



Media Release

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Singling Out Distilled Spirits in Kings Cross Risks Creating a '12am Swill' and drink substitution.

The Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia (DSICA) has welcomed the NSW Government's broad efforts to clean up the King Cross precinct but believes singling out spirits for bans will not work.

DSICA spokesman Stephen Riden said the Government "has confirmed that it is singling out distilled spirits. Problem drinkers will adapt to any midnight cut-off by taking on a 'last drinks' mentality which will only worsen the problem through unintended consequences."

Before the 1960's closing times for hotels was abandoned, drinkers back then simply consumed very large quantities of beer very quickly before the 6pm closing, leading to heavy intoxication and bad behaviour as a consequence.

"DSICA wishes to congratulate the NSW Government on its measures that increase levels of personal accountability and directly target problem drinkers. ID scanners, increased police resources and powers, together with improved transport options, will in our opinion have a powerful affect on violence and anti-social behaviour in Kings Cross.

Mr Riden said however that "just focussing on banning shots, doubles and higher strength pre-mixed drinks after midnight is a plan we do not believe will succeed. If you really want to stop violence in Kings Cross, you'd start by understanding that alcohol is alcohol, irrespective of how it is made. A ban on one type of alcohol will see drinkers switching to other types, just like the alcopops tax hike."

"Determined drunks' will simply switch to other types of drinks. Ironically, those drinks will be cheaper than the banned shots and doubles."

"The abuse of alcohol by some people is a problem that the distilled spirits industry takes very seriously and we will always seek to work with Governments to find solutions.

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