marked on every can or bottle. Bottles of spirits usually have between 20 and 22 standard drinks, pre-mixed and beers range between 1.1 to 2 standard drinks and bottles of wine have between 7 to 8 standard drinks.

The gap between taxes on beer and distilled spirits will continue to grow because the CPI adjustments always have a larger impact on the higher taxed spirits.

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